

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
300 SCHOOL STREET
NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: November 23, 2021, 7:00 P.M., EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Sando.

ROLL CALL:	Salvatore Amato	Present, joined at 7:01 P.M.
	James Cherry	Present
	Sherwin Collins	Present
	Ronald S. Little, Jr.	Present
	Wendy McClure	Present, participated remotely
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Eion O'Neill	Present
	James Sando	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Absent
	Mayor Gregory D'Angelo	Present

Also, in attendance were John Filice, Borough Solicitor, Alan Guzzardo, Assistant Borough Manager and Brian Sleicher, Public Works Supervisor.

President Sando led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Jayne Blackledge and Jocelyn Tenney, representing the North Wales Area Library, reviewed a funding request proposal with Council.

Anji Fazio, 111 South Seventh Street, expressed her support for the Library and requested that Council provide additional funding if feasible.

Vice President Cherry asked Mrs. Blackledge how much funding they are seeking. Mrs. Blackledge stated they are requesting either the tax millage amount be increased 100 percent or a donation in the amount of \$20,000.00. A discussion ensued regarding funding from Upper Gwynedd Township and Montgomery Township.

Member Little asked when the Library tax millage was last changed. Manager Hart stated the millage has been the same for at least 15 years. Member Little expressed his support for providing additional funding. A discussion ensued regarding donating to the Library. Mrs. Tenney stated they would appreciate a donation and they will provide monthly reports to Council on their activities.

Collette D'Angelo, 921 East Prospect Avenue, suggested that Council should table the matter for a future meeting since it was not listed as an agenda item and was brought up at Public Comment.

James Schiele, 307 East Montgomery Avenue, stated that Council has a responsibility to ensure that the Borough's infrastructure and public safety needs are being met before it can expense

additional funding for other needs. He then expressed his disapproval of raising the tax millage for the Library when other municipalities are not providing their “fair share.”

Member McClure made a motion to approve a donation in the amount of \$15,000.00 to the North Wales Area Library. Member Little seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed, 8 yes, 0 no.

Public Hearing: TOD Text Amendments

Timothy Konetchy, Community Planner, reviewed his Act 247 review letter, dated October 18, 2021.

Member Collins asked how the recommendation regarding vehicle and bicycle parking can be implemented into the amendments. Margaret Dobbs, former Community Planner, clarified that the recommendation is for the Borough to standardize all of its parking requirements in a separate amendment to the Zoning Code.

Vice President Cherry asked how the amendment would impact the building height requirement. Ms. Dobbs explained that it would change the maximum allowable building height from 42 to 36 feet. Vice President Cherry then asked how the amendment would impact allowable uses in the district. Manager Hart explained that the amendment would expand the number of permitted uses and allow for other desirable uses.

President Sando asked if anyone from the public had any questions and if any comments or questions had been received prior to the hearing. Manager Hart confirmed that no comments or questions had been received and no one from the public had any comment on the proposed changes.

Consideration: Approval of TOD Text Amendments

Member Amato made a motion to approve the TOD Text Amendments. Member Little seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Adoption of 2022 Budget

Manager Hart presented the 2022 Annual Budget.

President Sando asked how much the Borough received in grants. Assistant Manager Guzzardo explained the Borough received about \$154,000.00 from the Montco 2040 Grant Program and \$70,000.00 from the County Transportation Grant Program.

Member Amato asked about the Tennis Court fund account. Manager Hart explained the account funds were used to re-pave the court and she recommended dissolving the account and using the General Fund under park maintenance line items to cover future expenses.

Member Amato made a motion to approve the 2022 Annual Budget. Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval to Advertise 2022 Tax Millage Ordinance

Member McClure made a motion to approve advertisement of the 2022 Tax Millage Ordinance. Member Little seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Acceptance of Donation to the Historic Commission

Member Collins made a motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$50.00 from Michael and Linda McAdoo to the Historic Commission in memory of Joanne Mathews. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Certificates of Appropriateness: 112 South Main Street & 416/418 East Montgomery Avenue

Member McClure made a motion to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign installation at 112 South Main Street, as presented. Member Little seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Member Amato made a motion to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for door replacements at 416/418 East Montgomery Avenue, as presented. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of CBA with the Police Department, Effective 2023-2026

Vice President Cherry made a motion to approve a contract extension with the North Wales Police Department Collective Bargaining Unit, effective 1/1/2023 through 12/31/2026. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Acceptance of Resignation of Chief Eves

President Sando thanked Chief Eves for his service to the Borough and wished him well in his new endeavors.

Member Collins made a motion to accept the resignation of Police Chief Michael Eves. Vice President Cherry seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Police Consultant Agreement

Vice President Cherry made a motion to approve a management consulting agreement with W.R. Smeal Police Management Consultant. Member Little seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Member McClure asked for the names of the individuals that would be serving as Interim Chief. Manager Hart stated it would be W. Ronald Smeal and Mark Bentzel.

Member Collins made a motion to appoint W.R. Smeal Police Management Consultant as Interim Chief. Member Little seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Disbursements: \$69,401.33

Member Little made a motion to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$69,401.33. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: October 26, 2021 & November 9, 2021

Member Little made a motion to approve the minutes of October 26, 2021. Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Member Collins made a motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2021. Member Little seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Old Business / Committee & Board Reports / Zoning Applications

Manager Hart announced the Borough received a Zoning Hearing Board Application (Z-21-04), regarding 348 West Montgomery Avenue. She then reviewed a draft of the Planning Commission minutes from their last meeting held on November 3.

Vice President Cherry asked about a meeting held with property owners affected by the Center Street Pedestrian Connection and Gateway Project and the Center Street Extension Project. Manager Hart provided a summary of the meeting.

Solicitor / Mayor / Council / Police / Public Works / Manager

Solicitor Filice announced an executive session was held after the previous meeting to discuss a personnel matter and no action was taken. He then announced that another executive session will be held after tonight's meeting to discuss a personnel matter and no action will be taken.

Mayor D'Angelo announced that he attended a meeting with Borough business owners to discuss re-instating the Borough Business Alliance. He then wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Vice President Cherry announced he attended the Hess Park Clean-up event on November 13.

Member McClure stated she was happy to be able to attend the meeting remotely.

Member O'Neill expressed his approval of the newly planted trees at the St. Luke's Cemetery.

Public Works Supervisor Sleicher individually thanked those who participated at the Hess Park Clean-up event. He added that the Department planted 20 new trees on Borough grounds.

President Sando welcomed Interim Chief Mark Bentzel.

Manager Hart made the following announcements: Fall Scavenger Hunt winners, Montco 2040 Plan update, Soldier's Christmas Collection, the Norristown Garden Club Holiday House Tour on December 9, the Arts Alliance Fall-Winter class schedule, Boards and Commissions vacancies and the re-organization meeting on January 3, 2022.

President Sando thanked the Borough staff for their efforts and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 P.M.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager