

Borough of Walnutport
Regular Meeting Minutes

UPDATED



Thursday September 8, 2022 7:00 pm

417 Lincoln Avenue; Walnutport, PA 18088

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. William Turk President called the September 8, 2022 regular meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:00 pm in the Walnutport Borough Hall 417 Lincoln Avenue; Walnutport, PA 18088. Mr. Turk led the Pledge of allegiance.
2. Roll Call: William Turk, President; Harold Greene, Councilman; Iris Blum, Councilwoman; Michael Gaston, Councilman; David Stankovic, Councilman; Jennifer Wentz, Vice-President; Patrice Hunsicker, Councilwoman; Wayne Weidner, Mayor; Michael Corriere, Solicitor; Jason Newhard, Engineer; Mike Wentz, Grant Coordinator; Chief Peter Wayda; Scott Ledo, Code Enforcement Officer; and Annette Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Present from the Public-Don Eckhart, Jeanne Boehrer, & Terry Ahner-Times News.
4. Public Hearing update stormwater management ordinance- needs to be passed by September 30th -after a brief discussion and no comments from the public council passed the motion (under ordinance)
5. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard
 - A. Don Eckhart brought samples of sand from several volleyball courts in the area. He thinks the wrong sand was put into our volleyball court. Council discussed it and will look at what can be done in the future. This will be placed under unfinished business.
6. Motion to approve A-E & H made by Jen. Dave seconded the motion.
 - A. August 11, 2022 regular meetings minutes
 - B. August 2022 Profit & Loss Report
 - C. August 2022 Bill List/transaction by vendor
 - D. August 2022 Police report
 - E. August 2022 tax Collector Report
 - ~~F. August 2022 Zoning permit report~~
 - ~~G. August 2022 UCC permit report~~
 - H. August 2022 Code Enforcement Officer Report. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, Patrice-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
7. Standing Committees –
 - A. Finance – Jennifer
 - 2023 budget-Jen met with Chief and received streets budget. Will hopefully have tentative numbers for October meeting.
 - Jen made motion to open agenda. Harold seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, Patrice-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

- Jen made the motion to increase garbage bills up to \$20.00, once we have exact recycling numbers and other expense (bills will go out before October's meeting). Mike seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, Patrice-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

B. Public Safety (formerly law) – Mike & Harold –

- Fire inspector-duties & possibly appointment-there was a lengthily discussion on this topic. Council asked zoning officer to join in. if someone needs a fire inspection, they should hire a 3rd party inspector until council hires someone.
- Blight property
- Cell tower-maintenance was preformed by borough contractor. Those invoices will be sent to Solicitor once we receive them.
- Bill & Mike will go to the NOVA round table next week

C. Streets –David

- August report read

D. Recreation – Jennifer-

- Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer – meeting scheduled for September 22nd at 7:00 at pavilion to discuss tree lighting
- WPA/WCA-Iris –

E. Ordinance – Patrice

- MS4 Storm Water Management Ordinance Update- Patrice made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-04. Jen seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, Patrice-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

F. Secretary/Treasurer-Annette Lacko

- Garbage bills? Handled earlier
- Phone system hacked-Jen made the motion to set up monthly maintenance agreement \$65/month possible motion on a maintenance agreement plan. Dave seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, Patrice-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried. Council asked Annette to look into how much new phones cost, how old our system is, how much a new system costs, the other maintenance plan cost \$105/month
- ~~Motion to close old tax collector account with Neff's National Bank and place funds into borough general funds~~ former tax collect closed his account out and gave Annette a check for \$3,451.42. He will work on getting where the numbers belong.

G. Grants/EMA Director-Mike Wentz –

- Decision on 902 grant – what does council want to do? Possible yard waste collection site & equipment? Jen made the motion to have Mike pursue a grant to do all of this in house and have a discussion with Washington Township and the Borough of Slatington about a joint venture. Iris seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, Patrice-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

~~H. Code Enforcement Officer, Scott Ledo-~~

I. Engineer's Report – Jason Newhard

- See report-
- Green Street no update
- Spadt Alley no update
- Executive session needed-Legal re: S Canal Street project & possible motions needed

J. Solicitor's Report –

- Gogel matter executive session
- Need executive session

8. New Business-

- Letter from Jason Shup from Adventures on Foot Tours-council discussed this. Their answer is no. no motion needed
- Letter from Walnutport Canal Association for Canal festival on Sunday October 16, 2022.... requesting
 - Patrice made the motion to allow Fire Police to direct traffic noon till 5:00 pm. Harold seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, Patrice-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
 - Police presence during festival
 - North Canal Street one way heading North from noon – 5:00 pm
 - North Railroad Street on way heading south from noon – 5:00pm
 - South Canal Street closed from Main Street to Washington Street and all vehicles moved from South Canal Street by 8:00 am
 - Post “no parking” signs on South Canal Street from Main Street to Washington Street
 - Lehigh Street open only to resident and Festival participants
- Jen made the motion to allow fire police to help in Borough of Palmerton on Saturday October 2022 & Thursday November 24, 2022. Harold seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, Patrice-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

9. Unfinished Business –

- Geese permit-still no update
- Weekly recycling will have meeting
- WPA-dug out issue-Dave said they met. Needs blacktop about 5-6-7 ton for a temp fix. Will discuss again
- ~~WPA-bull pen/pitching area~~
- Will add volleyball for next month

10. Council entered into executive session from 9:06-9:37 pm to discuss legal and personnel matter

- Jen made the motion to release Bracalente Construction, at their request, from their contract on S Canal Street project. Harold seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, Patrice-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.
- Harold made the motion to award the second lowest bidder on S Canal Street Project to S&F Asphalt Service for \$24,150.00. Jen seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, Patrice-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

C. Gogel-Jen made the motion to hire John Solt the bankruptcy attorney for \$250.00/hour to handle the Gogel matter. Mike seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, Patrice-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

11.Upcoming events

A. Electronic recycling event & shredding event October 12, 2022 4-6 pm

B. Walnutport Canal Festival Sunday October 16th

C. Tree lighting, adopt a tree, Saturday December 3, 2022

Food trucks 2:00 pm

Candy cane hunt 3:00

12.Mayor's Announcements – nothing

13.Adjournment – Iris made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 pm. Jen seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, Jen-yes, David-yes, Patrice-yes, & Bill-yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by

Annette S. Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer