

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES  
 300 SCHOOL STREET  
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: November 12, 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	Absent
	Sally Neiderhiser	Absent
	Daniel O'Connell	Absent
	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.

Member Amato entered the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

### **Public Comment**

Christopher Clark, 1479 Wheaton Lane, Upper Gwynedd Township, informed Council of an incident regarding his friend's vehicle being towed from a business parking lot in the Borough. He said they were very upset with how the tow company treated them and hoped the Borough could do something to help resolve these types of issues. Member Scott asked if the business owner called the tow truck company to have the vehicle towed. Mr. Clark stated he believes the owner has a camera to monitor when people illegally park in their parking lot.

Manager Hart stated the Borough cannot force business owners to resolve private parking disputes. Solicitor Gifford stated that businesses must display proper signage in accordance with State law.

Mark Tarlecki, 301 S. Fourth Street, asked if the businesses are aware of the municipal parking lot, located at 125 N. Main Street. Manager Hart stated the businesses have been advised and they are letting their customers know about the parking lot.

### **Consideration: Parking Waiver Request for Associates Land Transfer Co.**

Manager Hart provided an overview of the waiver request. Mr. Dowd testified that employees only work between 8:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Solicitor Gifford stated he would draft a deed restriction agreement, so if the owners were to lose the parking spaces, they would be required to notify the Borough and seek other parking arrangements.

Member Scott made a motion to grant a waiver of the parking requirements for the Associates Land Transfer Co. located at 211 E. Walnut Street. Member O'Neill seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 yes, 0 no.

### **Consideration: Advertisement of 2020 Budget**

Manager Hart did a presentation on the proposed budget.

Member Amato expressed his concerns with the budget and stated it appeared the Borough is running a deficit. Manager Hart provided further clarification to show the Borough is not running a deficit. Member Amato then expressed concerns with decreasing assessed real estate value, earned income tax and local services tax. Manager Hart explained there is now one tax collection authority and the Borough is receiving less money because the authority is now collecting the correct amounts for each municipality. Manager Hart then stated the Borough does ensure all businesses are being accounted for through the annual business license registration process.

Member Scott thanked Manager Hart for all her hard work and dedication in overseeing the Borough's administration.

Manager Hart then reviewed the 2020 proposed budget in depth. Member O'Neill asked why the cable franchise agreement fees decreased. Manager Hart stated an accounting adjustment was never completed in a prior year to reflect an accrual.

Member Amato asked how the Borough will replenish the tennis court fund after the repairs are made. Manager Hart stated the Borough can transfer funds from other accounts to maintain the tennis courts. Member Amato then asked if the Borough can use liquid fuels funds to upgrade the Borough's salt storage facility. Manager Hart stated the Borough currently shares Upper Gwynedd Township's salt storage facilities.

Member O'Neill asked if there is enough usage of the tennis court to justify maintaining it. Manager Hart stated it does get used by residents and they do contact the Borough when something needs to be taken care of. The courts were established with funding from a County Open Space Grant so decommissioning them would require some due diligence, stated Manager Hart.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if Mr. Ronald Smeal's services are still being utilized. Manager Hart stated the Borough is no longer using his services.

Member Scott asked if there is a tax increase for 2020. Manager Hart stated the budget was presented and prepared without a tax increase. However, the Borough will have to consider a tax increase for 2021 if the revenue and expense trends stay consistent.

Mark Tarlecki, 301 S. Fourth Street, asked if the budget can be reopened in January after the re-organization meeting. Manager Hart stated Council can, but the Borough could always do a budget item transfer if need be.

Member Scott made a motion to advertise the 2020 budget as presented. Member O'Neill seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 yes, 0 no.

## **Old Business/Committee & Board Reports/Zoning Applications**

Assistant Manager Guzzardo announced that variances were granted for Zoning Application #19-02, regarding 328 S. Fourth Street.

President Sando announced the Buildings & Grounds Committee met with the North Penn Art Alliance (NPAA) to discuss continued usage of the property, located at 125 N. Main Street and a plan for 2020. Manager Hart stated the NPAA will present their plans at the next Council meeting on 11/26/2019. Member O'Neill stated the NPAA has done a nice job of upgrading the facilities.

President Sando then welcomed Mark Tarlecki and Sherwin Collins who will be serving on Council in the new year.

### **Solicitor / Mayor / Council / Chief of Police / Manager**

Solicitor Gifford stated an executive session will be held to discuss a legal matter and a personnel matter. He then stated possible action will be taken on the personnel matter.

Mayor D'Angelo stated he learned the first Mayor of the Borough was John Forrest Kratz, whose title was changed from Burgess to Mayor in June 1962. Member O'Neill said he enjoyed the Trego presentation and found it very informative. Member Scott thanked Manager Hart and her staff as well as the Finance Committee for drafting the 2020 budget.

Vice President Cherry expressed his concerns with the new voting paper ballots. Manager Hart suggested that all complaints should be directed to the Montgomery County Board of Elections. Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, suggested the Borough should facilitate any collective complaints with the system and issue a letter to the Election Board if the Borough were to receive more complaints. Sherwin Collins, 121 Shearer Street, stated that Voter Services was very helpful when they had an issue at the Ward One Voting Center, located at the North Wales Water Authority Building.

Manager Hart reviewed the list of Board and Commission vacancies. She then reviewed the Montgomery County Curb My Clutter Program. She announced that the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission is seeking to amend its ordinance regarding trash and recycling collection at apartment buildings. She also encouraged people to recycle their election signs. She announced the following events: Senior Scam Prevention Scam on November 14, the Felix Hall Concert at St. Luke's Church on November 24, Soldier's Christmas and Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 1. Lastly, she announced the Borough has partnered with Print, a company to create a municipal directory and map for the Borough at no expense to the Borough.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 P.M.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christine A. Hart  
Borough Manager