

Borough of Walnutport

Regular Meeting Minutes



Thursday November 2, 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 November 2, 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; and Annette Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Present from the Public-Terry Ahner-Times News, Drew Snowberger, Don Eckhart, Brian Filchner, Kevin Sidella, & Al Acker.
4. Representative from GFL were asked to be here-did not show up. The solicitor is waiting on their response.
5. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard –
 - A. Kevin Sidella from Heraregistry.com asked council if they have any question on his company. They are very interested in taking over from where Champion left off when they went bankrupt. He left information for council to review. This will be reviewed and on next month's agenda.
 - B. Brian Filchner explained he gave Annette some dates for baseball sign ups on a facilities of use form. His question is how will they get in? Do they get a key? Dave made the motion to have the road foreman give the current president of the Walnutport Playground Association a key to borough hall. Sam seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
 - C. Donald Echart questioned council about the safety of the kids crossing the street during the Halloween parade and trick or treat. Mayor Weidner, Fire Chief Wentz, and council president Gaston all told him more volunteers are needed.
6. Jen made the motion to approve A-H by general consent. Harold seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
 - A. October 12, 2023, regular meetings minutes
 - B. October 2023 Profit & Loss Report
 - C. October 2023 Bill List/transaction by vendor
 - D. October 2023 Police report
 - E. October 2023 Tax Collector Report
 - F. October 2023 Zoning permit report
 - G. October 2023 UCC permit report
 - H. October 2022 Code Enforcement Officer Report

7. Standing Committees –

A. Finance – Jennifer – need executive session

Council entered into an executive session for personnel matter & contractual matter from 7:20-8:40 pm. No action taken.

1) 2024 budget with possible actions being taken

a) Harold made the motion to advertise tax milage at 20.25 for 2024. Iris seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.

b) Iris made the motion to advertise the preliminary 2024 budget for public review from November 20 (or earlier) through December 11, 2023. Sam seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.

~~c) motion to accept the balanced budget with the tax increase~~

2) ¼ midget racetrack lease agreement update-table

3) Insurance issue-equipment lease agreement executive session and possible action taken-table Jen will be going to Walnutport Authority's meeting

4) Bank registry-possible action being taken-discussed a little earlier. Will discuss again next month-vote next month

B. Public Safety – Harold

1) Birch Street-table

C. Streets –David

1) October report

2) Dave questioned the guardrail by Route 145 & Lehigh Gap Street-Mike will get a price. He also asked if there was an update on the sink hole by Burkner King. according to PennDOT they will have it fixed by winter

D. Recreation

1) Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer

2) WPA-Iris-

3) WCA-Iris

E. Ordinance – Patrice

1) Marijuana – medical – dispensary Ordinance/zoning update 2023-02 advertised for December adoption

F. Secretary/Treasurer's report- Annette nothing

G. Grant/Emergency Management Coordinator-Mike Wentz

1) Willow Street project was switched to 645 Gap Street

2) We are no longer "entitlement" community which means we have to do surveys for every block grant. Do you want to continue to do block grants? Table till next month meeting

3) Radio upgrades will needs to happen they will cost \$130K

H. Code Enforcement – Scott Ledo-nothing

I. Engineer's Report – Jason Newhard

1) See report

- 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-executive session
- 2) Deed condition states mini playground for Birch Street
- 3) Air B&B-will discuss at next months meeting.

8. New Business

- ~~A. Motion to allow Walnutport Fire Police to help Borough of Lehigh on December 9, 2023 if personnel are available to help with traffic control don't have any staff~~
- B. Patrice made the motion to appoint Ronald J Bauer Jr to the Walnutport Civil Service Commission. Harold seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- C. Jen made the motion to appoint Ronald J Bauer Jr to the Walnutport Planning Commission. Patrice seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- D. Jen made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-08 Statewide LSA gaming funds grant funding for radios for police department. Dave seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- E. Dave made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-09 statewide LSA gaming funds grant funding for new boom mower for canal. Jen seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- F. Jen made the motion to proceed with purchasing and ordering remaining equipment and supplies from 902 grant. Patrice seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried. This is the DEP yard waste grant
- G. Patrice made the motion to approve LVR relining the furnace at borough hall. Working on getting the price. About \$3,800.00 Having issue with furnace and this needs to be done asap. Harold seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- H. Dave made the motion to approve individual, Mike Wentz, Road Foreman/grant coordinator to oversee 902 grant yard waste program/facility. Harold seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- I. Jen made the motion to advertise on Municibid the following for sale
- 1) 2009 crown vic – (decommissioned)
 - 2) 1956 Galion grader
 - 3) 1988 Ford dump & spreader. Iris seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.

9. Unfinished Business –

- A. Shopping center-water issue-they are hoping to fix in 2 weeks
- B. Water leak in building-insurance claim bills received and paid. Insurance money received.

10. Upcoming events

- A. Adopt a Tree/Tree lighting Saturday December 2nd 2:00 pm

Candy cane hunt will begin at 3:00

tree lighting about 5:00

11. 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

12. Mayor's Announcements – don't forget to turn the clocks this weekend, Happy Veterans Day, Happy Thanksgiving!

13. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Iris at 9:15 pm. Harold seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette S. Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer