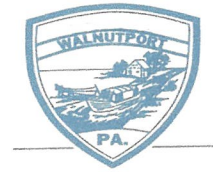


# Borough of Walnutport

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday May 9, 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 May 9, 2024, regular meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:03 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; David Stankovic, Councilman; Patrice Hunsicker, Councilwoman; Wayne Weidner, Mayor; Michael Corriere, Solicitor; Jason Newhard, Engineer; Mike Wentz, Grant Coordinator; Chief Peter Wayda; and Diane Yurasits, Assistant Secretary.
3. Present from the Public -Barry Latshaw, John Latshaw, Rod Hatcher
4. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard –
  - A. Barry & John Latshaw, Rod Hatcher To discuss Green Street situation. The committee had an executive meeting to discuss this matter. They decided to get a new alignment.
5. Patrice made the motion to approve A-H by general consent. Harold seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, Mike-yes, Iris-yes  
Motion Carried
  - A. April 11, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
  - B. April 2024 Profit & Loss Report
  - C. April 2024 Bill List/transaction by vendor
  - D. April 2024 Police report
  - E. April 2024 Tax Collector Report
  - F. April 2024 Zoning permit report
  - G. April 2024 UCC permit report
  - H. April 2024 Code Enforcement Officer Report
6. Standing Committees –
  - A. Finance – Jennifer – executive session needed with possible action being taken-
    - 1) ¼ midget racetrack lease agreement update  
On Hold – Jennifer needs an executive session to discuss this matter.
    - 2) Insurance issue-equipment lease agreement possible action to be taken-  
All improvements have been approved
  - B. Public Safety – Harold & Pete
    - 1) Motion to approve Officer Scott Ledo schooling for \$549  
Jennifer made the motion to approve schooling for Scott, David S. second the motion.  
Mike-yes, Jenn-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, David W.-yes, David S.-yes, Patrice-yes

- 2) Patrice made the motion to hire Nicholas K. Lafata as part time police officer on condition of passing exam on May 16, 2024. Iris second the motion. Mike-yes, Jenn-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, David W.-yes, David S.-yes, Patrice-yes.

#### C. Streets –David S.

- 1) April 2024 report
- 2) Discussion on new alignment for Green Steet. Plans to present final plan to public. Iris made the motion to approve this; David S. seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Jenn-Yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, David W.-yes, David S.-yes, Patrice-yes. Motion carried.

#### D. Recreation

- 1) Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer
- 2) Jennifer reported the trees were planted at the monument, look great and the trees are doing well.
- 3) WPA-Iris-
  - a) Motion to approve application of use of facilities for Walnutport Playground Association to use pavilion for the softball team's year end party on June 15<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 pm. Brian Filchner said he would open it. How does council want to handle clean up? Patrice made the motion to approve the application and for Becky to handle clean up. Harold seconded. Mike-yes, Jenn-yes, Iris-yes, David W.-yes, David S.-yes, Motion carried.
- 4) WCA-Iris-
- 5) Chamber of Commerce-David W. Nothing to add
- 6) Veteran's Flag Committee- David W.

Mike Gaston stated that he did not disagree with the flags, just stated he prefers smaller ones. Same size as the canal banners.

#### E. Ordinance – Patrice

- 1) Truck traffic on N Railroad Street/ N Canal Street-
- 2) Ordinance for Birch Street-there is only a temporary parking there by mayor
- 3) No parking Ordinance for Lehigh Gap Street??? Development by Lisa Lane  
Motion made to advertise 202402 by Mr. Corriere. David made a motion to approve, Patrice seconded the motion. Mike-yes, Jenn-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, David W.-yes, David S.-yes, Patrice-yes,

#### F. Sanitation/Garbage-David Wentling

- 1) start working on new contract-ends 2024. Will touch on that at next month's meeting.

#### G. Grant/Emergency Management Coordinator-Mike Wentz

Grants released by June. Applying for grant through Historical society for \$5,000.00 to hopefully help with cost of veteran's banners.

#### H. Engineer's Report – Jason Newhard

- 1) See report
- 2) Green Street-discussion needed and vote to retain condemnation expert Christie Davies to prepare a just compensation report and to testify in court if needed.

Stated will cost about \$4,000.00 to prepare the report. Keep on agenda for next month's meeting.

3) Blight property-Lehigh Gap Street-possible action to be taken

4) Lock 23 retaining wall-Motion to award bid for Lock 23 Retaining Wall Project  
3 bids have been submitted. Simmel had the best bid. Construction needs to be done by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Asked about using Rescue funds, but Jenn stated about looking into an open fund for help. Jennifer made motion to approve, David W. seconded. Mike-yes, Jenn-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, David W.-yes, David S.-yes, Patrice-yes.

I. Solicitor's Report – Michael Corriere

1) Gogel matter-possible action

Filing a tax exemption, deciding whether to sell as is or demolish, looking into parts in trailer to see if they can be sold, Mike and Scott will look into removing the truck from the property, Rod Hatcher looking into maybe removing the tires.

2) Housekeeping matter-about an executive session previously held.

J. Lehigh Tax Collection Committee-Kristie Wentling

1. Kristie went to meeting in April. She is not sure how to handle some of them, so Jennifer took the report and will look into it.

7. New Business –

A. Slatington Masonic Community Center Foundation request about grant-see email-possible motion needed - Not enough time to respond, it has expired

~~B. Motion to allow fire police to help Borough of Palmerton on Monday May 27, 2024~~  
Not enough volunteers

~~C. Motion to allow fire police to help Borough of Palmerton on Saturday May 11, 2024~~  
Not enough volunteers

D. Patrice made the motion to reimburse DLE Repairs \$25.00 fee. Motion seconded by Iris. Mike-yes, Jenn-yes, Harold-yes, Iris-yes, David W.-yes, David S.-yes Patrice-yes.  
Motion Carried.

8. Unfinished Business –

A. Iris commented on the low branches on Rt 145, South Lincoln & Lehigh Gap.

She called 1-800-fixroad, no reply yet. Mike stated that they do trim some brush on 145.

9. Upcoming events

A. May 15, 2024, E-recycling events/shredding

Rod Hatcher is checking into another company and will send us information

B. May 19, 2024-WCA Breakfast

C. October 30, 2024-Trick or Treat rain or shine

D. December 7, 2024- tree lighting 5:00

1) Food Trucks 2:00

2) candy cane hunt 3:00

10. Opened seats

A. Zoning Hearing Board-alternate needed

B. UCC Appeal Board-3

C. Recreation Board

D. Vacancy Board-1

11. Mayor's Announcements –

A. Happy Mother's Day

B. Happy Memorial Day

12. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn made by Iris, seconded by Harold, Mike-yes Jennifer-yes

Harold-yes, Iris-yes, David W.-yes, David S.-yes, Patrice-yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Diane Yurasits, Assistant Secretary