

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
300 SCHOOL STREET
NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: February 13, 2018 7:02 PM, EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Sando.

ROLL CALL:	Salvatore Amato	Present
	James Cherry	Present
	Ronald S. Little, Jr.	Present
	Wendy McClure	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Daniel O'Connell	Absent
	Eion O'Neill	Present
	Paula Scott	Absent
	James Sando	Present
	Mayor Gregory D'Angelo	Present

Also in attendance were Gregory Gifford, Borough Solicitor, Donald Fantry, Chief of Police and Alan Guzzardo, Assistant Borough Manager.

President Sando led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Judy Miller, 312 E. Montgomery Avenue, suggested that the traffic lights at the intersection of Walnut and Main Street be delayed so that way cars can turn left and not create a traffic jam at the intersection. She gave an example of the intersection at Hancock and Church Street in Lansdale. Chief Fantry stated he would contact a Penn DOT representative to discuss the matter.

Consideration: Consideration: Resolution Supporting House Bill 914, Amending Title 8 in Storm Sewers & Water Courses

Member Amato asked how the Borough tries to meet the state requirements of the MS4 program and how does the Borough incorporate the fees associated with the program. Manager Hart explained that the stormwater management ordinance update has instituted stricter standards to help the Borough meet the requirements. Manager Hart discussed the Borough's stormwater initiatives including education outreach and offering incentives to those who incorporate stormwater best management practices such as rain barrels. Manager Hart explained the MS4 permit is applied for every 10 years and the Borough revisits the program's requirements on annual basis.

Member McClure asked if developers are required to provide stormwater management plans. Manager Hart stated that developers have to provide plans that show how they intend to meet the standards of the stormwater management ordinance.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if there would be adverse impacts on the residents if the Borough were granted the right to collect these fees. Manager Hart stated it

would be only be required for those who are adding 1,000 square feet or greater of impervious coverage or creating an earth disturbance of at least 5,000 square feet.

Judy Miller, 312 E. Montgomery Avenue, stated there was a lot of sediment runoff as a result of construction activities and heavy rainfall at 215 Church Street. Manager Hart stated she would follow up on the matter.

Member McClure made a motion to support House Bill 914, amending title 8 in storm sewers and water courses. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Resolution Opposing Use of Recycling Funds to Balance 2017-18 State Budget

Member Amato asked how much the Borough receives from this funding source on annual basis. Manager Hart stated the amount varies and is estimated to be somewhere between \$7,000 and \$10,000. He then asked when the Borough receives these funds. Manager Hart explained the Borough receives this funding around mid-year.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to oppose the use of recycling funds to balance the 2017 to 2018 State Budget. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Discussion: Review Public Input and Draft Americans with Disabilities Act Policy

President Sando stated he arranged for the Council sub-committees to meet to discuss the policy proposal. Member Neiderhiser read a list of suggestions from the Finance Sub-Committee. Manager Hart suggested that the committees research their topics and suggestions further so that way we have tangible goals that the Borough can meet. Member Little provided a list of suggestions from the Technology Sub-Committee. Member McClure suggested that the Borough could look to outside audio technology providers to see if there is a better option. Manager Hart explained the Borough has already gone through an extensive process to select the Borough's current audio technology provider.

Pat Graeme, 324 S.4th Street, applauded the Borough for utilizing the audio system. She stated that it has been very helpful for improving communications at public meetings.

Member O'Neill read a list of suggestions from the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee.

President Sando read a list of suggestions from the Public Safety Sub-Committee.

Manager Hart asked President Sando if Borough staff would be copied on the suggestions from the sub-committees.

Vice-President Cherry asked the public how the Borough can do a better job of disseminating information related to Borough business. Neil McDevitt, 324 S. 9th Street, stated it is difficult for someone to meet the five day reasonable request time period when the agenda is not posted on website until the Friday before a Council meeting.

Manager Hart stated that the Borough is considering changing the request time period from five to three days. She stated she would seek out people to have on-call so that way the Borough can meet requests in less time.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, pointed out that the Americans with Disability Act only requires that government agencies provide “reasonable” accommodations. He then stated that the Borough can only do so much to try and meet requests.

Mayor D’Angelo stated it would be a good idea for the Borough to acknowledge receipt of a complaint and provide the person with a timeframe for the Borough to address the complaint. Manager Hart stated the Borough should designate a person to receive a complaint that is different from the program administrator. Solicitor Gifford suggested that the Council President should receive complaints. Member Amato expressed concern with an elected official receiving complaints. Solicitor Gifford stated the President would receive the complaint and then bring it before the rest of Council.

Vice-President Cherry asked what the Borough can do if someone makes a reasonable accommodation request that costs money, but then does not show up. Solicitor Gifford explained the Borough will act on a case by case basis. He stated there is case law to help determine how the Borough should take action in those situations.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, stated it is not a good idea to have the Borough Solicitor receive complaints. Council agreed that it will not be the Solicitor who receives complaints.

Member Amato asked if the Borough could upload agenda attachments on the Borough website so that way the public is provided more information ahead of time. Manager Hart explained that certain information included in the Council packets is private. Therefore, the Borough would have to do two separate agenda packets, one for the public and one just for Council. President Sando agreed and requested that the Borough do so.

Member O’Neill asked how the Borough would handle “reasonable accommodation” requests from an administrative standpoint. Manager Hart stated the Borough will handle requests similar to how it handles other time sensitive requests.

Discussion: North Wales Borough Planning Commission 2017 Annual Report

Mayor D’Angelo provided an overview of the report. Manager Hart announced the report will be available on the Borough website, once it has been approved.

Old Business/Committee & Board Reports/Zoning Applications

Manager Hart announced that zoning relief was granted for a minor subdivision plan for 715 E. Montgomery Avenue.

Solicitor / Mayor / Council / Manager

Solicitor Gifford stated there would be an executive session to discuss the “Sunlight of the Spirit House” case and a land development decision appeal the Borough received, regarding the “Station Place” land development application. He then announced there is one matter of potential litigation and one personnel matter. Council will not be taking action on any of those matters this evening.

Mayor D'Angelo announced there was a major house fire on the night of January 24 on E. Walnut Street. He commended Manager Hart for going above and beyond to assist the owner.

Member Neiderhiser thanked Council and residents for their suggestions on the ADA policy.

Member McClure offered her services to help fire victims in the future.

President Sando stated he attended the North Penn Volunteer Fire Co. awards dinner over the weekend. He stated it was a wonderful experience and encouraged people to attend in the future. He also announced that on February 24th, the County will be demonstrating new voting machines and encouraged people to attend if they are interested.

Manager Hart announced the Borough will be holding its third annual "Earth Day Celebration" on April 24th. She then announced that the Tex-Mex 5K Run will be held again in June. She also suggested that Council start discussing the Borough's 150th Anniversary plans. Manager Hart asked Council if the Borough should hire a part-time events coordinator to help plan the event. Council agreed that the Borough should look into that idea further. Vice-President Cherry announced that his mother was on the committee for Horsham's Tri-Centennial celebration. He said he would ask her if she had any suggestions. President Sando asked that those who are interested in helping to plan the event to please reach out to the Borough.

Manager Hart announced that the Steering Committee has formulated a draft of the Comprehensive Plan. She stated there will be another community forum event held in March to discuss and revise the Comprehensive Plan accordingly.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 P.M.

Attest: _____

Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager