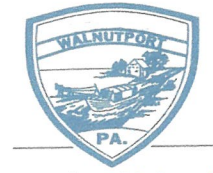


# Borough of Walnutport

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday June 13, 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 June 13, 2024, regular meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:04 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; ~~Scott Ledo, Code Enforcement Officer~~; Chief Peter Wayda; and Annette S. Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Present from the Public-Rod Hatcher, Drew Snowberger-TV13, & Terry Ahner-Times News.
4. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard –
  - A. Rod Hatcher wanted to discuss Green Street plan. Engineer, Jason Newhard asked if they could look at it after the meeting.
5. Patrice made the motion to approve A-H by general consent. Harold seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
  - A. May 9, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
  - B. May 2024 Profit & Loss Report
  - C. May 2024 Bill List/transaction by vendor
  - D. May 2024 Police report
  - E. May 2024 Tax Collector Report
  - F. May 2024 Zoning permit report
  - G. May 2024 UCC permit report
  - H. May 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-table
    - 2) Patrice made the motion to reimburse Donna Ziegler \$320.83 for RE taxes due to disabled veteran's exemption. Iris seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
    - 3) Dave S. made the motion to amend motion from April 11, 2024 agenda about trees at memorial-price on trees came in at \$3,500.00 instead of \$3,200.00. Harold seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
  - B. Public Safety – Harold & Pete

- 1) Police personnel (Wayne asked this to be put on agenda)-will need executive session as well. Mayor will designate Jason Nothstein as officer in charge effective 6/29/2024 when Chief Wayda starts his time off for the beginning of his preretirement. Jason Nothstein's rate change will be effective July 12, 2024. This is all per the police contract.
- 2) Blight property-645 Lehigh Gap Street-possible action to be taken
  - a) Jen made the motion to approve payment of \$28.75 for conservatorship court filing costs. Harold seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
  - b) Jen made the motion to approve Litigation costs process server (in Virginia) retention for service 645 Lehigh Gap Street. Harold seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
  - c) Jen made the motion to approve process and validation fee \$275.00 and any additional processing fees to complete service. Harold seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

#### C. Streets –David S.

- 1) May 2024 report
- 2) Green Street-~~Motion to retain condemnation expert (\$4,000.00 cost) Christie Davies to prepare a just compensation report and to testify in court if needed~~ table till next month
- 3) Monday/Tuesday AMS is coming in to do the street work

#### D. Recreation

- 1) Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer-nothing
- 2) WPA-Iris-
  - a) local Phillies Home Run Derby for boys & girls ages 7 to 12 was held on June 1<sup>st</sup> and was a success
  - b) softball and baseball for the younger ages is coming to an end. End of season party held this weekend. Middle/high school ages player have games until end of July
- 3) WCA-Iris-
  - a) Sojourn was this past weekend. About 20 participants
  - b) Will be putting up a gazebo in memory of Greg Soltis
  - c) Canal days Sat Oct 19 & Sunday Oct 20 10-6
- 4) Chamber of Commerce-David W.- Spirit award coming up along with their annual mini golf tournament
- 5) Veteran's Flag Committee-David W.-no update

#### E. Ordinance – Patrice

- 1) Ordinance for Birch Street- No parking Ordinance for Lehigh Gap Street—Harold made the motion to approve Ordinance 2024-02. Iris seconded the motion. David W-

yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes to Lehigh Gap part-no to Birch Street part, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

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

1) start working on new contract-ends 2024

a) Annette will reach out to Casella. -said they would help

~~G. Secretary/Treasurer's Report -Annette Lacko~~

**H. Grant/Emergency Management Coordinator-Mike Wentz**

1) Willow Street-submitted surveys- 57% don't know if we qualify will September/October

2) Received \$310k for fire police vehicle

3) LSA open back up soon and will reapply for what was denied last year.

~~I. Code Enforcement -Scott Lede~~

**J. Engineer's Report - Jason Newhard**

1) See report

2) Lock 23 retaining wall-having meeting next week and they should start. Work should be done by end of month

**K. Solicitor's Report - Michael Corriere**

1) Gogel matter-possible action - file tax exemption

2) Housekeeping matter-about an executive session previously held on March 28, 2024 at 6:00 pm for a personnel matter. No action was taken. This was not reported previously.

~~L. Lehigh Tax Collection Committee -Kristie Wentling~~

**7. New Business -**

~~A. Motion to approve Diamond Fire Company & fire police to help with A Night in the Country on August 17, 2024, with rain date August 18, 2024, helping Northwestern Recreation Commission if there are enough volunteers available-not enough staff~~

**B. Patrice made the motion to approve the appointment of Thomas F Andreas as Zoning Hearing Board Alternative. Dave W. seconded the motion. David W-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.**

**8. Unfinished Business - nothing**

**9. Upcoming events**

**A. September 18, 2024-E-recycling event & shredding**

**B. Walnutport Canal Festival Saturday & Sunday October 19 & 20 from 10-6**

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

**D. December 7, 2024- tree lighting 5:00; Food Trucks 2:00; candy cane hunt 3:00**

**10. Opened seats**

**A. UCC Appeal Board-3**

**B. Recreation Board**

**C. Vacancy Board-1**

**10. Council entered into an executive session to discuss personnel matters & litigation matters. They came out at 8:33 pm no action taken.**

**11.**Mike Gaston asked that if anyone will not be at any meetings, especially this summer since there are vacations coming up, please let Annette know so we have enough attending the meetings to have a meeting.

**12.**Mayor's Announcements –

a. Happy Father's Day! & Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July! He also wished Council president a Happy Birthday (at the end of the month)

**13.**Adjournment - Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Iris at 8:35 pm. Patrice seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes, & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by.

Annette S. Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer