



Borough of Walnutport Regular Meeting Minutes Thursday, December 8, 2011

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1. William Turk, President called the December 8, 2011 regular meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:00 pm in the Borough Municipal Building, 417 Lincoln Avenue, Walnutport, PA 18088. Mr. Turk led the Pledge of allegiance.
2. Roll Call: William Turk, President; Michael Gaston, Vice-President; Joan Rehrig, Councilwoman; Harold Greene, Councilman; Matthew Newhard, Councilman; Lamar Lauer, Councilman; David Stankovic, Councilman; Jason Newhard, Engineer; Eric Strohl, Road Foreman; Michael Corriere, Solicitor; and Annette Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer. Henry Kline, Mayor-Absent.
3. Borough council entered into executive session to discuss possible litigation and personnel matters from 7:02 – 8:05 pm
4. Motion to approve minutes from the workshop meeting November 3, 2011 and regular meeting November 10, 2011 made by Matt. Lamar seconded the motion. Motion carried.
5. Motion to approve Tax Collector's Monthly Report for November 2011 made by Dave. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
6. Motion to approve November 2011 Profit & Loss Report made by Joan. Lamar seconded the motion. Motion carried.
7. Motion to approve November 2011 Bill List made by Harold. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
8. Motion to approve Police Report for November 2011 made by Harold. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
9. Motion to approve Zoning Report for October & November 2011 made by Matt/ Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
10. Standing Committees –
 - A. Finance – Michael Gaston
 - I. Found out per capita is maxed out at \$10.00. We cannot raise it.
 - B. Law – Harold Greene
 - I. Harold stated the police report requesting schooling is tabled until next month.
 - II. Harold made the motion to send the Chief and the mayor a letter stating that now until the end of the year if a shift cannot be filled by a part time officer the state police should be contacted for coverage. A full time officer is not allowed to work that opened shift. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - III. Harold made the motion to post internally for one or two 32 hour officers. The chief needs to have these requests to the borough secretary by 3:00 pm on January 3, 2012.
 - C. Streets – Lamar Lauer no report
 - D. Solid Waste – Matthew Newhard
 - I. Matt made the motion to not cite the new owners of 405 Williams Ave for garbage out more than 24 hours before pick up. They just moved into house and had to rip out all the old carpeting. Neighbors told them they can put anything out for garbage. They did receive correct information from borough secretary after they obtained a moving permit. Harold seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - E. Ordinance Review – David Stankovic
 - For fire company to bill insurance companies—Solicitor made changes to Diamond Fire Company. He will get us the changes. Dave made the motion to have Ordinance advertised. Harold seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Landlord update Ordinance 2012-01...Matt made the motion to have Solicitor advertise changes. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - Motion to approve 2011-14 made by Joan. Mike seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - Mike made the motion to have commercial permit be \$25.00 this year but have changes made for 2013 to be \$25.00 per unit. Harold seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - Mike made the motion to approve Resolution 2011-07. Matt seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- F. Personnel –Matthew Newhard no report
- G. Solicitors Report
- I. Verizon—they do not enter into Franchise fees. They will terminate service with anyone in the borough limits. If we know of anyone who has FIOS we should let them know.
- H. Engineers Report
- I. Jason confirmed with council that once bid is awarded that council would like the 215 building work competed first then 417 building. Looking at bidding out in January and having work competed by middle of June.
11. Unfinished Business –
- A. Mike made the motion to amend the advertised budget due to not being able to raise the per capita. Harold seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- B. Motion to pass 2012 budget with no layoffs made by Mike. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- C. Motion to pass ordinance 2011-12 at 16 mils made by Mike. Harold seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- D. Codification- waiting on general code
- E. ZHB Solicitor – when Annette contacted Jenny Cheng, Jenny wanted to make sure the ZHB members are okay with this decision. The ZHB has the right to choose who they want to their Solicitor. Donald Evans, ZHB chairman is going to speak to Mr. Healy. If Steckel and Stopp cannot/or will not match Cheng Law offices rate, they will agree to go with Cheng Law office. Annette will keep council updated.
- F. Lease with Walnutport Canal Association- Mr. Kaul was asked to be at the January 12, 2012 meeting.
- G. Mercantile tax issue with Mr. Warren James-Matt made the motion to have Annette inform Mr. James if he gets a list from his accountant how much he collects in the borough vs. out of the borough to Annette, she can give him his reimbursement before the end of the year. Lamar seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- H. Harold asked to be excused for the NOVA discussion since he is an employee of NOVA
- I. NOVA-Jason spoke about the LST tax and what it is meant for. Council reiterated what they said last week. Council will see what they can do till April 2012 when tax money comes in.
12. Opportunity for Residents to be Heard
- A. John David McKeever and James Gaston spoke about the Commercial rental license and the per unit fee.
13. New Business –
- A. Parking trucks @ SA Knappenberger
- I. Harold made the motion to have the Code Enforcement Officer to send a letter to SA Knappenberger for 1-storm water management violation; & 2- parking truck on Washington Street which blocks the view at intersection. Lamar seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- B. Complaint @ 421 South Canal Street

"We reside on South Canal Street in Walnutport. Our home is connected to the Kuntz home, owned by Lucille Kuntz. We have attempted to be as tolerant of their horrendous living habit as possible and have only issued on previous complain. Since Lucille moved out, however, things are considerably worse. The mice and rats have invaded our home. I have spent over \$50.00 on mouse traps. The traps disappear instantly, leading me to believe that there are also rats. We have actually seen the rats going under the fence from Lucille's property to ours. Because we have a 13 month old child and another baby due in January, we called an exterminator. The exterminator took a look and said there was virtually no way for him to help us as long as Lucille's sons continue to live in fifth. The exterminator said that it is extremely unsanitary to live near them and noted that Lucille's property is one of the worst he has ever seen. Since the winter has started we have not seen anyone. This issue needs to be remedied as soon as possible."

C. Complaint @ 645 Lehigh Gap Street

"Walnutport Borough Manager Dear Sir: 645 Lehigh Gap Street

An embarrassment to the community. In blatant violation of borough ordinances with 4 UNREGISTERED cars on the property and a barn that is about to fall down. In blatant violation of the Stare of PA with a car with Tennessee license plates for the last eight years that I have lived in Walnutport. How can this be??? How does he get away with this? I am remaining anonymous as I know how this borough works. I don't need any tickets, thank you. Please be a better man and do something about this eyesore. You are an elected official. Believe me. We cannot comment on this. We are in litigation with this property owner for several suites. There isn't much we can do until final action from court.

D. Northern Lehigh Community Center is looking for donations. We will keep on file

E. Canal FEMA/PEMA—we were approved for assistance. Waiting on how much and when.

F. Grants—Mike gave an update on the grant. Still waiting on approval.

14. Mayor's Announcements – Mr. Kline was absent but asked up to tell everyone...

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

15. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn the meeting made at 9:45 pm by Joan. Lamar seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Annette S. Lacko
Secretary/Treasurer