

Borough of Walnutport

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday June 8, 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 May 11, 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; 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; ~~Scott Lede, Code Enforcement Officer~~; and Annette Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Present from the Public- Terry Ahner from Times News.
4. Public Hearing for Fire Code Ordinance – no comments
5. Jen made the motion to approve the 2 changes page 5-word Township to word Borough first line and under section 165-58. Sam seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
6. Jen made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-01 Fire Code. Dave seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
7. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard – none
8. Jen made the motion to open the agenda for a house keeping matter. Harold seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
9. Jen made the motion to adopt PEMA DAP-1 Designation of Agent Resolution. Iris seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
10. Jen made the motion to approve A-H by general consent. Patrice seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
 - A. May 11, 2023, regular meetings minutes
 - B. May 2023 Profit & Loss Report
 - C. May 2023 Bill List/transaction by vendor
 - D. May 2023 Police report
 - E. May 2023 Tax Collector Report
 - F. May 2023 Zoning permit report
 - G. May 2023 UCC permit report
 - H. May 2023 Code Enforcement Officers report
11. Standing Committees –
 - A. Finance – Jennifer

- 1) Pt asst secretary-executive session needed & possible motion-will take care of later after executive session
- 2) Harold made the motion to transfer money from ARF to general checking to cover police pay (unused vacation/holiday) \$9,542.60. Patrice seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- 3) ¼ midget racetrack lease agreement update

B. Public Safety – Harold

C. Streets –David

- 1) May's report
- 2) Rescued ducklings today
- 3) Question was asked how often do they run the street sweeper and when...1x a month spring/summer/fall months
- 4) Warranty work for Lincoln Ave-they will be fixing the problem areas the end of July. It will all be covered under warranty
- 5) Street work will begin week of June 22nd

D. Recreation

- 1) Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer
- 2) WPA-Iris-Home run derby was a success
- 3) WCA-Iris
 - a) Knotweed complaints-Mike and Iris are going to meeting/ceremony tomorrow
 - b) Spring Breakfast is 8-12 at canal pavilion

E. Ordinance – Patrice

- 1) Marijuana – medical – dispensary Ordinance/zoning update-handed out for everyone to review
- 2) Rental licenses – rental vs family member-handed out for everyone to review

F. Secretary/Treasurer's report- Annette

- 1) Newsletter-deadline
- 2) Bill Turk memorial project

G. Grant/Emergency Management Coordinator-Mike Wentz

- 1) Everything is still pending. Nothing is new.
- 2) Engineer submitted CDBG for Willow Ave

~~H. Code Enforcement—Scott Lede~~

I. Engineer's Report –

- 1) See report
- 2) Blight property-Lehigh Gap Street-possible action to be taken will revisit after executive session
- 3) 2020 census-there is a possibility we may no longer qualify for guaranteed disbursement of block grant funding

J. Solicitor's Report –

- 1) Gogel matter-bankruptcy
- 2) Audit sent for advertisement

12.New Business

- A.** Lehigh Tax Collection Committee Delegates updates- TCC representatives-Sam made the motion to appoint Kristie as Delegate and Jen as alternate #1 and Mike Gaston as Alternate #2. Harold seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.

Council entered into an executive session at 7:57 pm to discuss personnel matter, litigation, contractual. 8:40 pm, they came out of the executive session.

Blight property-Jen made the motion to authorize Solicitor and Engineer to take the necessary steps to rectify the blight property at 645 Lehigh Gap Street as well as to obtain the Title report and take the necessary steps to file a Petition to Rectify the blighted property as permitted by law. Iris seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.

- B.** Letter from PIRMA-executive session needed and possible action needed to be taken
- 1) There were 3 findings, 3 pictures. The deep fryers are not proper, don't meet code.
 - 2) Jen made the motion to have the fryers removed and proper cleaning done until alternative measures are made (per PIRMA's recommendations). Sam seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
 - 3) Harold made the motion to have PW remove the fryers and put them in the borough garage for safe keeping. Iris seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- C.** Jen made the motion to close escrow account RDC LLC-past improvement maintenance period-most of properties have been sold. Dave seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- D.** Thank you from Library for yearly donation
- E.** Letter requesting traffic control for motorcycle ride on Sunday June 25, 2023 possible motion made if council agrees and if we have anyone available-looks like traffic will come through Route 145-police will handle this.
- F.** Harold made the motion to appoint Jennifer Wentz to vacancy board. Sam seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- G.** Harold made the motion to hire PT employee #1. Iris seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.

13.Unfinished Business –

- A.** Jen made the motion to approve the new maintenance agreement for traffic signal at Route 145 and Maple with Imperial Realty Property Group LLC retro dated April 3rd 2023. Harold seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- B.** Donald Bruinig's complaint about street/water-this was taken care of and can be removed.
- C.** Geese permit-reapplied

D. WPA-back stop issue

E. Pickle ball/basketball court-quotes and possible motions-

- 1) Quote \$1,560.00 for pickle ball, tennis is white. Basketball quote \$910.00 -they use a special epoxy paint
- 2) Patrice made the motion to approve quote from S&G to have pickle ball and basketball lines done. Sam seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried. The money will come out of the Recreation funds

F. WPA discussion

- 1) 215 building table till next month

14.Upcoming events

A. Fall e-recycling & shredding event September 20th

15.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-2-now 1

16.Mayor's Announcements – Happy Fathers Day!!

17.Adjournment – Iris made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm. Harold seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Annette S. Lacko

Secretary/Treasurer