

# Borough of Walnutport

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday October 10, 2024, 7:00 pm



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1. Mr. Gaston, President called the October 10, 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; ~~Scott Ledo, Code Enforcement Officer~~; and Annette S. Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Present from the Public: Thomas Andreas, Connor Gregory TV-13, Drew Snowberger, TV-13, Mauren Andreas, Chris Caras-JP Mascaro, Rod Hatcher, Jason Biechy, & Terry Ahner, Times News.
4. Thomas Andreas @ S Canal Street properties-long discussion was had. It is a private matter. Council is staying out of it.
5. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard –nothing
6. Opening of sealed garbage bids
  - A. Two bids were received
    - a) Casella
      - 1) limited-automated \$1,361,770.56
      - 2) unlimited-automated \$1,361,770.56
    - b) JP Mascaro
      - 1) limited-automated \$1,986,024.00
      - 2) Unlimited-automated \$2,100,720.00
  - B. David W made the motion to award garbage contract to Casella. Harold seconded the motion. This is every week recycling. David W-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
7. Patrice made the motion to approve A-G 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. September 12, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
  - B. September 2024 Profit & Loss Report
  - C. September 2024 Bill List/transaction by vendor
  - D. September 2024 Police report
  - E. September 2024 Tax Collector Report
  - F. September 2024 Zoning permit report
  - G. September 2024 UCC permit report
  - H. ~~September 2024 Code Enforcement Officer Report~~

## 8. 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-table
- 3) Day Care Lease-ends 2024-table
- 4) 2025 Budget-working on it

### B. Public Safety – Harold

- 1) Coffee with a cop-this Sunday

### C. Streets –David S.

- 1) September 2024 report
- 2) Patrice questioned Williams Ave- it was explained that it failed inspection. Jason will send a letter if not done by timeline. Mike Wentz is watching it.
- 3) Green Street petition-special meeting was held October 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:00 additional discussion and possible action needs to be taken-need majority to pass
- 4) Dave S. made the motion to install garage door @ Carbon Street \$11,490.00 to be paid out of left over grant funds. Harold 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 @ 12 trees already
- 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-table-waiting to align Mr. Link, Mr. Filchner & Mike Gaston's schedule together.
- 3) WCA-Iris gave a summary.
- 4) Chamber of Commerce-David W.
- 5) Veteran's Flag Committee-David W.- waiting on website to be set up. We should have about 30 poles on Washington & Main Street.

### E. Ordinance – Patrice

- 1) Parking ordinance on public streets- Jen made the motion to have the Solicitor amend the parking ordinance for next month's meeting. Dave S seconded the motion. David W-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

### F. Sanitation/Garbage-David Wentling

- 1) new contract-ends 2024 beginning of meeting

### G. Secretary/Treasurer's Report- Annette Lacko-nothing

### H. Grant/Emergency Management Coordinator-Mike Wentz waiting to hear about grants.

State wide grant just opened. Discussing different options for the furnace.

### ~~I. Code Enforcement—Scott Ledo~~

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

- 1) See report-lock is complete

- K. Solicitor's Report – Michael Corriere-need brief executive session.**
  - 1) Gogel matter-possible action
  - 2) Blight property-645 Lehigh Gap Street-possible action to be taken
- L. Lehigh Tax Collection Committee-Kristie Wentling**
- 9. New Business –**
  - A. Jen made the motion to allow Fire Police to help at Walnutport Canal Festival on Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup> & Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup> per the request of the Lions Club. David W. seconded the motion. David W.-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.**
  - ~~B. Motion to approve Fire Police to help Borough of Palmerton~~**
    - ~~1) Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup>~~
    - ~~2) Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup>~~
- 10. Unfinished Business –**
  - A. Signs on the canal**
- 11. Council entered into an executive session to discuss personnel matter and legal matters from 8:15-9:05 pm. No action was taken.**
- 12. Upcoming events**
  - A. October 13 10-1 @ Giant - Coffee with a Cop**
  - 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**
- 13. Opened seats**
  - A. UCC Appeal Board-3**
  - B. Recreation Board**
  - C. Vacancy Board-1**
- 14. Mayor's Announcements – Happy Halloween!!!!**
- 15. Adjournment- Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Iris at 9:06 pm. seconded the meeting. Jen-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, David S.-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & Mike-yes. Motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted by,

Annette S. Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer