

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: August 13, 2019 7:00 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	Present
	Eion O'Neill	Present
	Paula Scott	Present
	James Sando	Present
	Mayor Gregory D'Angelo	Present

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

President Sando led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, requested that members of the public speak at the microphone when commenting on the Human Relations Ordinance instead of from their chairs.

Discussion: Human Relations "Draft" Ordinance

Solicitor Gifford provided an overview of the draft ordinance. Council members made a number of suggested changes to the draft ordinance. Vice President Cherry asked how the proposed Human Relations Commission would be funded. President Sando stated it would be funded as part of the annual budget. Vice President Cherry then asked how complaints would be handled. Manager Hart stated complaints would be received by the Borough Administration. The Administration would then forward the complaints to the Commission.

Members of Council voiced their concerns with regard to the proposed ordinance. Member Scott noted that the list of protected classes does not include political affiliation. Member O'Neill opposed adding political affiliation as a protected class. Vice President Cherry asked if any discrimination cases have been filed since similar ordinances have been passed in other municipalities. Solicitor Gifford stated there are none that he knows of yet.

Mayor D'Angelo then voiced his concerns with the proposed ordinance. He suggested it would be better for Council to do a resolution in support of statewide anti-discrimination legislation. However, he recommended a number of revisions to the ordinance if Council chose to move forward with passing an ordinance. Member Neiderhiser voiced her support for passing the ordinance.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, stated he agreed with Mayor D'Angelo. He then disagreed with Member O'Neill's position on including political affiliation as a protected class. He voiced concerns with the transparency of commission meetings. Solicitor Gifford stated the meetings would be private. However, there will be records of the meetings that can be requested if need be. Mr. Berenson then asked what the consequences are if a Commission member failed to complete the required training. He then suggested that members who fail to complete training should not be allowed to hear a case. Solicitor Gifford stated the ordinance says that Commission members "shall" have training. This meant that members could be removed if they failed to complete the required training. Mr. Berenson then asked who determines whether a case will be heard. President Sando stated the Commission will determine that. He then suggested it needs to be made apparent that both parties are responsible for the costs of the proceedings. He then asked for confirmation that possible re-advertisement of the ordinance would be required, should the ordinance be amended. Solicitor Gifford stated that is correct.

Patricia Armstrong, 517 E. Prospect Avenue, asked about the definition of discrimination. She suggested the word discrimination be taken out. She suggested under sexual orientation, that it include other categories such as asexuality, transgender, etc. She then suggested that the required training be very more specific as to who will be providing the training, how many training hours are necessary and what the costs are. President Sando stated the training would be provided by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. She then suggested that a "good faith" provision be put into the ordinance.

Austin Armstrong, 517 E. Prospect Avenue, stated he is proud of the community for moving forward with the ordinance.

Council members deliberated on adding political affiliation as one of the protected classes. Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, stated he supported Member Scott and requested a roll call vote. Mayor D'Angelo stated political discrimination is a real threat and urged Council to add it as a protected class even though it is not a protected class under current State law.

Member Scott made a motion to add political affiliation as a protected class. Member O'Connell seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 yes, 3 no. Member Little, Member O'Neill and Member Neiderhiser voted no.

Council continued to review the other proposed changes to the Ordinance.

Richard Buttacavoli, Lansdale Borough resident and former resident of North Wales Borough, suggested intersex be added as a protected class.

Kelly Welch, 113 S. Tenth Street, suggested that every protected class have equal representation on the Commission. She then urged Council to approve a proclamation condemning discrimination if it is going to take a while for Council to adopt the ordinance.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, thanked President Sando for facilitating the process.

Vice President Cherry expressed concerns with the limitations of committee members.

Member Neiderhiser suggested hearing impaired/hard of hearing be added as a protected class.

Council broke for a quick recess.

Discussion: Streetlight Procurement Program Specifications & Proposal

Manager Hart provided an overview of the program's construction specifications and proposal. She then stated that construction would likely start in October/November and it should take about a week or so to complete.

Member O'Neill expressed his concerns with light pollution. Public Works Supervisor Coccio explained the new LED lights will be comparable to the existing lights and the proper light head will be used for each light to help decrease light pollution.

Consideration: Certification Renewal: Certified Local Government (CLG) Program

Manager Hart provided an overview of the program and the benefits of renewing the certification.

Member McClure made a motion to approve a certification renewal agreement for the Certified Local Government Program. Member Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: NWAL Waiver Request of Land Development Application Fee

Manager Hart announced the Borough received a letter on August 1 from Gregory Landis, member of the North Wales Area Library Board, requesting a waiver of the land development application fee for a parking lot expansion project at the North Wales Area Library, located at 233 S. Swartley Street.

Member McClure made a motion to approve a waiver request of the land development application fee for Land Development Application #19-02, submitted by the North Wales Area Library for a parking lot expansion project at 233 S. Swartley Street. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: June 11, 2019, June 25, 2019 & July 9, 2019

Member Scott made a motion to approve the minutes of June 11, 2019. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Member Scott made a motion to approve the minutes of June 25, 2019. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Member Scott made a motion to approve the minutes of July 9, 2019. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Old Business/Committee & Board Reports/Zoning Applications

Manager Hart announced the Borough received a zoning hearing board application for a 6-unit apartment building project at 690 E. Walnut Street. Manager Hart then announced the following events: Movies in the Park showing on August 15 and Incorporation Day on August 20. She then encouraged all residents and business owners to take part in celebrating Incorporation Day.

Solicitor / Mayor / Council / Chief of Police / Manager

Solicitor Gifford stated an executive session will be held to discuss a personnel matter and no action would be taken.

Member Neiderhiser thanked everyone for their patience with the discussion on the draft of the Human Relations Ordinance and encouraged everyone to speak into their microphones.

Member McClure asked Manager Hart to send the monthly North Penn Volunteer Fire Co. reports to Council. Manager Hart confirmed she would send them the reports.

Manager Hart announced the 150th Anniversary Grand Parade on September 14 and asked Council members to participate in the Parade.

Mayor D'Angelo clarified his earlier comments about having equal representation from each political party on the proposed Human Relations Commission. He then announced a proclamation, commemorating the Borough's 150th Anniversary.

Member O'Neill expressed his concerns with the age and appearance of the Borough's street signs. Manager Hart stated the Borough can look into grant funding to update the street signs.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 P.M.

Attest: _____

Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager