

Borough of Walnutport

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 8, 2024 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 February 8, 2024 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; David Wentling, Councilman(absent); David Stankovic, Councilman; 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-Terry Ahner-Times News, Michael Frohnheiser, Dianna Evert, Samuel Hartman, Steve Walden, & Joe Tronsel.
4. Lions Club-Slatington, Lehigh Township-Mike Frohnheiser-LT Lions, Diana Everett-LT Ladies, Steve Walden Slatington Lions about Walnutport Canal Days-Mike Frohnheiser discussed what the Lions club would like to do.
 - A. Jen made the motion to open the agenda by a request from the public. Dave S. seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
 - B. Dave S. made the motion to grant permission to the Lions to use borough property on the 3rd weekend of October for a festival. Iris seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
5. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard –
 - A. Joe Tronsel, owner of MRC wants to say thank you to Annette, the streets department, water, engineer, and everyone he worked with while developing the property he owned and sold on Main Street that exited onto Lincoln Avenue. Everyone was so helpful with explaining and showing what needed to be done.
6. Jen made the motion to approve A-H by general consent. Harold seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
 - A. January 2, 2024, Reorganization meeting; & January 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes
 - B. January 2024 Profit & Loss Report
 - C. January 2024 Bill List/transaction by vendor
 - D. January 2024 Police report
 - E. January 2024 Tax Collector Report
 - F. January 2024 Zoning permit report
 - G. January 2024 UCC permit report
 - H. January 2024 Code Enforcement Officer Report
7. Standing Committees –
 - A. Finance – Jennifer – executive session needed with possible action being taken
 - 1) ¼ midget racetrack lease agreement update-table till next month

2) Insurance issue-equipment lease agreement-table till next month

B. Public Safety – Harold

1) Birch Street-Harold said we really need to do something about this. There was a lengthy discussion. The mayor decided he will do a temporary 90 day no parking on Birch from Lincoln & Williams Ave for public Safety. Annette will post to Facebook and help prepare a proclamation.

2) Pete would like an executive session.

C. Streets –David

1) January report-Dave read the report given by Mike W.

2) A new truck is in. they are up fitting it now. It should be done by end of March

3) Next month meeting Mike will have prices for street work

D. Recreation

1) Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer-no updates

2) WPA-Iris-Iris gave a brief update on events for both WPA & WCA. There was a discussion on dog waste containers. There are ordinances against animals being on the ball fields so we would be going against our own ordinances. There are already garbage cans there.

3) WCA-Iris-

E. Ordinance – Patrice

1) Air B&B amendment to zoning ordinance-adoption March-Planning commission suggested minimal changes

F. Sanitation/Garbage-David Wentling- nothing to report

G. Secretary/Treasurer’s report- Annette

1) Fire alarm system-Kistler Obrien possible motion needed for updating, Annette received priced requested-Jen made the motion to approve up to \$6,000.00 (Harold will look into getting a better price). Dave seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

2) Fire inspector- per council eliminate this from website and newsletter. We will keep the way we are right now, having them use third party.

H. Grant/Emergency Management Coordinator-Mike Wentz-no updates

I. Code Enforcement – Scott Ledo-here for executive session

J. 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) Redline Subdivision Jen made the motion to approve conditional final approval with conditions meeting comments in SSM’s review letter dated 1-4-24. Harold seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

K. Solicitor’s Report – Michael Corriere

1) Gogel matter-possible action -need executive session.

8. New Business –

- A.** Motion to have Solicitor issue letter to Neff's National Bank with details needed in reference to letter of credit needed for MR Doggy Style...they are past their dates for development-table till next month-email engineer and solicitor
- B.** Harold made the motion to bid S Canal Street storm sewer/wall project. Iris seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- C.** 2024 Lehigh River Sojourn-asking for permission Patrice made the motion to allow them to camp at the canal Sunday June 9, 2024. They do not expect to have a campfire. Iris seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- D.** Jen made the motion to approve yard waste agreement with Borough of Slatington & Washington Township. Patrice seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried. This will be about \$2,200.00 a year for us to participate. The way the grant was written up and the way the program works through DEP it is for residential yard waste only and no grass.

9. Unfinished Business – none

10. Upcoming events

- A.** March 30, 2024 WPA Easter Egg Hunt
- B.** May 15, 2024 E-recycling events/shredding
- C.** May 19, 2024 WCA Breakfast

11. Opened seats yet

- A.** Zoning Hearing Board-alternate needed
- B.** UCC Appeal Board-3
- C.** Recreation Board
- D.** Vacancy Board-1



- 12.** The council entered into an executive session to discuss contractual matter, personnel matters, & litigation matters from 8:10-9:00 pm. No action to be taken. Harold made the motion to come out of executive session. Patrice seconded the motion. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

13. Mayor's Announcements – Happy Valentine's Day!

- 14.** Adjournment-Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Iris at 9:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Jen. Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Annette S Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer