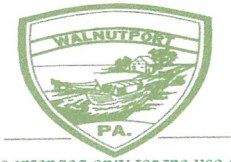


# Borough of Walnutport

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday December 14, 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. Jennifer Wentz, Vice-President of the Borough Council called to order the December 14, 2023 regular meeting at 7:00 pm in the Walnutport Borough Hall 417 Lincoln Avenue: Walnutport, PA 18088. Mrs. Wentz led the Pledge of allegiance.
2. Roll Call: Michael Gaston, President (absent); Jennifer Wentz, Vice-President; Harold Greene, Councilman; 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 – Kevin Sidella from Hera, Kristie Wentling from NOVA, David Wentling, Terry Ahner from Times News, Robert Fella from Channel 13, & George Pandish from WCA.
4. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard –
  - A. Kristy gave an update from NOVA.
5. Motion to approve A-H by general consent was made by Sam. Harold seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.
  - A. November 2, 2023, regular meetings minutes & November 16, Special Meeting Minutes
  - B. November 2023 Profit & Loss Report
  - C. November 2023 Bill List/transaction by vendor
  - D. November 2023 Police report
  - E. November 2023 Tax Collector Report
  - F. November 2023 Zoning permit report
  - G. November 2023 UCC permit report
  - H. November 2022 Code Enforcement Officer Report
6. Standing Committees –
  - A. Finance – Jennifer – need executive session with possible action to be taken. Council entered into executive session from 7:05-7:55 pm to discuss contractual matter, litigation, & budget matters that could be legal issues.
    - 1) 2024 budget hearing -there was no comments from the public
    - 2) Iris made the motion to approve milage rate Ordinance 2023-06 at 20.25. Sam seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-no. Motion carried.
    - 3) Harold made the motion to adopt the 2024 budget as presented with adjustments. David seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-no. Motion carried.



- 4) ¼ midget racetrack lease agreement update-trying to get a meeting with people in charge
- 5) Insurance issue-equipment lease agreement executive session and possible action taken
- 6) Bank registry-possible action being taken-Patrice made the motion to sign the Hera agreement. Sam seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.
- 7) David made the motion to exempt account 01650 from garbage service. Harold seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.
- 8) Harold made the motion to allow Kirk Summa & Company to begin their 2023 audit. Sam seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.
- 9) Patrice made the motion to have Annette transfer money out of ARF to cover furnace repair expenses and extra police vacation/sick time expenses that was approved earlier in year. Sam seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.

**B. Public Safety – Harold**

- 1) Birch Street-
- 2) Sam made the motion to approve reimbursement to Officer Scott Ledo out of education fund for Taser Class \$495. Iris seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.
- 3) Part time police pay increase-possible action to be taken Chief request-David made the motion to increase the part time police officer pay to \$22.00/hour. Sam seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.

**C. Streets –David**

- 1) November report
- 2) Guardrail on Route 145/Lehigh Gap Street-tabled from last meeting Mike was to get prices-replacement will be about \$56,000
- 3) Heat in building-Dave made the motion to update heat pumps in building (417 Lincoln Ave) due to furnace no longer working. Harold seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried. Monies were approved to come out of ARF

**D. Recreation**

- 1) Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer-thank you to everyone to helped make the tree lighting a success
- 2) WPA-Iris-estimate for wall about \$20K
- 3) WCA-Iris-
  - a) Fall Festival-George Panich asked what they needed to if some other organizations do the festival instead of WCA-they will get a group together to meet with council members to see what is needed and how to proceed

**E. Ordinance – Patrice**



- 1) Public hearing/comments for Marijuana Ordinance amendment to zoning ordinance-no comment from the public
- 2) Planning commission recommended adoption at the November 9, 2023 PC meeting – Harold made the motion to adopt Ordinance/zoning update 2023-02. Iris seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.
- 3) Air B&B amendment to zoning ordinance

**F. Secretary/Treasurer's report- Annette**

- 1) Discussion on when 2024 meetings will be held & Harold made the motion to have Solicitor advertise 2024 meetings. Iris seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.
- 2) Sam made the motion to order & purchase replacement computer to secretary/treasurer office quote \$1,414.98 labor not included (to be done in new year). Dave seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.
- 3) Newsletter-beginning of February

**G. Grant/Emergency Management Coordinator-Mike Wentz**

- 1) Multi Facility grant was just announced. It will be for capital funds. Mike can apply for heat for this building and the recreation building.
- 2) The yard waste facility should be up and running by fall next year- it is for residential only. No commercial. No grass. We are invited to compost facility, we will split the fees, it is a DEP approved facility. We will then apply for a split grant to cover the tub grinder.

**H. Code Enforcement – Scott Ledo**

**I. Engineer's Report – Jason Newhard**

- 1) See report-no action needed
- 2) Green Street-possible action to be taken
- 3) Blight property-Lehigh Gap Street-possible action to be taken

**J. Solicitor's Report – Michael Corriere**

- 1) Gogel matter-possible action to conduct inspection & market property the borough is now the owner of the property. Dave made the motion to take the proper steps to secure the property. Sam seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.
- 2) GFL/Casella-meeting went well. They will work with us for next contract. We will look at options for put recycling and garbage in both contracts next time since recycling and fuel prices are so high.
- 3) Sunshine act-there was an update to the sunshine act but since we are doing everything correct now it doesn't affect us much right now.

**7. New Business –**

**A. Recycling toters-Annete will email them**

**B. Motion to approve renewal for Handicapped parking spots**

- 1) Best-431 Washington Street-Harold made the motion to approve. Iris seconded. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.

- 2) Balliet-317 New Street-Harold made the motion to approve. Sam seconded. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.
  - 3) Kramer-123 New Street-Patrice made the motion to approve. Iris seconded. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-abstained, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.
  - 4) Acker-303 New Street-Dave made the motion to approve. Same seconded. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.
  - 5) Kennedy-238 A Oak Street-Harold made the motion to approve. Same seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.
8. Unfinished Business –
- A. “entitlement community-doing surveys for block grants-tabled from last meeting -discuss again next month
9. Upcoming events-
10. Opened seats yet
- A. Zoning Hearing Board-alternate needed
  - B. UCC Appeal Board-3
  - C. Recreation Board
  - D. Vacancy Board-1
11. Mayor’s Announcements – Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.
12. Adjournment -Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Iris at 9:00 pm. Sam seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Patrice-yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Annette S. Lacko  
Secretary/Treasurer

