



Borough of Walnutport

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday October 10, 2019 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 10, 2019 regular meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:01 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; Jennifer Wentz, Councilwoman; Patrice Hunsicker, Councilwoman; Wayne Weidner, Mayor; Michael Corriere, Solicitor; Jason Newhard, Engineer; Michael Wentz, Grant Coordinator; Joseph Rudolf, Labor Attorney; and Annette Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Present from the Public-Terry Ahner-Times News, Debbie Paules, Ed Zeigler, Todd Andrews, Jim Pollock, Kristie Wilk, Ron Bauer, Samuel Hartman.
4. Executive McClure & Becky Bartlett Deputy Director of Administration- presented council with a big check for the 2019 CDBG grant of \$150,000.00 that Mike Wentz applied for. This grant is for new water main and paving.
5. Kristie Wilk-NOVA- gave council updated numbers. Asking for more of a donation. Ron Bauer, a resident, spoke in support of giving more money to NOVA.
6. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard –
 - A. Jim Pollock spoke about snow removal for this upcoming year. He thinks the truck drivers drive too fast when plowing the snow.
 - B. Sam Harman spoke about the Nickeloid truck traffic on his street and handed in a complaint about an employee
 - C. Ed Zeigler asked questions about the alley behind the VFW-Engineer and Solicitor told him it would cost a lot of money since Ordinance would have to be done along with other costly paperwork. Borough is not interested in vacating that alley.
7. Jen made the motion to approve A-f by general consent. Patrice seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Joan-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
 - A. Minutes of the workshop meeting September 5 & regular meeting September 12, 2019
 - B. September 2019 Profit & Loss Report
 - C. September 2019 Bill List
 - D. Police report September 2019
 - E. September 2019 BCO & Zoning report
 - F. September 2019 Tax collector report
8. Standing Committees –
 - A. Finance – Jennifer

- Jen made the motion to release money to Slatington Library \$2,000.00 (annual donation). Dave seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Joan-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
- Scott Stauffer, Tax Collector asking for last months paycheck to be reissued-he accidentally destroyed it. Jen made the motion to reissue Scott Stauffer his last paycheck. Mike seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Joan-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
- Memorial- Jen made the motion to conditional approve \$4,200 for planting trees (conditions-bill more details-stating purchasing and planting trees, and supplying purchase/delivery slips for trees). Dave seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Joan-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
- Motion to reimburse for Act 172
 - a) Michael Wentz 2018 EIT \$250.00 Mike made the motion to approve. Joan seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Joan-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-abstain, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
 - b) Wayne Weidner 2019 RE \$178.98 Jen made the motion to approve. Dave seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Joan-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
 - c) Harold Greene 2019 RE \$240.72 Jen made the motion to approve. Dave seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Joan-yes, Harold-abstain, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

B. Law – Michael & Harold –

- Police car- Motion to take to scrap yard for highest quote of \$600 (after gear is stripped) made by Jen. Dave seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Joan-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

C. Streets –David & Harold –

- Tree over canal-Dave made a motion to remove tree from canal that is hanging over walkway/falling down along canal for \$1,500.00. Harold seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Joan-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
- Stucco on back of building-Dave made the motion to approve the pricing of \$5,950.00 to have drivet replaced. Mike seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Joan-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
- Twin Alley was regraded. Fixed. Residents are happy. Will watch for water the next rain storm.

D. Recreation – Jennifer-

- Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer – trees and donations are starting to come in.
- NL Recreation Authority-Patrice – website & Facebook are updated
- WPA/WCA-Patrice/Joan - none

E. Ordinance – Harold - none

F. Personnel – David & Michael – need executive session

G. Secretary/Treasurer-Annette Lacko

- a) Jen made the motion (yearly resolution for police officer's pension) to approve Resolution 2019-09. Patrice seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Joan-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

H. Michael Wentz-Grant Coordinator

- Will be applying for LSA grant for bandshell- Jen made the motion to approve Resolution 2019-10 for bandshell. Harold seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Joan-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

I. Engineer's Report –

- No action
- LOCK 23 RETAINING WALL AND REPAIRS -Annette and I met with FEMA on 10/7/19. FEMA and I are having some difficulty coming to consensus on what the replacement cost of the existing timber retaining wall that was damaged as a result of the storm. I cannot find similar pricing for a small retaining wall for projects we have done in the past. I suggested the Borough solicit quotations for the wall for good price comparison. FEMA may defer actual contractor pricing instead of trying to match a scope to published manuals. We owe FEMA some quotations.
- On another note, the cost difference between the concrete wall we wanted to install and the existing timber wall is great. (\$10,000 vs. \$70,000) FEMA is struggling with funding the new wall for that amount. I need Council to confirm that it will not fund any betterment to the existing timber wall. FEMA will fund to replace the existing damage only, not the betterment. The FEMA funds will be based upon what we agree is the value of the replacement. That is why I wanted contractor pricing and not base it upon an estimate by individuals who do not perform the work, i.e. FEMA and myself.
- MEMORIAL PARK PROJECT -Since last month, we had a meeting on site to review the status of the project on 9/23. Contractor quotation and documentation was reviewed. Sherry Acevedo could not attend that meeting. I'm suggesting we set up another meeting with her present and the contractor to discuss the paperwork format acceptable to Northampton County.

J. Solicitor's Report –

- Green Street-had conference call-waiting on client to accept settlement
- Lock 25-looking to meet with property owner about easement

9. New Business - none

10.Unfinished Business/Reminders/work in process-

A. Volleyball court –

B. 2018-03 Green Street

C. Water issue at lock

D. Right of way issue on Washington Street (WCA)

E. Camper on Route 145- letters sent- violation letter will be sent out again

11.Upcoming events

- A. Leaf collection November 4th – November 21st – unless needed earlier and/or later
 - B. October 10th “Scary Animals” walk-Slatington Trail head (NL Recreation Authority)
 - C. October 20th Walnutport Canal Festival (WCA)
 - D. October 25th Fall-O-Ween Trunk or Treat at Eagles Nest Park (NL Recreation Authority)
 - E. October 30th (with rain date 31st) Trick or Treat
 - F. December 7th - 3rd annual tree lighting at the Walnutport Park (Walnutport Recreation Board)
 - G. December 14th – Candy Cane Hunt at Walnutport Park (NL Recreation Authority)
 - H. May 20, 2020 – E Recycling event held in borough parking lot
12. Council entered executive session to discuss employee/personnel matter 7:50-8:55 pm
- A. Mike made the motion that Eric C. Strohl be terminated based on the results of the employment investigation of his failing to maintain a CDL and unrelated acts of misconduct. Joan seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Joan-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-abstain, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
 - B. Jen made the motion to advertise for Code Enforcement Officer. Mike seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Joan-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
13. Mayor’s Announcements – nothing
14. Adjournment- Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Joan. Harold seconded the motion.
- Respectfully Submitted by,

Annette S. Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer