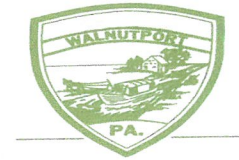


# Borough of Walnutport

## Regular Meeting Minutes



Thursday March 13, 2025, 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 March 13, 2025, regular meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:02 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 (absent); 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.
3. Present from the Public: Ron Bauer, Nancy & Bob Treskot, Kristie Wentling, Brian Filchner, Rod Hatcher, Michael Ruano-TV13, & Terry Ahner-Times News.
4. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard –
  - A. Ron Bauer spoke about with all the negativity on social media he would like to focus on the positive. He would like to see the video of the meetings on the website. Borough council did let him know that the minutes are on the website once they are approved. Ron also wants to ask borough council about the retiring of Chief Wayda, once they are ready to appoint a new Chief can they consider promoting within and not hiring a Chief from outside.
  - B. Brian Filchner-High School started practice. He submitted the facility use forms and a work order to have the water turned on.
  - C. Rod Hatcher questioned about the garbage. He wanted to know if Casella got back to Mike Gaston about his property. Mike explained he has been meeting with them on several topics. Rod has not heard back from them. Mike will work with Rod to get answers about what is going on.
5. Jen made the motion to approve A-H by general consent. David S. seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
  - A. February 12, 2025, Regular meetings minutes
  - B. February 2025 Profit & Loss Report
  - C. February 2025 Bill List/transaction by vendor
  - D. February 2025 Police report
  - E. February 2025 Tax Collector Report
  - F. February 2025 Zoning permit report
  - G. February 2025 UCC permit report
  - H. February 2025 Code Enforcement Officer Report
6. Standing Committees –

- A. Finance – Jennifer – need executive session with possible action to be taken**
- 1) ¼ midget racetrack lease agreement update
  - 2) Insurance issue-equipment lease agreement
  - 3) Day care lease-Solicitor will work on changes that day care approved
  - 4) 100 Carbon Street
  - 5) David W made the motion to approve Rapid Return to begin processing and managing borough payroll. Iris seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried. Patrice asked if other bids were received. Jen said she received prices from ADP \$160/ month Rapid Return \$150/ month UAttend cannot do what needs to be done with police
- B. Public Safety – Harold & Jason- executive session needed**
- 1) CODERED-Annette will remove Pete and add Jason. She will also get everyone the “training” information that she has.
  - 2) Patrice made the motion to sponsor FT police officer when one presents themselves. David W seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried. The academy is \$6,000 and is 6 months. They must be 21 years old to attend.
  - 3) Patrice made the motion to hire 2 FT police officers from civil service list pending background checks and certification requirements. David W. seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
  - 4) David S made the motion to approve the 2025 Fire police list. Jen seconded the list. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
  - 5) “thank you from Fire Chief” Mike Wentz wanted to say thank you to borough council for making Birch Street no parking. He believes if there were more vehicles on Birch Street when there were 2 fires one this past week and the one last month the outcome would not have been good. They would not have been able to get the ladder truck or lay the hose. The situation would have been a lot different. He also commended Officer Ledo for taking care of the baby that was running around in his diaper. He wrapped them in a blanket
  - 6) Jen made the motion to sell (on Municibid) or trade 2014 police SUV. David W. seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- C. Streets –David**
- 1) February report
  - 2) Motion to have public works plow all borough owned parking lots in order of priority- they don’t want a motion. Borough council agrees public works will do it.
  - 3) David W. made the motion to approve 2025 street project \$28K. Patrice seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

- 4) Jen made the motion to repair fence at garage \$5,600 (yard waste center). Iris seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 5) Discussion on street opening ordinance & permitting
- 6) Yellow line on Washington Street-Mike Wentz got PennDOT information. Washington Street is not wide enough. It needs to be 12 foot wide. The solicitor said since the road was built years before the regulations were set there is no legal recourse against the borough.

#### D. Recreation

- 1) Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer
  - a) David W made the motion to approve application to use of facility for NL Athletic/Northern Lehigh School District Softball. Iris seconded the motion. David W- yes, Iris-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-abstain, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
  - b) David W. made the motion to approve application to use of facility for Walnutport Playground Association. Iris seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 2) WPA-Iris- Iris gave a handout with information on it for the playground and the canal
- 3) WCA-Iris-
- 4) Chamber of Commerce-David W
- 5) Veteran's Flag Committee-David W thanked Annette for sharing the link on the borough's facebook page. They need about 20 more flags and they can order them.

#### E. Ordinance – Patrice

- 1) Speed Limit ordinance – Solicitor will start working on it.
- 2) David W made the motion to approve Resolution 2025-01---Establishing Recreation Fees. Jen seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

(Per Ord. 2005-02 and Ch 327 and Ch 395 of the Borough Code, we want to establish recreation fees in lieu of land donation for open space of residential subdivisions. Motion to adopt recreation fees in lieu of land donation for residential subdivisions larger than 5 dwelling units for \$700 per dwelling unit.)

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

- 1) Mike Gaston gave an update. He has been following the garbage truck for the past 3-4 weeks. He was making a list of who has been putting out bags vs who has and doesn't have toters. He also worked closely with Casella to get those residents that do not have toter their toters. Starting Monday March 17<sup>th</sup> Casella will only be picking up toters. They will no longer be picking up garbage bags.

#### G. Secretary/Treasurer's report- Annette

- 1) The bond paperwork was received from Lehigh County-Mike Wentz explained to borough council since we received the grant we don't need to take advantage of the bond.
- 2) Annette reminded council that if they didn't get their Ethic forms back, please do so.

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

1) Starting to get block grant paperwork together.

~~I. Code Enforcement—Scott Lede~~

J. Engineer's Report – Jason Newhard

1) See report

2) Blight property-Lehigh Gap Street-possible action to be taken

3) Oak Street-will need to put waivers on next month's agenda

K. Solicitor's Report – Michael Corriere

1) Casalisa Estate Land Development Plan-Patrice made the motion to authorize Michael Gaston to sign the improvements agreement and maintenance agreement. Jen seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

7. New Business –

A. Jen made the motion to allow LRSA access to the North side of Main Street on the towpath on Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> to stock trout (in the Lehigh River) like previous years. David W seconded the motion. Dave W- yes, Iris-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

8. Unfinished Business –

A. Procedure for insurance claims – table Mike Gaston will work on this.

9. Open seats yet

A. UCC Appeal Board-3

B. Recreation Board

C. Vacancy Board-1

10. Borough Council entered an executive session for personnel matter. No action was taken.

11. Mayor's Announcements – Have a Happy St Patty's Day.

12. Adjournment Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Iris at 9:15 pm. Dave W. seconded the motion. David W- yes, Iris-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Annette S Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer