



Borough of Walnutport
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday March 13, 2014

The public is advised that the Borough of Walnutport Public meeting is being recorded for transcription purposes only and is intended only for the use of a Borough Secretary in transcribing the official meeting minutes.

The tape is made solely for the employees own personal use and does not have an official purpose.

1. Matthew Newhard, President called the March 13, 2013 regular meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:02 pm in the Borough Municipal Building, 417 Lincoln Avenue, Walnutport, PA 18088. Mr. Newhard led the Pledge of allegiance.
2. Roll Call: Matthew Newhard, President; Michael Gaston, Vice-President; Joan Rehrig, Councilwoman; Harold Greene, Councilman; William Turk, Councilman; David Stankovic, Councilman; Patrice Hunsicker, Councilwoman; Wayne Weidner, Mayor; Jason Newhard, Engineer; Michael Corriere, Solicitor; Eric Strohl, Road Foreman; Chief Peter Wayda; Michael Wentz, Grant Coordinator; and Annette Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Advanced Disposal here per request-Mike Reitz answered some questions about the billing, the service and will be getting answers to Annette about a few issues. He was unaware of a few complaints that have come in~ throwing recyclables in with garbage; not putting cans back where they belong etc.
4. Wendy from Responsible Recycling Services asked to speak about e~recycling. Council will get back to her about possible e~recycling events.
5. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard-
 - A. Brian Filchner from WPA handed in the application for use of facility and asked about curb cut out. Council explained how expensive the curb cut would be since we would have to make handicap accessible. Go around the back to unload supplies. Rick will open the gate when needed
 - B. Scott Everett from the D&L National Heritage Corridor discussed some issues that have come up and would like council's approval, agreement of some of the projects.
 - i. Mike made the motion to have SSM survey, research, whatever needs to be done to get the right of way to lock 25 straightened out. (Maintenance access not public access). Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - ii. Council agreed to have SSM work with the D&L to give them the designs that were used on Lock 23 & 24. This will help save costs in the end.
 - iii. Council also agreed it would be nice if they can get a grant for redoing Lock 25 and if we as the borough have to do the grant application we will.
 - iv. Council likes the idea of doing a general permit for the entire canal, if that can be done.
 - v. Council also agreed to the D&L putting up signs showing the parking at the canal pavilion and the trail to bike and walk along the canal. They also agreed it is a good idea to put the signs on this side of the bridge for the crossing just like the other side of the bridge (in Slatington).
6. Housekeeping matter. Motion to approve the following with general consent made by Matt.
 - A. Motion to elect Matt Newhard as council president.
 - B. Motion to elect Mike Gaston as vice president of borough council
 - C. Motion to nominate Bill Turk as the President Pro Tem.
 - D. Motion to elect David Stankovic to the vacant seat
 - E. Motion to retain The Engineering Firm of Spotts, Stevens and McCoy to serve as Borough
 - F. Motion to retain the Solicitor: Corriere & Andres Esquire
 - G. Motion to retain Eric Strohl to serve as Code Enforcement officer for the Borough
 - H. Motion to retain Sean Corey to serve as Zoning and Building Code Officer
 - I. Motion to confirm Fire Police (letter attached) for the Diamond Fire Company and the Borough of Walnutport for the year 2014
 - J. Motion to authorizing the Diamond Fire Company to engage in fund raising activities, participate in mutual aid with any fire company and authorizing the fire police to serve during non-emergency functions during 2014
 - K. Motion to retain Solicitor, Engineer, and recording secretary for Planning Commission
 - L. Motion to reappoint Kevin Rex, Michael Newhard, and Henry Kline to the Planning Commission.
 - M. Motion to retain Anderson & Assoc., to manage Police & Borough Pension Plan

- N. Motion to retain HA Thomson to manage our insurance policies
 - O. Motion to retain Labor Council, Scott Blissman
 - P. Motion to reappoint Michael Wentz as Grant Coordinator
 - Q. Motion to reappoint Shirley Chimich to Zoning Hearing Board
 - R. Motion to accept the resignation of Vincent Morris from Recreation Board
 - S. Motion to approve by general consent
 - T. minutes of the workshop meeting December 5, 2013; regular meeting December 12, 2013
 - U. Zoning Officer's Report for December 2013
 - V. Build Code Officials Report for December 2013
 - W. December 2013 Profit & Loss Report
 - X. December 2013 Bill List
 - Y. Police report December 2013
 - Z. Motion to waive David Neustadter late fee
 - AA. Motion to approve pay ap #3 for \$23,268.00 to Spotts Bros for the roof.
 - BB. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm. Harold seconded the motion. Motion carried.
7. Dave made the motion to approve
- A. minutes of the reorganization meeting January 6, 2014 & workshop meeting February 6, 2014
 - B. Tax Collector's Monthly Report for December 2013, January & February 2014
 - C. Zoning Officer's Report for January & February 2014
 - D. Build Code Officials Report for January & February 2014
 - E. January & February 2014 Profit & Loss Report
 - F. January & February 2014 Bill List
 - G. Police report January & February 2014....with general consent. Harold seconded the motion. Motion carried.
8. Standing Committees –
- A. Finance – Mike & Matt--Mike made the motion to close the street light account and put the funds into the reserve account. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - B. Law – Harold & Mike-everything is running smoothly.
 - C. Streets – Bill & David – Bill & Mike met with Rick and Mike W. about the truck they want to replace truck 5 (small dump truck). There is a price from Kovatch and rate for lease/purchase option. Mike Gaston wants Annette to look into any financing thru the state. He thought he read something about 2% financing. Annette will also look into how much liquid fuels money can be used.
 - D. Solid Waste – Matt & Patrice
 - i. Outstanding balances~1st ½ 2014
 - E. Recreation –Patrice & Joan
 - i. Still looking to fill 5 seats on board – Patrice is trying to find people for the recreation board. Council explained that they are the ones who appoint the people to the recreation board. She will be going the next WCA meeting.
 - ii. Email from WCA & Boy Scout troop 8~requesting being about to camp at canal pavilion. Mike approved the boy scouts to be able to camp as long as they follow all ordinances (no open burning/camp fires) and that the WCA agrees to them being there at the pavilion. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - F. Ordinance Review – Dave & Bill
 - 1. Flood Insurance Rate Map
 - 2. Bank foreclosure/Real Estate registry Ordinance 2013-07-Solicitor will have a speaker hear hopefully April or May on how it works in other boroughs/townships
 - 3. Snow removal ordinance 2014-02-Solicitor will update along with the other ordinances code enforcement officer would like changed for the repeat offenders.
 - 4. Cats-still discussing what the options would be with all the feral cats. Talk to your neighbors if they are feeding the cats. Ask them to stop.
 - G. Personnel – Joan, David, & Harold-short executive session to discuss the handbook changes requested by non-uniform employees.

- H. Solicitor's Report –everything was covered under Ordinance review.
- I. Grants-Mike Wentz informed council that he received word about the grant for \$200,000.00 for lock 23 & 24, the extension was denied. We have till 6-30-14 to submit for reimbursement of funds. Solicitor and engineer will see what we can do. Mike Wentz will keep trying to explain, we did not receive our permits yet.
- J. Engineer's Report –
 - i. Lehigh River Boat Access-they sent a proposed plan. With council permission Jason will contact them with what is better for the area because of water runoff and the traffic that this area does see. Council agrees with Jason's changes.
 - ii. Oak Street CDBG project-Harold made the motion to have Jason advertise for bidding. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 9. New Business –
 - A. Letter from George Burke interested in opened seat on Civil Service Board-Mike made the motion to appoint Mr. George Burke to the Civil Service Board. Harold seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 10. Borough council entered into an executive session from 9:25 – 10:00 pm to discuss non uniform personnel issue/requests. Dave made the motion to change Mike Wentz's title to Assistant Foreman. Bill seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 11. Unfinished Business – some items will not be acted upon for several months ~ this is a reminder that they are a work in process
 - A. Streets/Alley recommendations from Planning Commission
 - i. Williams Alley extension sketch plan
 - B. License Agreement for Lehigh River access Improvements—planning staged (updated by Jason under engineers report)
 - C. PPL lighting
 - D. Drainage at garage behind 417 Lincoln Ave-Dave will look at it over the weekend. Maybe he can get parts thru his employer
 - E. Motion to exonerate tax & penalty on non-existence of trailer at 316 Walnut Street-table until next month. Solicitor will look into it.
- 12. Mayor's Announcements – Wayne will be doing his first wedding this weekend.

Happy 
St. Patricks Day

- 13. Adjournment- Joan made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 pm. Patrice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Annette S. Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer