

Borough of Walnutport
Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday December 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, President called the December 12, 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. Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance: Michael Gaston, President.
3. 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; Jason Nothstein, officer in charge; Scott Ledo, Code Enforcement Officer; and Annette Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
4. Present from the Public-Allen Acker, Rebecca Hayden, Peggy Shannon, Rodney Hatcher, Terry Ahner, Times News, & Michael Ruano-TV-13.
5. Public hearing for Green Street opposing opening of Green Street
6. Public hearing for Ordinance to open Green Street- Michael Corriere explained he and the engineer have been conducting an investigation for the hearing. The most appropriate thing to do is to continue the hearing to January. Jen made the motion to table 3 & 4 until January 9th meeting. David S seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.
7. Rebecca Hayden-(see unfinished business 10-B)
8. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard –
 - A. Kristie Wentling informed council about the mailing from Northampton County Reginal EMS. They will send out an apology for the mistake and if there are any donations they will be returned. Also, NOVA's comedy night is 2/15/25.
9. Patrice made the motion to approve A-H by general consent. Iris seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.
 - A. November 7, 2024, regular meetings minutes
 - B. November 2024 Profit & Loss Report
 - C. November 2024 Bill List/transaction by vendor
 - D. November 2024 Police report
 - E. November 2024 Tax Collector Report
 - F. November 2024 Zoning permit report
 - G. November 2024 UCC permit report
 - H. November 2024 Code Enforcement Officer Report



10. Standing Committees –

A. Finance – Jennifer – need executive session with possible action to be taken

- 1) Council entered an executive session from 7:15-7:45 to discuss personnel matter. No action taken.
- 2) 2024 budget hearing – small discussion.
- 3) Patrice made the motion to approve milage rate Ordinance 2023-05 at 20.25. Dave W seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 4) Harold made the motion to adopt 2025 budget as presented with adjustments. Dave W seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 5) ¼ midget racetrack lease agreement update-table
- 6) Insurance issue-equipment lease agreement-table
- 7) 100 Carbon Street-table
- 8) Dave W. made the motion to transfer the remaining balance of ARF \$27,291.70 to general funds to offset police overtime. Harold seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.

B. Public Safety – Harold

- 1) Jen made the motion to readvertise for civil service exam. Iris seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 2) Patrice made the motion to approve background check on new officers by an independent agency. Dave W. seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 3) Mike Gaston wanted to Congratulate Sergeant Nothstein on his Top Gun award for DUI in State of PA

C. Streets –David

- 1) November report- Dave S read the report.

D. Recreation

- 1) Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer gave a brief update on the successful tree lighting
- 2) WPA-Iris- nothing
- 3) WCA-Iris- nothing
- 4) Chamber of Commerce-David W - nothing
- 5) Veteran's Flag Committee-David W there are over 100 overall adopted so far.

E. Ordinance – Patrice

- 1) Jen made the motion to approve Ordinance 2024-04 Vehicles prohibited parking unregistered/uninspected. Dave S seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 2) Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-03 ordaining and opening Green Street from Best Avenue to Oak Street-table

F. Sanitation/Garbage-David Wentling

- 1) Dave W. made the motion to waive garbage service on 641 Lincoln Ave-see attached letter. Harold seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 2) Jen made the motion to waive garbage service on 629 Washington Street-see attached letter. Patrice seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.

G. Secretary/Treasurer's report- Annette

- 1) Discussion on when 2025 meetings will be held & Jen made the motion to have Solicitor advertise 2025 meetings. Iris seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 2) Newsletter-beginning of February. If everyone can have articles to Annette by 2/3/25
- 3) Electronic recycling & shredding dates have been set for May & September 2025

H. Grant/Emergency Management Coordinator-Mike Wentz

- 1) David S made the motion to approve Resolution 2024-07 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Jen seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 2) Mike gave a brief update on grants that are outstanding and what he just applied for. The furnace, he has things ordered for radios, police car, etc. He will be working on recycling grants.

I. Code Enforcement – Scott Ledo- just here for executive session to discuss blight properties.

J. Engineer's Report – Jason Newhard

- 1) See report
- 2) Green Street-possible action to be taken
- 3) Blight property-Lehigh Gap Street-possible action to be taken

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

- 1) Casella garbage contract. Mike Gaston needs to have his signature notarized.

11. New Business –

A. Dave S made the motion to reappoint Hali Kuntz for 3-year term to Slatington Public Library Board of Directors term January 1, 2025- January 1, 2028. Jen seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.

B. Motion to approve renewal for Handicapped parking spots Kennedy, Balliet, Kramer, & Acker

~~1) Best 431 Washington Street-deceased~~

- 2) Patrice made the motion to approve renewal for Handicapped parking spot Balliet-317 New Street. Dave W. seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 3) Patrice made the motion to approve renewal for Handicapped parking spot Kramer-123 New Street. Harold seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-abstain, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.

- 4) Patrice made the motion to approve renewal for Handicapped parking Acker-303 New Street. Dave W. seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 5) Patrice made the motion to approve renewal for Handicapped parking spot Kennedy-238 A Oak Street. Harold seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.

12. Unfinished Business –

- A. NLSD wanting to use the ballfields for 2025 season-table
- B. Signs on the canal from watershed-Jen made the motion to approve the placement of the signs on Lehigh Street by the boat launch after the construction is completed by Walnutport Authority. The signs will be placed by the Watershed, not borough employees. Dave S seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- C. Letter from NOVA requesting funds-possible motion

13. Opened seats yet

- A. Zoning Hearing Board-alternate needed
- B. UCC Appeal Board-3
- C. Recreation Board
- D. Vacancy Board-1

14. Mayor's Announcements – Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!!

15. Council entered into executive session to discuss legal matters Gogel & Dennis from 8:20-8:55 pm-no action to be taken

16. Adjournment Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Iris at 8:57 pm. David W. seconded the meeting. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Jen-yes, Patrice-yes & David S.- yes, Mike-yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Annette S Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**