

Borough of Walnutport

Regular Meeting Minutes



Thursday September 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. 6:30 dedication of memorial to William Turk held on front porch of borough hall
2. Mike Gaston, President called the September 14, 2023 regular meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:10 pm in the Walnutport Borough Hall 417 Lincoln Avenue: Walnutport, PA 18088. Mr. Gaston led the Pledge of allegiance.
3. Roll Call: Michael Gaston, President; Jennifer Wentz, Vice-President; Harold Greene, Councilman; Iris Blum, Councilwoman; Samuel Hartman, Councilman (absent); 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.
4. Present from the Public- Terry Ahner from Times News, Jeanne Boehrer, Mackenzie Aucker from TV13, Brian Filchner, & Diane Yurasits.
5. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard – none
6. Patrice made the motion to approve A-G by general consent. Harold seconded the motion.
 - A. August 10, 2023, regular meetings minutes
 - B. August 2023 Profit & Loss Report
 - C. August 2023 Bill List/transaction by vendor
 - D. August 2023 Police report
 - E. August 2023 Tax Collector Report
 - F. August 2023 Zoning permit report
 - G. August 2023 UCC permit report. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
7. Standing Committees –
 - A. Finance – Jennifer
 - 1) 2024 budget-we need numbers from department heads.
 - 2) ¼ midget racetrack lease agreement update-we will need to get a meeting
 - 3) Insurance issue-equipment lease agreement executive session and possible action taken
 - 4) Bank registry- Jen and Mike will look at the 2 resumes received
 - 5) Harold made the motion to compensate C. Miller for filling in temporarily for CEO doing rental inspections in the amount of \$25 per inspection. Patrice seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
 - 6) Motion to approve the new police contract for 2024-2027-executive session needed-will discuss later in meeting
 - B. Public Safety – Harold
 - 1) Birch Street-discussed last year never followed through. Mike Gaston, Mike Wentz and David will meet with a few residents' tomorrow am to discuss.

- 2) Jen made the motion to accept pt police officer #5CF letter of resignation. Iris seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
 - 3) Discussion and possible action taken to replace sign on porch of borough hall-Mike Gaston discussed the metal sign the was on the front porch of borough hall not looking very professional. He thought about putting the patch. Mike Wentz got an estimate between \$300-\$400.00. Since there is a budgeted line item, we don't need a motion but wanted to make sure everyone was okay with that change.
- C.** Bill Turk Memorial project-Wayne, Mike Gaston, Jen, & Mike Wentz all gave a speech. The family took off the covering. Dedication was held before the meeting at 6:30. Mike Gaston thanked everyone who was on the committee for all their work. It really looks nice.
- D.** Streets –David
- 1) August's report
 - 2) Mike Wentz reported that the street projects are completed.
- E.** Recreation
- 1) Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer-the letters are out for the tree lighting.
 - 2) WPA-Iris- President of WPA is here-Brian stated they are finalizing plans for the back stop project.
 - 3) WCA-Iris-Jeanne the treasurer was present. She talked about a few issues with the WCA, the festival, and their future events.
- F.** Ordinance – Patrice
- 1) Marijuana – medical – dispensary Ordinance/zoning update 2023-02 Jen made the motion to advertise for December's meeting. Patrice seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
 - 2) Jen made the motion to open the agenda. Harold seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
 - 3) Rental licenses – rental vs family member Jen made the motion to adopt ordinance 2023-03. Harold seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
 - 4) Parking 600-700 block Williams Ave-Jen made the motion to approve Ordinance 2023-04. Dave seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- G.** Secretary/Treasurer's report- Annette
- 1) Annette asked all of council to updated contact information she passed around so she can up the website and to do a phone tree to all of council.
 - 2) Garbage bills? Possible motion to increase bill due to increase recycling costs. Jen made the motion to increase the garbage bill due to recycling up to \$20.00. Iris seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried. This decision has to be made as late as we can, but it will be before the next meeting.

- 3) Harold made the motion to have the Solicitor send a letter to GFL (our current garbage hauler) to have a representative at our October meeting. Jen seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- H. Grant/Emergency Management Coordinator-Mike Wentz- we have \$1.2 M pending
- I. Code Enforcement – discussion with possible actions and executive session needed
 - 1) Iris made the motion to authorize borough secretary (Annette) to send out letter reminding homeowners of ordinance violations before they would go to CEO if needed. Harold seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
 - 2) Jen made the motion to advertise a temporary or backup CEO if and when needed. Iris seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- J. Engineer's Report – Jason Newhard
 - 1) See report-all are executive session discussions
 - 2) Green Street-possible action to be taken
 - 3) Blight property-Lehigh Gap Street-possible action to be taken
- K. Solicitor's Report – Michael Corriere-all are for executive session discussion
 - 1) Gogel matter
 - 2) Lehigh Gap Street
- 8. New Business
 - A. Letter from Walnutport Canal Association for Canal festival on Sunday October 15, 2023.... Requesting - Iris made the motion to approve 1-8 by general consent. Harold seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
 - 1) Motion to allow Fire Police to direct traffic noon till 5:00 pm
 - 2) Police presence during festival
 - 3) North Canal Street one way heading North from noon – 5:00 pm
 - 4) North Railroad Street on way heading south from noon – 5:00pm
 - 5) South Canal Street closed from Main Street to Washington Street and all vehicles moved from South Canal Street by 8:00 am
 - 6) Post “no parking” signs on South Canal Street from Main Street to Washington Street
 - 7) Lehigh Street open only to resident and Festival participants
 - 8) Handicapped Parking area in grass north of Lock Tender's House
 - B. Letter from D&L requesting to “clean up” again...possible action taken council advised Annette to send them an email stating they can not clean up when the pavilion is rented.
 - C. Harold made the motion to allow Mike Wentz to go to municipal update and grant writing workshop on Thursday October 12th at Allen Township Fire Department from 10:00 -11:30. This program is sponsored by State representative Zachary Mako. Iris seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.
- 9. Unfinished Business –
 - A. Geese permit-
 - B. Shopping center-water issue

C. Water leak in building-insurance claim opened

10.Upcoming events

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

B. Walnutport Canal Festival Sunday October 15th

C. Trick or Treat Wednesday October 25th 6-8 pm

D. 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.Borough Council entered an executive session to discuss litigation matters, Green Street, Gogel, Lehigh Gap Street, Personnel matter, and a contractual matter from 8:30-9:07 pm.

A. Harold made a motion to renew the police contract dated January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2027 with \$2 increase for 2024, \$1.00 increase for 2025, \$1.00 increase for 2026, and \$11.00 increase for 2027. Dave seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Dave-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike -yes. Motion carried.

13.Mayor's Announcements – nothing

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Annette S. Lacko

Secretary/Treasurer