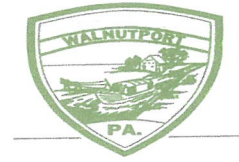


Borough of Walnutport

Regular Meeting minutes



Thursday October 12, 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 October 12, 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 (via phone); 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, Al Acker, & Terry Ahner.
4. Representative from GFL were asked to me here-no one showed up
 - A. Jen made the motion to file notice of violation to comply with 15 days. Dave seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
5. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard – none
6. Dave made the motion to approve A-H by general consent. Jen seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
 - A. September 14, 2023, regular meetings minutes
 - B. September 2023 Profit & Loss Report
 - C. September 2023 Bill List/transaction by vendor
 - D. September 2023 Police report
 - E. September 2023 Tax Collector Report
 - F. September 2023 Zoning permit report
 - G. September 2023 UCC permit report
 - H. June/September 2022 Code Enforcement Officer Report
7. Standing Committees –
 - A. Finance – Jennifer – need executive session
 - 1) 2024 budget with possible actions being taken-waiting for numbers from department heads.
 - 2) ¼ midget racetrack lease agreement update-table till next month
 - 3) Insurance issue-equipment lease agreement executive session and possible action taken
 - 4) Bank registry-possible action being taken-table till next month
 - 5) Dave made the motion to allow WCA to hold a basket raffle at their annual canal festival this Sunday-the game of chance license has changed and requires this because it is being held on borough property. Iris seconded the motion.
 - B. Public Safety – Harold

- 1) Birch Street-table
- C. Streets –David
 - 1) September report
 - 2) Dave made the motion to remove tree along Kunz Alley by police station...\$800. Harold seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- D. Recreation
 - 1) Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer
 - 2) WPA-Iris-
 - 3) WCA-Iris-getting ready for festival
- E. Ordinance – Patrice
 - 1) Marijuana – medical – dispensary Ordinance/zoning update 2023-02 advertised for December adoption
- F. Secretary/Treasurer's report- Annette
 - 1) Garbage bills- Mailed \$10 increase for 6 months
 - 2) Harold made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-06 pension plan (annual motion required). Jen seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- G. Grant/Emergency Management Coordinator-Mike Wentz- Mike will have full price quotes till next month's meeting for his update on radios.
- H. Code Enforcement – Scott was no here
- 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
 - 4) Jen made the motion to open the agenda. Dave seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
 - 5) Dave made the motion to appoint Mike Wentz, Public Works director as contact for MS4 permitting. Patrice seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
 - 6) Patrice made the motion to allow Walnutport Authority to construct a new pumping station on the west side of Lehigh Street by Main Street. Harold seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- J. Solicitor's Report – Michael Corriere -need executive session
 - 1) Gogel matter
8. New Business
 - A. REMINDER-November's meeting will be November 2nd
 - B. Motion to allow Walnutport Fire Police to help Borough of Palmerton –no motion needed. No one to send!!
 - 1) Palmerton Halloween Parade on Sunday October 15th @ 3:30 with RD Monday October 16th @ 6:30 if there are personnel available

2) Turkey Trot 5K Race on Thursday November 23 @ 8:30

9. Unfinished Business –

- A. Geese permit- Pete received the permit on September 30th it is good for 1 year.
- B. Shopping center-water issue-they will fix in 2 weeks
- C. Water leak in building-insurance claim opened

10. Upcoming events

- A. Walnutport Canal Festival Sunday October 15th
- B. Trick or Treat Wednesday October 25th 6-8 pm
- C. 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. Council entered executive session for personnel, contract, and litigation matters from 7:45 – 9:00

- A. Jen made the motion authorizing Annette to forward \$131.00 fee to file fee to Northampton County Civil Division for conservatorship. 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 permit Solicitor to contact Northampton County to have grant from Willow Ave repurposed the funding to Blight funding to resolve the issue at 645 Lehigh Gap Street. Harold seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.

13. Mayor's Announcements –

14. Adjournment -Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Iris at 9:05 pm. Harold seconded the motion. Sam-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Annette S. Lacko
Secretary/Treasurer