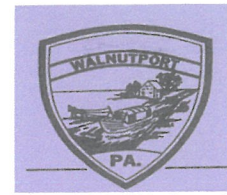


Borough of Walnutport

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday August 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. Mr. Gaston, Vice-President called the August 8, 2024, regular meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:05 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; Sergeant Jason Nothstein (officer in charge); and Annette S. Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Present from the Public- Kristie Wentling, NOVA; Rod Hatcher, Drew Snowberger, TV13; & Terry Ahner, Times News.
4. Kristie Wentling from NOVA discussed the meeting she had with Harold, Mike Gaston, Mike Wentz, Wayne & 2 other NOVA representatives. Their response time is 90%. Their goal is 95%. They were short staffed in April/May and are hiring so that doesn't happen again. The national standard is 90%.
5. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard –
 - A. Rod Hatcher has questions on several items that are on the agenda. Is it ok he asks them throughout the meeting...that is fine with council.
6. Patrice made the motion to approve A-H by general consent. Jen seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
 - A. July 11, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
 - B. July 2024 Profit & Loss Report
 - C. July 2024 Bill List/transaction by vendor
 - D. July 2024 Police report
 - E. July 2024 Tax Collector Report
 - F. July 2024 Zoning permit report
 - G. July 2024 UCC permit report
 - H. July 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-looking to have meeting with them soon.
 - 2) Insurance issue-equipment lease agreement possible action to be taken-Solicitor will look into this.
 - 3) Day Care Lease-ends 2024 working on new lease

- 4) 2025 Budget-getting numbers for new year
- 5) Harold made the motion to allow civil service to meet with labor attorney. David S. 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 & Jason

- 1) Patrice made the motion to approve Sergeant Jason Nothstein's attendance of the PA DUI Association's Annual meeting & Training 11/20-11/22/24 in Champion PA \$800.00 out of their education fund (this is done yearly). Harold seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 2) Harold made the motion to accept letter of resignation of PT police officer JC effective August 30, 2024. Jen seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 3) Jen made the motion to accept letter of resignation of PT police officer NL effective August 8, 2024. Harold seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 4) Jen made the motion to take the steps necessary to purchase a new police car. 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) July 2024 report
- 2) Green Street-possible action
- 3) Motion to advertise old gas tank on Municibid
- 4) David S. made the motion to approve Resolution 2024-05 agreement with PennDOT about sink hole and work along PennDOT roadways. Jen seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

D. Recreation

- 1) Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer working on some of the paperwork and getting the food trucks lined up.
- 2) WPA-Iris-Home run regionals will be held Saturday with rain date Sunday. The winner will get to go to Citizens Bank Park. Fall Ball starts after Labor Day
- 3) WCA-Iris- update on Soltis memorial gazebo. Lock house needed new door. Canal days is coming along.
- 4) Chamber of Commerce-David W. they had Heritage Day & annual golf tournament
- 5) Veteran's Flag Committee-David W. waiting on next meeting. Decided on going with medium size banner.

E. Ordinance – Patrice nothing new

F. Sanitation/Garbage-David Wentling

- 1) new contract-ends 2024

- a) waiting on garbage tonnage from hauler. We do not have the numbers to be able to advertise- council decided on going with average so we can advertise.

G. Secretary/Treasurer's Report- Annette Lacko

- 1) Harold made the motion to approve 2025 financial requirement and minimum municipal obligation Police \$157,394.00 & non uniform \$16,800.00 (required yearly). David W. seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

H. Grant/Emergency Management Coordinator-Mike Wentz

- 1) Need to have a discussion on Monroe County LSA grant-what do you as council want Mike to apply for
- 2) Need to have a discussion on Lehigh Northampton County LSA grant-what do you as council want Mike to apply for
- 3) Mike discussed 1 & 2 with council. There are 3 big items. What do they want him to apply for the grants for boom mower, radios, or heat for this building? They decided on the heat for this building.
- 4) Mike also gave an update on 902 & 904 grants.

~~**I. Code Enforcement—Scott Lede**~~

J. Engineer's Report – Jason Newhard

- 1) See report
- 2) Lock 23 retaining wall-
 - a) Jen made the motion to approve Semmel Excavating Application for payment 1 for \$61,723.41. Iris 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 authorize payment to Semmel excavating for up to 100% of the contract amount by August 31, 2024, for \$131,487.70. Iris seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 3) Redline plan was recorded
- 4) Casalisa is waiting on their sewage permit

K. Solicitor's Report – Michael Corriere

- 1) Gogel matter-possible action -tax exemption appeal was filed. We are waiting for a court date.
- 2) Blight property-645 Lehigh Gap Street-possible action to be taken-need executive session.
- 3) Green Street petition-looking at having the hearing October 10th

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

8. New Business –

- ~~**A. Motion to approve fire police helping Borough of Lehigh on Saturday September 28th pending they have volunteers**~~
- ~~**B. Motion to approve fire police helping Borough of Lehigh on Saturday October 19th with rain date of Sunday October 20th pending they have volunteers**~~

- C.** Jen made the motion to approve Resolution 2024-02 Monroe County LSA grant-furnace. David S. seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
 - D.** Jen made the motion to approve Resolution 2024-03 Northampton & Lehigh County LSA grant-furnace. Harold seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
 - E.** Patrice made the motion to approve Ronald R Prutzman’s application for trapping on borough owned property only in Lehigh Township. Harold seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 9.** Unfinished Business –
- A.** Signs on the canal-table
- 10.** Council entered into executive session from 8:15- 9:20 pm to discuss personnel and litigation
- A.** Jen made the motion to have Solicitor advertise for a special meeting August 22, 2024 at 6:30 pm for pt police issue and general meeting matters. Iris seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 11.** Upcoming events
- A.** September 18, 2024-E-recycling event & shredding
 - B.** October 19 & 20 Walnutport Canal Festival 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
- 12.** Opened seats
- A.** UCC Appeal Board-3
 - B.** Recreation Board
 - C.** Vacancy Board-1
- 13.** Mayor’s Announcements – nothing
- 14.** Adjournment - – Iris made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm. David W. 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