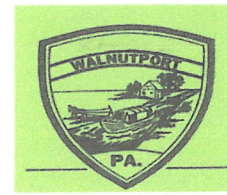


Borough of Walnutport

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday March 14, 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 March 14, 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 (absent), Councilman; Iris Blum, Councilwoman; David Wentling, Councilman; 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; Sergeant Jason Nothstein, Officer Nicholas Hartman; Sean Corey, Zoning Officer/Building Code Official; and Annette Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Present from the Public-Kristie Wentling-NOVA, Robert Treskot, Susan Hassay, Jason Biechy, Heath Lorah, Brian Filchner, Rod Hatcher, Nancy Hahn, illegible writing, Lisa Manaso, Robyn Beers, Jeff Bachman, Carl Bachman, Susan Moser, Rebekah Heeres, Ed Bchel, Isaac Iackoviz, Nathanel Kuhns, Noah Glaush, Jermeij Glaush, Terry Ahner, Brenda Rinker, Angie-Brady-& Jason Nothstein, & Nick Hartman. The Boy Scouts were here to observe how a public meeting is held.
4. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard –
 - A. Kristie Wentling gave an update on what is going on with NOVA
 - B. Jason Biechy-Birch Street- there was a lengthy discussion on parking on Birch Street, the paper Alley behind them and the empty recreation lot. The residents will be coming in to get a permit to petition to open the alley and they will need permits for driveways off of that alley.
 - C. Rebecca Heeres lives on Lehigh Gap. She witnessed a black truck blow the stop sign at Fifth and Lehigh Gap Street. That truck almost t-boned a police SUV. She was concerned the police didn't stop the truck. Chief Wayda explained several things...the officer was responding to another call, and with the help of her video they can finally narrow down the time of when that specific violator is running the stop sign. They know who he is and will be handling it. They have been sitting there at different times of the day, but it is difficult with one officer on a shift. With her video they will be able to get 4 violators.
 - D. Rod Hatcher wanted an update on Green Street. Jeff Bachman, Carl Bachman, & Susan Mosser also commented during this time. Michael Corriere and Jason Newhard explained council have been trying to work with Mr. Latshaw (who has been fighting the process). This the next step is condemnation. Motion under engineer
 - E. Robyn Beers wanted to discuss the truck traffic on Railroad Street/N. Canal Street. Specifically, the tractor trailers that are getting stuck in her yard. Can something be done about this? Council had a discussion with the Chief. The Mayor and the Chief will work on options and get options to Solicitor for next month's meeting.
 - F. Susan Hassay gave her opinion about the Casalisa development. Council went to this on the agenda to let them leave since meeting was running so long.
5. Jen made the motion to approve A-H by general consent. Iris seconded the motion. David W-yes, Iris-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
 - A. February 8, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
 - B. February 2024 Profit & Loss Report

- C. February 2024 Bill List/transaction by vendor
 - D. February 2024 Police report
 - E. February 2024 Tax Collector Report
 - F. February 2024 Zoning permit report
 - G. February 2024 UCC permit report
 - H. February 2024 Code Enforcement Officer Report
6. Standing Committees –
- A. Finance – Jennifer – executive session needed with possible action being taken- personnel & contractual matters.
 - 1) ¼ midget racetrack lease agreement update-table
 - 2) Insurance issue-equipment lease agreement executive session and possible action taken-table
 - 3) Iris made the motion to accept letter of resignation from pt sec effective April 5, 2024. David W. seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
 - B. Public Safety – Harold
 - 1) Birch Street-
 - 2) Jen made the motion to allow Officer N. Hartman to attend school \$495.00. David W. seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
 - 3) Chief presenting award to Sergeant Jason Nothstein for his outstanding work as a DRE officer for over 10 years of service. He was recognized by the Internation Association of Chief of Police and the Drug Evaluation Classification Program (DEC) program as well. "committed to reducing impaired driving and the needless deaths, injuries, and property damage caused by impaired drivers. Your service symbolized the time, commitment, and dedication the growth and success of the DEC program and the goals of the mission." Borough Council congratulated Sergeant Nothstein and thanked him for his service.
 - C. Streets –David
 - 1) February 2024 report
 - D. Recreation
 - 1) Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer
 - 2) WPA-Iris gave a report to all of council.
 - a) David S. made the motion to approve application for use of facilities. Patrice seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
 - i. Easter Egg Hunt March 30
 - ii. May 5th-Pavilion for picture day
 - iii. March 16-October 31 fields for baseball & softball
 - iv. HR Derby June 1st
 - 3) WCA-Iris-
 - E. Ordinance – Patrice
 - 1) Public hearing for Air B&B ordinance – motion to close public hearing made by Jen. David W. seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

- 2) Patrice made the motion to adopt Air B&B amendment to zoning ordinance 2024-01. Jen seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

F. Sanitation/Garbage-David Wentling

- 1) start working on new contract-ends 2024-Solicitor asked to get the list of information to him to start making the changes. The current hauler said they would help us with the contract.

G. Secretary/Treasurer's report- Annette

- 1) Pavilion rental-I have a request from someone who wants to look at the pavilion on the weekend or at night because they work during the week. Jen will do it.
- 2) Veteran flags-there will be a meeting at the legion in Slatington from a representative that makes the veteran flags. March 26th at 5:00. If someone wants to go to get the information. From what Annette was told, the only cost to the borough would be the labor of hanging them. David W will go.

H. Grant/Emergency Management Coordinator-Mike Wentz

~~I. Code Enforcement—Scott Lede~~

J. Engineer's Report – Jason Newhard

- 1) See report
- 2) Casalisa Estate/Adams Street-Development off Lehigh Gap Street
 - a) David S. made motion to grant deferrals 9 from SSM letter dated February 12, 2024 subject to comment in said letter. Iris seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
 - b) David S. made the motion to grant waiver 6-8 from SSM letter dated February 12, 2024 subject to comment in said letter. Iris seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
 - c) David S. made the motion to grant preliminary conditional final approval. Jen seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 3) Green Street-possible action to be taken-David W. made the motion to allow borough engineer and Solicitor to proceed with condemnation process with Green Street- from Route 145 to Oak Street. Jen seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 4) Blight property-Lehigh Gap Street-possible action to be taken-taken a photo log and sent to Solicitor.

K. Solicitor's Report – Michael Corriere

- 1) Gogel matter-30 day letter was give. That is tomorrow. He will take care of the exception for taxes. And needs a brief executive session.

7. New Business –

- A. Jen made the 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. David W. seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

- ~~B. Motion to allow Fire police to help Lehigh Township Fire Company March 23rd starting at 1:00 pm for their Sportsman Night~~

- ~~C. Motion to allow Fire police to help Borough of Palmerton on April 27, 2024 at 7:30 for Raising the House 5K Race-there isn't enough help to send volunteers~~
- D. Patrice made the motion to approve 2024 Street project \$24,000.00 (Third Street, Kiddie Lane, Chestnut)-this was budgeted. David S. seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- E. David S. made the motion to advertise to hire part time labor for streets department. Jen seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- F. David S. made the motion to repair storm sewer at Second Avenue & Washington Street. (\$5,000.00). Jen seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- G. Chamber of Commerce – David Wentling wants to start going to the meeting representing borough council. Council was fine with that. Annette will put on agenda under recreation going forward.
- 8. Unfinished Business – nothing
- 9. Upcoming events
 - A. March 30, 2024-WPA Easter Egg Hunt
 - B. May 15, 2024, E-recycling events/shredding
 - C. May 19, 2024-WCA Breakfast
- 10. Opened seats
 - A. Zoning Hearing Board-alternate needed
 - B. UCC Appeal Board-3
 - C. Recreation Board
 - D. Vacancy Board-1
- 11. Borough council entered into an executive session from 9:25-9:50 pm to discuss personnel matter and litigation matter. No action was taken.
- 12. Mayor's Announcements – Happy St Patrick's Day...Happy Easter!
- 13. Adjournment -Iris made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 pm. Jen seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Annette S Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer