



Borough of Walnutport

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday August 10, 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 August 10, 2017 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; Nancy Treskot, Councilwoman; David Stankovic, Councilman; Jennifer Wentz, Councilwoman; Patrice Hunsicker, Councilwoman; Wayne Weidner, Mayor; Michael Corriere, Solicitor; Jason Newhard, Engineer; Eric Strohl, Road Foreman/Code Enforcement Officer; and Annette Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Present from the public- Kelley Andrade-Times News, Debbie Paules, Michael Wentz, Al Acker, Ed Ziegler, Alice Wanamaker-Chamber, & Don Eckhart.
4. Mark Hartney from Northampton County about blighted property-there is a grant program that will help the borough with blighted properties. Mr. Hartney is going to help look at options for 16 Lincoln Avenue. He stated the first step is our Code Enforcement Officer needs to enforce the ordinances. Once they are not compliant with those we can move forward. Michael Corriere gave council a brief update on what our next steps legally would be. Council agrees we need to move forward with getting this cleaned up. Mr. Hartney left at 7:30 when his presentation was complete.
5. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard –
 - A. Alice Wanamaker from the Chamber wanted to introduce herself to council. She discussed the Main Street Merchant project in Slatington, the D&L Trail, and membership to the chamber.
6. Motion to approve A-G by general consent was made by Nancy. Joan seconded the motion.
 - A. Minutes of the workshop/regular meeting July 6, 2017 & workshop meeting August 3, 2017
 - B. Tax Collector's Monthly Report for July 2017
 - C. Zoning Officer's Report for June & July 2017
 - D. Build Code Officials Report for June & July 2017
 - E. July 2017 Profit & Loss Report
 - F. July 2017 Bill List
 - G. Police report June & July 2017. Motion carried.
7. Standing Committees –
 - A. Finance – Nancy discussed a few changes to the budget.
 - B. Law – Harold & Jennifer – nothing
 - C. Streets/buildings –David & Harold
 - i. First Avenue street project- needs to be paved yet. Rick has call into them about settlement.
 - ii. Rick is also in contact with contractor about droppings all over town from other street project
 - D. Personnel – Bill, Harold, David – nothing
 - E. Ordinance – Jennifer
 - i. Tax relief-volunteer fire fighter – council had another discuss with Fire Chief Michael Wentz about the criteria to qualify. The FC will put that in writing and have for council by next meeting.
 - F. Solid Waste – Patrice
 - i. Patrice clarified that they are using the same truck to pick up garbage and recycling but they go empty the truck and come back. There are days that they fill the truck 4 times. That is why they aren't finishing until after 4:00 pm.

- ii. Rod Hatcher-Green Street-they ran over his new landscaping. This is the second time the truck has damaged his property. Patrice is going to ask Tamaqua Transfer for a dumpster at that end of Greene Street. She will keep council posted.

- iii. Dumpster will be delivered to fire company next week

G. Recreation Board- Jennifer Wentz

- i. NL Recreation Authority- Nancy

- Food truck event-waiting on dates
- Meeting scheduled next Wednesday

- ii. Walnutport Playground Association & Walnutport Canal Association-Joan-nothing

H. Secretary/Treasurer- Annette Lacko

- Motion to approve 2018 MMO made by Joan. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried. This is a yearly motion required.

- I. Code Enforcement Officer – Eric Strohl reported Annette sent 49 letters for garbage-of those 9 were cited for nonpayment. He had 6 inspections.

J. Engineer's Report –

- i. See report

- ii. MS4 approval-Nancy made motion to authorize SSM Group to file the MS4 required reports with an estimated budget of \$2,100.00. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- iii. CDBG Project-First Avenue

- Nancy made the motion to approve change order #1 for \$17,000.00. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Nancy made the motion to approve pay application #1 \$151,867.00 to Joao & Bradley Construction CO., Inc. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- iv. Salt shed-

- Joan made the motion to approve pay application #3 \$120,537.05 to Raymond Orchard Construction Inc. Harold seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Street project- Motion to pay Intercounty Paving for \$79,426.44 made by Nancy. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Taco Bell-council granted waivers and conditional approval at 7-5-17 meeting. Developer submitted revised drawings on 7-28-17 for review. On 8-2-17, Jason issued a review letter on the revised plan submission.

K. Solicitor's Report –

- i. 911 issue with Lehigh County & Northampton County-Solicitor is working on this. Looks like Lehigh & Northampton County representatives are working together to settle this. Hopefully we will have an updated invoice to reflect actual numbers.

- ii. Need brief executive session to discuss the Gogel legal matter

8. New Business –

- A. Jen made the motion to approve hunting permits 2017/2018

- Ricky J. Smith
- Eric Smith
- Bryce Greene
- Mel Hein
- Matthew Kuntz. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- B. Cat complaint-Rick will start process for resident again.

9. Unfinished Business –

- A. Councilpersons classes/training

- Harold made the motion to reimburse Jen, Patrice, & Nancy \$125.00 each to attend the training on Act 71 (volunteer fire fighters tax relief). Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried. The 3 will get Annette a paid receipt so they can be reimbursed.

10. Upcoming events

- A. E-recycling-September 20th from 4-6 pm...need volunteers
- B. Tire collection-September 20th 4-6 pm-Patrice asked Annette to call up to Tamaqua Transfer to remind them of the event.
- C. October
 - Canal festival 10-15-17
 - Towpath trot 10-14-17
 - Boot camp 10-21-17 walking trail at recreation center
- D. November
 - Election day 11-7
- E. December
 - Candy cane hunt 12-9-17

11. Council entered an executive session to discuss litigation

Jen will write up a letter to WPA about the \$1,500 reimbursement for roofing supplies. She will email it to Annette to put on letterhead and mail out.

12. Mayor's Announcements-nothing

13. Adjournment- motion to adjourn made by Dave. Patrice seconded the motion. Motion carried at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Annette S. Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer