

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: March 10, 2020 7:00 PM, EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Sando.

ROLL CALL:	Salvatore Amato	Present
	James Cherry	Present
	Sherwin Collins	Present
	Ronald S. Little, Jr.	Present
	Wendy McClure	Absent
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Eion O'Neill	Present
	James Sando	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Mayor Gregory D'Angelo	Present

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

President Sando led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Jocelyn Tenney, 801 East Walnut Street, asked for a progress report on the sound system. Member Collins, Technology subcommittee representative, provided an update. He stated the Borough has made several attempts to contact Best Boy Audio, who installed the current system, but has been unsuccessful thus far. Therefore, the matter had been referred to the Solicitor. He also stated meetings with a few local vendors, who have completed projects in surrounding municipalities, have been scheduled. Lastly, he indicated an update would be provided at a future Council meeting relating to the outcome once a determination has been made.

Erick Myers, Deputy Fire Chief of the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company (NPVFC), provided an update on the Company's recent activities and preparation guidelines for the COVID-19 virus outbreak.

Discussion: HARB 2019 Annual Report

Raymond Tschoepe, Chair of the Historical Architectural Review Board, reviewed the Board's 2019 Annual Report with Council.

Jocelyn Tenney, 801 East Walnut Street, asked how many hours a week the Borough's Building Code Official works. Manager Hart explained the Building Code Official works four hours per week. These hours have proven satisfactory provided the Borough's current workload relating to permit review, inspections, and the like.

Consideration: Acceptance of Donation from Tex-Mex Connection

Manager Hart read a statement on behalf of Jane Keyes, owner of Tex-Mex Connection, expressing that she wants the donation to be utilized for the Borough's annual Earth Day event and "green" initiatives within the Borough.

Vice President Cherry asked how the Borough will ensure that the donation is solely used for Earth Day and "green" initiatives. Manager Hart stated the donation will be deposited into the Borough's Recycling Fund which covers Earth Day expenses as well as recycling efforts. Council will be able to approve expenses in accordance to current procedures and will be able to identify which fund the expenses are being deducted from.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$10,000.00 from Tex-Mex Connection, to be deposited into the Borough's Recycling Fund. Member Tarlecki seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Historic Commission Appointment, Term Ending 12/31/2021

Member O'Neill made a motion to appoint Lloyd Nicholas Paulson to the Historic Commission, term ending 12/31/2021. Member Little seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Ratification of Resolution 2020-016

Member O'Neill asked for Manager Hart to provided clarification on the financial portion of the grant application. Manager Hart provided a breakdown and explained that the Borough had previously allocated Capital Improvement Funds to cover the anticipated costs of the project when approving the 2020 Budget.

Member Tarlecki made a motion to ratify Resolution 2020-016. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Discussion: Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Zoning Text Amendment

Margaret Dobbs, Community Planner, provided an overview of the Transit Oriented Development Zoning Text Amendment, that has been prepared by her office in correlation with the Borough Planning Commission and staff.

Manager Hart asked if Council needs to vote on authorizing the Solicitor's office to draft the text amendment. President Sando stated yes, a motion is needed in order to proceed and he asked for clarification on the process. Solicitor Filice explained that Council first needs to authorize his office to prepare the text amendment, then the text amendment will need to be reviewed by the Borough Planning Commission and the Montgomery County Planning Commission and a public hearing will need to be held prior to Council passing the amendment.

Member O'Neill made a motion to authorize the Borough Solicitor's office to prepare a draft ordinance of the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Zoning Text Amendment. Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Authorization of 2020 U.S. Census Partnership

Vice President Cherry asked if it is against the law to turn away Census workers when they are conducting their door-to-door activities. Solicitor Filice stated the Census is authorized to conduct their business under Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. Manager Hart further explained the benefits of the Census including the following: the Census determines legislative districts and ensures accurate representation in Congress; it determines how to allocate spending for many federally funded programs; and it is the foundation for important data products and projections; all of which can benefit the Borough.

Member Little made a motion to authorize a partnership with the 2020 U.S. Census. Member Tarlecki seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Proclamation: Designation of April 2020 as PA 811 Safe Digging Month

Manager Hart announced the Borough has been requested by Pennsylvania One Call System to provide a proclamation, designating April 2020 as PA 811 Safe Digging Month. She then stated the proclamation would be signed by President Sando and it would be posted on the Borough's website and Facebook which will help promote public awareness of this important tool that is in place to ensure the safety of excavators, workers, and utility infrastructure.

President Sando announced a proclamation, designating April 2020 as PA 811 Safe Digging Month.

Consideration: Minutes: February 25, 2020

Member O'Neill made a motion to approve the minutes of February 25, 2020. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Old Business/Committee & Board Reports/Zoning Applications

Manager Hart announced she and the Finance subcommittee will be meeting on March 16. She then announced the Buildings and Grounds subcommittee met earlier this evening. Lastly, she announced the Borough has received a zoning application for 123 North Second Street and she anticipated the Borough will receive another zoning application from the NPVFC for 137-141 South Main Street involving additional improvement alterations.

President Sando provided an update on the Buildings and Grounds subcommittee's meeting earlier this evening including reviewing the North Penn Arts Alliance's Spring activities, discussion of a kiosk-type sign replacement, as well as interior and exterior updates for the North Wales Arts and Cultural Center. In addition, a maintenance plan update for the Borough's Cemetery and a concrete replacement study focused on Borough owned properties was discussed and is currently being coordinated. He then stated the Subcommittee's concerns with the streetscape condition of Main and Walnut Streets. Lastly, they requested the Borough to review grant funding available for a part-time coordinator for the North Wales Arts and Cultural Center.

Member Tarlecki asked if the Buildings and Grounds subcommittee had met with the North Wales Borough Business Alliance. Manager Hart stated the Alliance had been dissolved. President Sando stated a Borough business owner on Main Street had mentioned an issue with the sidewalks on Main Street.

Solicitor / Mayor / Council / Chief of Police / Manager

Solicitor Filice announced an executive session was held after the previous Council meeting to discuss a personnel matter, a legal matter and a potential legal matter with no action taken. He then stated an executive session will be held following tonight's meeting to discuss a personnel and legal matter; and he anticipated no action would be taken afterwards.

Mayor D'Angelo announced that Osmose Utility Services, Inc. will soon be installing re-enforcement braces on utility poles throughout the Borough. He then thanked the NPVFC's Traffic Police for their assistance with a local funeral procession.

Member Neiderhiser asked if the NPVFC has enough supplies for the COVID-19 virus outbreak. Deputy Chief Myers stated, at the present time, they are well stocked and prepared to deal with the situation.

Vice President Cherry announced the Shade Tree Commission will be reviewing the Borough's Shade Tree Ordinance at their next meeting and he will provide an update once it is available.

Member Collins announced that he attended a Newly Elected Municipal Officials Boot Camp, hosted by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. He was pleased with the Borough's services in comparison to other Boroughs throughout the State and complimented the Borough's administration and staff members on a job well done.

Member Tarlecki expressed his concern with low hanging utility wires in his neighborhood and requested the Borough contact the proper utility companies to have them secured.

President Sando asked Chief Eves if the Police Department has the necessary supplies for the COVID-19 virus outbreak. Chief Eves stated he is currently working on it. Manager Hart stated she will assist Chief Eves with obtaining the necessary supplies. President Sando then asked Chief Eves for an update on an incident involving a utility pole that was struck on West Walnut Street. Chief Eves confirmed reports of a tractor trailer striking a telephone pole. It is currently under investigation; no injuries were reported. Chief Eves thanked the Fire Police for an outstanding job in assisting the Police Department while utility crews replaced the pole and restored services.

Manager Hart announced the Borough received its annual Recycling Grant from the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission in the amount of \$9,008.35. She then announced the following Borough events: the Montgomery County Borough's Association Dinner on April 23, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4 in Weingartner Park and the Annual Earth Day event on Saturday, April 25 at Borough Hall. She also announced the Borough has posted information on its website regarding the COVID-19 virus outbreak. She will continue to work with State and County health officials to ensure the Borough is taking the proper precautions. Lastly, she announced the 2020 Spring-Summer newsletters were mailed out to residents.

Member O'Neill asked if the Borough has explored painting the posted speed limits on the roadway and installing other traffic control devices on South Tenth Street to help with traffic control. Chief Eves stated he is currently looking into possible solutions and he will report back to Council at the next Council meeting. He stated the Police Department conducted over 170 traffic stops in the past month and Officers routinely monitor South Tenth Street.

Member Little asked if the Borough would continue to participate in the Common Share Food Market this summer. Manager Hart stated the program requires a minimum of 15 participants. She reminded everyone that the registration window is currently open. If the minimum number of participants register then, yes, the Borough will continue being an official site.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 P.M.

Attest: _____

Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager