



Borough of Walnutport

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday November 8, 2018 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 November 8, 2018 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; Harold Greene, Vice-President; Joan Rehrig, Councilwoman; Michael Gaston, Councilman; David Stankovic, Councilman (late); Jennifer Wentz, Councilwoman; Patrice Hunsicker, Councilwoman; Wayne Weidner, Mayor; Michael Corriere, Solicitor; Jason Newhard, Engineer; Michael Wentz, Grant Coordinator; Chief Peter Wayda; and Annette Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Present from the Public-Terry Ahner-Times News, Ed Ziegler, Donald Eckhart, Marilyn Kaul, Ron Bauer, Scott Stauffer, Aaron Kromer, Craig Wilt, Jeremy & Sondra Bellois, Deborah Paules, Jeanne Boehrer, Time Dennis, Jim Evans, Brian Filchner, Lori Sywensky, Dean Hower, Todd Andrews, Larry Wittig, Robert Hawke, Cindy Miller, & Nancy Thatcher.
4. Hearing for Giant liquor license transfer- Ellen Freeman from Flaherty & O'Hara spoke about how Giant handles liquor/beer sales in store. Council asked for public comment. No other comments. Motion to approve Resolution 2018-09 made by Dave. Mike seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Joan-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
5. Jamie Schlesinger from PFM Financial Advisors LLC gave council information about possible refinancing to save money. The existing loan fixed rate will expire soon and with the rates going up it may make sense to refinance now into a bond instead of a traditional bank loan. This could also save on our yearly payment amount to help with the budget. Council needs to think about what they want to do. (7:40 pm)
6. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard –
 - A. Jeremy & Sondra Bellois spoke about their complaints and dissatisfaction of the service we receive from the garbage company. The broken glass in front of their drive way, the “slug” that comes out of their truck, the “oil” that was all over town.
 - B. Tim Dennis-reserves his time to speak during budget discussion
 - C. Brian Filchner from the WPA thanked council for finishing the room at the recreation center that they rent. He also want to know what Councilwoman Wentz wanted since she left a message...Jen explained Giant reached out to the borough about purchasing a scoreboard for the ball field. Jen and Brian will get together to discuss.
 - D. Dean Hower and Nancy Thatcher are from the WCA & the LT rails to trails. He is having difficult with the right a way to be able to access lock 25. There are new home owners down were the right a way is. Corriere with send a letter to the new home owner advising of such right away.

- E. Todd Andrews is asking if there is anything being done about the water issue in front of his house on Washington Street. Jason, the engineer with look into it, this is the first he was made aware of it.
- F. Larry from Tamaqua Transfer gave borough council his company's side of the story for the incident that happened on October 10, 2018 when one of his trucks leaked hydraulic fluid throughout town.
- G. Mike Wentz-Fire Chief & EMC explained his side of the story for that event.
- H. Council woman Patrice Hunsicker explained her involvement in the event.

The discussion got heated. Harold made a motion to have a recess at 8:45 pm. Jen seconded them motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Joan-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried. When council came back from recess Patrice asked more question why she was removed as solid waste chair. President Turk and Mrs. Hunsicker exchanged a few more words and council moved on with the meeting.

- 7. Motion to approve A-G by general consent made by Mike. Joan seconded the motion.
 - A. Meeting minutes of the October 4, 2018 workshop & October 11, 2018 regular
 - B. Tax Collector's Monthly Report for October 2018
 - C. Zoning Officer's Report for October 2018
 - D. Build Code Officials Report for October 2018
 - E. October 2018 Profit & Loss Report
 - F. October 2018 Bill List
 - G. Police report October 2018 Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Joan-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
- 8. Standing Committees –
 - A. Finance – Jennifer – Budget
 - Dave made the motion to have Solicitor advertise the budget for review and the tax milage. Joan seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Joan-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
 - B. Law – Michael & Harold – nothing
 - C. Streets –David & Harold –
 - Motion to have Bill sign letter authorizing Eric to sign paperwork for new police car (like all other vehicles) made by Harold. Jen seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Joan-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
 - Leaf collection going well
 - Electric for the trees are done
 - D. Solid Waste –
 - Mike made the motion to exempt 412 Williams from garbage since water/sewer is turned off and home owners are deceased. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - E. Recreation – Jennifer- Trees...we are at 48 with tomorrow being the deadline.
 - Tree lighting is December 1st and NL Rec authority's candy cane hunt is December 8th
 - NL Recreation Authority-Patrice

- WPA/WCA-Patrice

F. Ordinance – Harold & Jennifer nothing

G. Personnel – David & Michael – need brief executive session

H. Secretary/Treasurer-Annette Lacko-

- Workers comp renewal information-need all volunteer names etc. from Fire Company. I have requested several times. Mike Wentz and Mike Gaston will get to Annette till of next week.
- 2019 meeting dates attached

I. Grants-Michael Wentz just need resolution approved for grant.

- Mike made the motion to approve Resolution 2018-11. Harold seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Joan-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

J. Engineer's Report –

- See report
- Traffic Light--I issued quotation packets to 4 contractors with quotes due 11-16-18. I would like authorization to proceed with awarding to the most qualified responsible contractor upon PennDOT approval for the ARLE grant. This will save time to get installed in early December. Council will need to ratify any award at the December Meeting.
 - ❖ Jen made the motion to allow Engineer and Borough Staff to execute the Traffic Light Quotes and award to the most responsible contractor contingent upon PennDOT review and the awarded quote is less than the \$20,100 PA bid threshold. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- GREEN STREET ORDINANCE We supplied the solicitor with exhibits for Latshaw condemnation

K. Solicitor's Report –

- Norfolk Southern paperwork-will look at all the paperwork and get back to council
- Green Street Resolution 2018-10 to have Michael Corriere start process condemnation proceeding. Motion to approve resolution 2018-10 made by Mike. Jen seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Joan-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
- Royal development-sent paperwork off to be recorded.
- Spoke to Rick. Ready for next step for Gogel. Jen made the motion to allow Solicitor to file and execute the next step necessary for the Gogel issue and have Annette issue the appropriate checks to county for fees. Joan seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Joan-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

9. New Business

A. Tax Collector appointment for 2019-there were 2 qualified applicants-Scott Stauffer and Aaron Kromer. They both spoke to council. Council asked both of them questions. Residents asked a few questions. Mike made the motion to appoint Scott Stauffer effective

1-1-2019. Joan seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Joan-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

B. Tax exemption for veteran-Mike made the motion to exempt Samuel J Hartman effective August 24, 2018 per PA Dep of military and veterans affairs letter. Patrice seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Joan-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

C. Thank you letter from Library

10.Unfinished Business –

- Band Shell-grant applied for
- Rubber matting (play equipment)
- Volleyball court
- 2018-03 Green Street
- Twin Alley Storm water issue
- Meeting with John Morganelli will be January 10th. I will put him first thing on agenda for that night...

11.Upcoming events

- A.** December 1st @ 3:00-Tree lighting at Recreation building sponsored by Walnutport's Recreation Board and the Adopt a Tree Committee
- B.** December 8th – Candy Cane Hunt sponsored by the NL Recreation Authority at the Recreation building 5-6 pm

12.Don Eckert thanked everyone for making trick or treat better this year. There was fire police at the crossing and the kids were crossing in the cross walks, cars weren't flying down Main Street since they were seeing the reflectors.

13.Executive session to discuss a personnel matter. No action 9:36-9:45

14.Mayor's Announcements - Borough of Lehighton is requesting fire police-Harold make the motion to allow the fire police to help at the Borough of Lehighton's event on December 8, 2018. Mike seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Joan-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

15.Adjournment – Joan made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm. Dave seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Joan-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Annette S. Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer