



Borough of Walnutport

Workshop Meeting Minutes

Thursday October 5, 2017 7:00 pm

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. William Turk, President called the October 5, 2017 workshop 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; Harold Greene, Vice-President ; Joan Rehrig, Councilwoman (absent); Nancy Treskot, Councilwoman; David Stankovic, Councilman ; Jennifer Wentz, Councilwoman; Patrice Hunsicker, Councilwoman; Michael Wentz, Grant Coordinator; Wayne Weidner, Mayor; and Annette Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Present from the public- Ricky Smith, Ron Bauer, Debbie Paules, Sandy Greene, Steph Wechsler, Tammy Kirchner, Dean Wagaman, Bryce Greene, Dustin Greene, Aaron Kromer, Craig Wilt, William Vogel, Nick Kaercher, Ryan Schmoyer, Robert Blum, David Silfies, Mike Gaston, Paul Warnken, Max Verba, James Bardorf, Dan Solderitz, Doneta Merkle, Susan Schneck, Larry Merkle, Zachery Mako, Tim Dennis, & Don Eckhart.
4. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard
 - A. Zac Mako wanted to introduce himself to council and the audience. If anyone needs anything he is over in Slatington. He will drop off information with the borough secretaries with his contact information.
 - B. Dean Wagaman wanted to thank the streets department for the great job they did last year cleaning the snow. He knows he is late in thanking them but wanted to make sure it was said.
 - C. Debbie Paules wanted council to know that one of the fire company dumpsters was taken away. Why are there only 2 dumpsters instead of the 3? Patrice made a phone call. TT got a bunch of new dumpsters in and gave the fire company a bigger dumpster instead of 2 small ones. They are now back to the sizes they had with previous hauler.
 - D. Ricky Smith was here representing the Diamond Fire Company (DFC). They would like to know why council has not passed the tax relief for the fire fighters. Volunteering in down. This tax incentive will help in getting and keeping volunteers. Jennifer Wentz explained there are 3 of them going to a class to learn more about this relief. They want to be able to pass this one time.
 - E. Ron Bauer (DFC) read a written statement about the "rumors" that the firemen are hearing about certain councilmembers wanting to regionalize fire protection. He gave many of reason why this is not a good thing. He also explained what these "rumors" were doing to the firemen that have heard it. Nancy explained it was her as the finance person asking a supervisor from Lehigh Township and a councilman from Slatington about this. She wanted to look into options if the DFC was no longer here. Other councilmembers were not aware she did this. They explained she needs to bring that up to all of them and make a committee to gather information IF they agreed. Nancy apologized.
 - F. Mike Gaston (DFC) also spoke about these 2 topics.
 - G. A few others discussed they just want everyone to get along and communicate, ask questions to the correct person. Don't make more rumors if you don't know or understand something. Come down to take of tour of the fire station. Look at all the nice equipment that the bingos, fish dinners and other fund raising event do to give them the money to buy these things. All the he said she said stuff needs to stop.

- H. Harold said he wants a representative from NOVA to give updates-the President not Nancy since she is here as a council person. Other president used to come to give updates. Ricky Smith comes from DFC. It was brought up that Mike Wentz should not be bothered with fire company business while he is punched in as a streets worker.

This discussion ended at 8:30 pm.

5. Standing Committees –

A. Finance – Nancy

- i. A few items on the 2018 budget were discussed.
- ii. There was a discussion on the cameras at the recreation center-Nancy made the motion to have Nicholson Security LLC install the new system for \$3,687.00. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dave asked if we could add for the dug outs. It looks like the kids are being chased from the pavilion and then hang out in the dugout after dark. Nancy will talk to the owner of the company.

B. Law – Harold & Jennifer – need brief executive session

C. Streets/buildings –David & Harold – Rick informed them they looked at the truck cab and now it goes to body.

D. Personnel – Bill, Harold, David – nothing

E. Ordinance – Jennifer

- i. Tax relief-volunteer fire fighter – discussed earlier

F. Solid Waste – Patrice

- i. Letter to exempt 701 Williams Ave-this will be a 2 unit property once construction is complete after completion secretaries will issue 2 bill. Nancy made the motion to temporarily exempt them from garbage service. Jen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

G. Recreation Board- Jennifer Wentz

- i. We have 11 tree adoptions so far, several donations. Trees are going to come from Yenser’s tree farm.
- ii. NL Recreation Authority- Nancy-Donald Eckhart informed council they finally agreed on a pension for Mike Kukitz
- iii. Walnutport Playground Association & Walnutport Canal Association

H. Secretary/Treasurer updates-

- i. E-recycling event-we will go to one event a year since this fall event was so slow.
- ii. Nancy made the motion to approve resolution 2017-08 (required every year). Harold seconded the motion carried.

I. Grants- Michael Wentz finally received word on PPL grant. They will replace all street light fixtures and bulbs with LED. Nancy made the motion to have Annette forward everything to Solicitor to review for next week. Jen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. New Business –

A. Nancy made the motion to approve the Per capita exoneration 2017 (list attached) from the tax collector. Harold seconded the motion. Motion carried.

B. Patrice made the motion to allow the tax collector asking for permission to shred docs according to state record retention. Nancy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. Harold made the motion to approve the following hunting permits

- i. Christopher Pascoe
- ii. Stephen Sook
- iii. Gary Kern
- iv. Charles Wasilkowski. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. Unfinished Business –

A. 911 issue with Lehigh County & Northampton County-Solicitor is working on this

- B. Nancy asked Annette if she received anything from Lehigh Township about the booking station. They will be sending information that the borough may be responsible to paying towards the operation of that booking station.
8. Upcoming events
- A. October
 - i. Canal festival 10-15-17
 - ii. Towpath trot 10-14-17
 - iii. Boot camp 10-21-17 walking trail at recreation center
 - iv. Trick or Treat October 25th 6-8 pm rain date October 26th
 - B. November
 - i. Election day 11-7
 - C. December
 - i. Tree lighting 12-2-17
 - ii. Candy cane hunt 12-9-17
9. Council entered into an executive session- no action
10. Mayor's Announcements~
- A. NL Chamber would like the fire police to direct traffic from 6:15-7:15 on October 6, 2017 at Main & Lehigh Street. They will be running hay rides. Harold made that motion. Patrice seconded the motion. Motion carried.
11. Adjournment – Nancy made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Annette S. Lacko
Secretary/Treasurer