

Borough of Walnutport

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday September 12, 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 September 12, 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; David Stankovic, Councilman; Patrice Hunsicker, Councilwoman; Wayne Weidner, Mayor; Michael Corriere, Solicitor; Jason Newhard, Engineer; Mike Wentz, Grant Coordinator; and Annette S. Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Present from the Public-Marion Andreas, Chris Caras, Melisa Freer, Breast Turse, Brian Filchner, Drew Snowberger-TV13, Kristie Wentling, Nicole Graver, & Terry Ahner-Times News.
4. Opening of sealed garbage bids-We received 2 bids by 3:00 deadline.
 - A. ~~Motion to award garbage contract to~~
 - B. Jen made the motion to reject the bids. David W. 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 readvertise the bids to open at the October 10th council meeting. Iris seconded the meeting. David W-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
5. Melissa Freer @ Lehigh Street- She explained the situation at her home since she moved in with the property line dispute, the fence, the calling of the police, etc. The Borough Solicitor, Michael Corriere explained to her she needs to go to an attorney and have a judge settle the matter. It is a private matter that the borough cannot help with.
6. Thomas Andreas @ S Canal Street properties-table matter. He couldn't be here.
7. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard –
 - A. Breat Tours (?) asked why would council be going to recycling every week? Council explained it would be easier since so many people are putting it out every week anyway and there is so much recycling. We pay to get rid of it anyway.
 - B. Nickole Graver asked about the yard waste. What are the people to do who don't have a truck? How are they to get their tree trimming to the center? Will a borough truck come around and pick up the waste?
8. Made the motion to approve A-H by general consent. Seconded the motion. David W-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
 - A. August 8, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes & Special Meeting Minutes August 22, 2024
 - B. August 2024 Profit & Loss Report
 - C. August 2024 Bill List/transaction by vendor

- D. August 2024 Police report
- E. August 2024 Tax Collector Report
- F. August 2024 Zoning permit report
- G. August 2024 UCC permit report
- H. August 2024 Code Enforcement Officer Report

9. Standing Committees –

A. Finance – Jennifer – executive session needed with possible action being taken-

- 1) ¼ midget racetrack lease agreement update-table
- 2) Insurance issue-equipment lease agreement possible action to be taken-solicitor sent a letter
- 3) Day Care Lease-ends 2024-working on it
- 4) 2025 Budget-has meeting with police on Monday. Has list from streets.

B. Public Safety – Harold

- 1) Coffee with a cop will be Sunday October 13th. They are partnering with Giant

C. Streets –David S.

- 1) August 2024 report
- 2) Green Street-special meeting is October 3rd 7:00
- 3) David S. made the motion to purchase hot pressure washer \$2,500.00. Harold seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 4) The dump truck sold for \$6, 200.00 on municibid

D. Recreation

- 1) Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer reported for the tree lighting, the letters went out. There are 3 trees adopted already. 2 food trucks are lined up and KittyKat concessions along with the ponies. The Candy Cane hunt is moved back 1 hour hoping to keep people there longer.
- 2) WPA-Iris-
 - a) Discussion about letter from NL School district then possible motion to allow NL School District to use facility for girls' softball during spring 2025 season-after a discussion with Brian Filchner about this it was tabled till next month. Mike Gaston wants to set up a meeting with the school district and WPA. Maybe the 3 can work something out.
 - b) Discussion about shed- David S made the motion to allow WPA to take steps to install a shed. Iris seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 3) WCA-Iris-
 - a) Letter from Lions – Harold made the motion to allow boy scouts to camp overnight October 19-20, 2024 and to have a camp fire to made their cobbler during the Canal Days. Iris seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

- 4) Chamber of Commerce-David W. will be participating in several tree lightings over the area. They are willing to help with Walnutport's as well.
- 5) Veteran's Flag Committee-David W.
 - a) The size will be medium 20"x48" price \$79.95, brackets (2)- \$119.90 total \$199.85. orders and payments NL Hometown Heroes website. They are working on the website. After a discussion, council wants the person/veteran to be able to choose what street their flag will be placed on. Main street doesn't have many poles available for flags due to all the other items that are already hung on the poles, and we do not own the poles.

E. Ordinance – Patrice

- 1) Parking ordinance on public streets

F. Sanitation/Garbage-David Wentling

- 1) new contract-ends 2024 beginning of meeting

G. Secretary/Treasurer's Report- Annette Lacko

- 1) Jen made the motion to approve Resolution 2024-04 police pension (yearly motion). David S. 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 reported we should know what we are awarded in a few days.

I. ~~Code Enforcement—Scott Lede~~

J. Engineer's Report – Jason Newhard

- 1) See report
- 2) Lock 23 retaining wall- project was under by \$990.00

K. Solicitor's Report – Michael Corriere-needs brief executive session

- 1) Gogel matter-possible action
- 2) Blight property-645 Lehigh Gap Street-possible action to be taken
- 3) Green Street petition

L. Lehigh Tax Collection Committee-Kristie Wentling-no update however Kristie wanted to ask council about second noticed for per capita and real estate for borough. They said even though it is an extra fee, yes mail them out hoping it brings in more tax money.

10. New Business –

- A. Letter from Slatington library inviting council members to ribbon cutting

11. Unfinished Business –

- A. Signs on the canal-waiting on their design. Engineer suggested they wait to place the sign since Walnutport Authority is doing work in that area.

12. Council entered an executive session from 8:45-9:10 pm to discuss a personnel matter & the Gogel matter. No action was taken.

13. 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 4:00

14. Opened seats

A. UCC Appeal Board-3

B. Recreation Board

C. Vacancy Board-1

15. Mayor's Announcements –

16. Adjournment- Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Iris at 914. Jen 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