

Borough of Walnutport

Regular Meeting Minutes



Thursday August 10, 2023 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. Mike Gaston, President called the August 10, 2023 regular meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:00 pm in the Walnutport Borough Hall 417 Lincoln Avenue: Walnutport, PA 18088. Mr. Gaston led the Pledge of allegiance.
 2. Roll Call: Michael Gaston, President; Jennifer Wentz, Vice-President; Harold Greene, Councilman (absent); Iris Blum, Councilwoman; Samuel Hartman, Councilman; David Stankovic, Councilman; Patrice Hunsicker, Councilwoman; Wayne Weidner, Mayor; Michael Corriere, Solicitor; Jason Newhard, Engineer; Mike Wentz, Grant Coordinator; Chief Peter Wayda; and Annette Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
 3. Present from the Public- Terry Ahner from Times News.
 4. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard – none
 5. Motion to approve A-G by general consent made by Sam. Iris seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
 - A. July 13, 2023, regular meetings minutes
 - B. July 2023 Profit & Loss Report
 - C. July 2023 Bill List/transaction by vendor
 - D. July 2023 Police report
 - E. June & July 2023 Tax Collector Report
 - F. July 2023 Zoning permit report
 - G. July 2023 UCC permit report
 6. Standing Committees –
 - A. Finance – Jennifer
 - 1) ¼ midget racetrack lease agreement update-keep on agenda. Solicitor will work on these updates.
 - 2) Insurance issue-equipment lease agreement executive session and possible action taken
 - 3) Starting to work on budget. Get your requests in.
 - B. Public Safety – Harold
 - 1) Birch Street-discussed last year never followed through-wanting to set up meeting with a few of the resident. Keep on the agenda till we can do so.
 - 2) Dave made the motion to approve Schooling for Sergeant Jason Nothstein-DUI conference \$700.00. Jen seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- Council entered into an executive session with the Chief of Police for a personnel matter at 7:12 pm. – 7:45 pm. They discussed personnel, litigation, Gogel, 645 Lehigh Gap, & ProChamps.
- C. Bill Turk Memorial project-Pete
 - 1) \$200 donation from Sam Hartman

- 2) Dedication will be September 14th at 6:30-right before meeting

D. Streets –David

- 1) July's report- David read the report submitted by road foreman
- 2) Discussion and possible motion shopping center storm pipe/ Walnutport Park-after a lengthy discussion, council does not want the shopping center to cross borough property for their pipe unless there is no other alternative.
- 3) Street work is 90% complete. Will sweep in 2 weeks and poly N Lincoln Ave.
- 4) Monday night water came in police door, flooded always. Had restoration company come in. Annette called the insurance company. We will see what the adjuster says next week.

E. Recreation

- 1) Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer working on the tree lighting and adopt a tree.
- 2) WPA-Iris-they had a meeting.
- 3) WCA-Iris-getting ready for last canal festival.

F. Ordinance – Patrice

- 1) Marijuana – medical – dispensary Ordinance/zoning update 2023-02-Jen made the motion to send to borough planning commission and LV Planning Commission for review and comment. Iris seconded the motion. Sam=yes, Iris=yes, Dave=yes, Jen=yes, Patrice=yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- 2) Rental licenses – rental vs family member ordinance 2023-03-Annette working on form
- 3) Parking 600-700 block Williams Ave-Jen made the motion to advertise the amended Ordinance 2023-04. Sam seconded the motion. Sam=yes, Iris=yes, Dave=yes, Jen=yes, Patrice=yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.

G. Secretary/Treasurer's report- Annette

- 1) Patrice made the motion to approve 2024 financial requirement and minimum municipal obligation Police \$125,953.00 & non uniform \$13,600.00 (required yearly). Same seconded the motion. Sam=yes, Iris=yes, Dave=yes, Jen=yes, Patrice=yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.

H. Grant/Emergency Management Coordinator-Mike Wentz-just resolutions that are listed below

I. Code Enforcement – discussion with possible actions and executive session needed

- 1) Patrice made the motion to ratify allowing C. Miller to do residential rentals for July/August while SL is out on leave & temp until he returns. Same seconds motion. Sam=yes, Iris=yes, Dave=yes, Jen=yes, Patrice=yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.

J. Engineer's Report –

- 1) See report
- 2) Blight property-Lehigh Gap Street-possible action to be taken
- 3) Green Street- need to set up a meeting with a few council members at the site to come up with a plan. Jen, Iris & Sam will meet Jason.

K. Solicitor's Report –

- 1) Gogel matter

- 2) Bank registry-ProChamps-Jen made the motion to terminate the contract with ProChamps. Iris seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- 3) Jen made the motion to authorize Solicitor to send notice of the contract has been terminated for cause. Sam seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
7. New Business
 - A. Jen made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-03 Monroe County LSA grant. Dave seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
 - B. Jen made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-04 Northampton & Lehigh County LSA grant. Dave seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
8. Unfinished Business –
 - A. Geese permit-
 - B. WPA discussion-Mike & Jen went to their meeting, along with Iris. They discussed with them their lease, their responsibilities, work orders, what is expected from them, meeting here at 417 not at 215 during winter months due to 215 being winterized. (November – April), they haven't paid rent per their lease agreement, etc.
9. Upcoming events
 - A. Bill Turk memorial dedication Thursday September 14th 6:30 pm
 - B. Fall e-recycling & shredding event September 20th
 - C. Walnutport Canal Festival Sunday October 15th
 - D. Trick or Treat Wednesday October 25th 6-8 pm
 - E. Adopt a Tree/Tree lighting Saturday December 2nd 2:00 pm
10. Opened seats yet
 - A. Planning Commission-1
 - B. Zoning Hearing Board-alternate needed
 - C. UCC Appeal Board-3
 - D. Civil Service Commission-1-
 - E. Recreation Board
 - F. Vacancy Board-1
11. Mayor's Announcements –
12. Adjournment – Iris made the motion to adjourn the meeting at pm. seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Annette S. Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer