

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: November 26, 2019 7:02 PM, EST

CALL TO ORDER made by Vice President Cherry.

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	Absent
	Mayor Gregory D'Angelo	Present

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

Vice President Cherry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Solicitor Gifford announced that an Executive Session was held to discuss a personnel matter involving the Chief of Police employment contract and a legal matter.

Manager Hart announced Joseph Skalak, a long time resident and Judge of Elections in Ward One had passed away on November 20, 2019. She asked for a moment of silence in memory of Joe, as he was a good neighbor and served our community well for many years. Condolences to the Skalak family were offered.

Public Comment

Linda McAdoo, 412 Shearer Street read a letter addressed to President Sando (copy attached) summarizing the efforts of the 150th Anniversary Committee and thanking Manager Hart for her time and enthusiasm put forth. Manager Hart thanked Mrs. McAdoo for the kind words in the letter and informed Council how diligent Linda is and the reminded Council that Linda was a major force behind the scenes, keeping everyone on pace and recording all actions of the committee.

Presentation: Portnoff Law Office – Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collection Services

Kevin Buraks from Portnoff Law Office presented information regarding the collection of delinquent real estate taxes and municipal liens. He explained the benefits of utilizing an independent third party agency versus Montgomery County Tax Claim Bureau. Member Scott questioned how does your firm make their money? Mr. Buraks explained that the fees associated with the collections are passed through to the delinquent taxpayer and that Council would have to pass an ordinance in order to process accordingly. Vice President Cherry asked if there was a minimum number of delinquent tax files to be filed with Portnoff in order to waive a \$2,000 fee

charged by their firm for initial startup of an account. Mr. Buraks indicated that a minimum of 50 files constitutes waiver of the fee. Manager Hart stated that the Borough is currently placing liens of less than 50 per year for unpaid real estate taxes. Member McClure commented that she liked how Portnoff accepts partial payments and is amendable to working with the delinquent taxpayers when it matters most. Manager Hart thanked Mr. Buraks for attending and indicated that consideration regarding the use of Portnoff would be revisited in 2020.

Presentation: North Penn Art Alliance – Arts & Cultural Center 2020 Goals

Kim Newell from North Penn Art Alliance presented a slideshow related to upcoming events they plan on hosting in conjunction with the Borough's plan to expand upon the North Wales Arts and Cultural Center located at 125 N Main Street. The NPAA has been holding Make Art Mondays and weekly art classes, which are buy one get one free for Borough residents, they have also added Speaker of Month events. They are hoping to add a Shop Local Event, Cake Decorating, Gardening and The Art of Beer Making are just a few of the ideas they suggested. Manager Hart thanked Ms. Newell and the NPAA for their time and ideas and stated that the focus of 2020 is to work collaboratively to bring more Arts and Culture to the Borough as discussed in the North Wales 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Consideration: Approval of NPVFC 2019 Loan Payment Forgiveness

Frank Baxter, President of NPVFCO presented the Fire Company's 2020 Budget and Goals. The main purpose of Mr. Baxter's presentation was to show Council how and where their funding is being spent. Mr. Baxter also reviewed the need for new life saving equipment which is mandated and is necessary to purchase in 2020, causing a shortfall in their budget. Mr. Baxter requested that the Borough forgive the 2019 payment of the Radio Loan in the amount of \$36,428.04 and indicated this would aide the fire company and allow them to purchase the necessary equipment needed to continue to provide the level of fire coverage required by state law.

A motion was made by Member Neiderhiser to approve the loan forgiveness request in the amount of \$36,428.04 for calendar year 2019. Motion was seconded by Member McClure. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Adoption of 2020 Budget

Manager Hart asked Council if another review of the Budget was required prior to vote. Council indicated that the workshop on November 12, 2019 was adequate. Manager Hart stated she did not receive any questions, comments or changes since the last workshop meeting and the 2020 Budget remains as previously presented.

Member Scott made motion to approve the 2020 Budget. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Employment Contract – Chief of Police

A motion was made by Member O'Neill to approve the Chief of Police Employment Contract for Michael E. Eves. Motion was seconded by Member McClure. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Certificate of Appropriateness: 211 E. Walnut Street

Member Little made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness as presented by HARB regarding the façade improvements being made to 211 E Walnut Street. Motion was seconded by Member Neiderhiser. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Disbursements: \$304,235.86

Member Scott made a motion to approve the disbursements in the amount of \$304,235.86. Motion was seconded by Member Neiderhiser. Manager Hart reviewed the bills list, she highlighted some of the larger or uncommon invoices and answered questions relating to same. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Old Business/Committee & Board Reports/Zoning Applications

Manager Hart reported no new zoning applications. She commented that Parks and Recreation submitted a “to-do” list for 2020 listing their goals and maintenance needs within the parks. She also notified Council that Borough staff has prepared a grant submission for the Bonus Round of the Peco Green Region Grant.

Manager Hart announced several upcoming events, the Annual Tree Lighting, A Soldiers Christmas and other community events in and around the area.

Solicitor / Mayor / Council / Chief of Police / Manager

Member Neiderhiser thanked the Art Alliance for their presentation. Member Scott wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded everyone to share time with friends and family. Vice President Cherry reminded those to share in Soldier’s Christmas and that collections for the military would be collected until the end of next week at Borough Hall.

Member Scott made a motion to adjourn. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager