

Borough of Walnutport

Regular Meeting Minutes



Thursday June 12, 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 June 12, 2025, 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; Chief Jason Nothstein; Scott Ledo, Code Enforcement Officer, and Annette S Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Present from the Public-Judy & George Burke, Todd & Sheila Andrews, Janet Gaston, Jamie Farber, Brian Filchner, Rod Hatcher, Tobert Stettner, Vincent Morris, Jason Biechy, Tyler Minnich, Graig Engelbach, Angela Nothstein & the rest of Jason's family, Terry Ahner-Times News, Kyle Elloitt-TV13, Stenographer for the public hearing, entire police department, & members of Lehigh Township police department.
4. Executive session-contractual/personnel matter-council entered into the executive session till 7:20 pm.
5. Jen made the motion to approve new chief of police contract. Harold seconded the motion. David W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
6. Mayor swears in new Chief of Police Jason Nothstein
7. Vince Morris
 - A. Tree moved there is a conflict-Jen made the motion to have SSM Group verify where the property lines are down there. David W seconded the motion. David W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
 - B. Maintenance of the unpaved section of Lehigh Street- after a discussion with borough council and borough engineer, the road will be maintained and all the signs stating it is a private road the borough posted will be removed.
8. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard –
 - A. Todd Andrews talked about the storm drain down by his house. Streets department can only do so much. They cannot go onto railroad property.
 - B. Brian Filchner informed council after July he is resigning as President and coach from the Walnutport Playground Association
 - C. Rod Hatcher wanted update on garbage complaint-David W and Chief of Police will get together with him.
 - D. Robert Stettner wanted to inform council about the 250th year celebration that is being planned. They would like Walnutport to be part of the planning process. The next meeting is

June 25th at 7:00 pm. They would like the mayor and anyone from council to attend. It will be held at the Vigilant. The celebration is scheduled for May 15-17, 2026

9. Public hearing Cherry Alley- there will be a transcription for this part of the meeting. Testimony was given by Jason Newhard. Residents also spoke. Michael Corriere led this hearing. Jen made the motion to decline the petition without prejudice. Iris seconded the motion. David W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-No, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried. Council will have a workshop/roundtable discussion about this alley again on August 14th. (9:08 pm)
10. Motion to approve A-H by general consent made by Jen. David W seconded the motion. David W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- A. May 8, 2025, Regular meetings minutes
 - B. May 2025 Profit & Loss Report
 - C. May 2025 Bill List/transaction by vendor
 - D. May 2025 Police report
 - E. May 2025 Tax Collector Report
 - F. May 2025 Zoning permit report
 - G. May 2025 UCC permit report
 - H. May 2025 Code Enforcement Officer Report

11. Standing Committees –

A. Finance – Jennifer – executive session needed

- 1) David S made the motion to accept the contract with teamsters for the public works & pt secretary new contract with a correction on page 17. Harold seconded the motion. David W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-abstain, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 2) ¼ midget racetrack lease agreement update-table
- 3) Insurance issue-equipment lease agreement -table
- 4) 100 Carbon Street-table
- 5) Motion to disburse yearly budgeted donations-Patrice made the motion to table until next month. Iris seconded the motion. David W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

a) Fire Police Donation	\$2,000.00
b) Diamond Fire Company Donation	\$28,000.00
c) NOVA Donation	\$5,000.00
d) Recreation Board Donation	\$1,000.00
e) Slatington Public Library Donation	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
	\$39,000.00

B. Public Safety – Harold & Jason- executive session needed

- 1) Jen made the motion to approve taser certification class for Officer Ledo \$895.00. Harold seconded the motion. David W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

C. Streets –David – Mike gave David his report and it was filed with office. A lot of catch basins and storm pipes have been fixed. AMS will be in the week of July 2nd.

D. Recreation

- 1) Walnutport Recreation Board-Jennifer-nothing
- 2) WPA-Iris- see report
- 3) WCA-Iris-see report
- 4) Chamber of Commerce-David W - nothing
- 5) Veteran’s Flag Committee-David W ordering

E. Ordinance – Patrice

- 1) Speed Limit ordinance 2025-02- Harold made the motion to advertise. Jen seconded the motion. David W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.
- 2) Street opening ordinance 2025-03-leave on agenda-still working on it.

F. Sanitation/Garbage-David Wentling- working on a hand out

G. Secretary/Treasurer’s report- Annette

- 1) David W made the motion to replace CEO/streets computer-outdated-rotation quote \$1,589.97. Iris seconded the motion. David W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried. They will coordinate this with the yearly updates to save money
- 2) Pension question-Jen will be in to call and update so everything isn’t held up any longer.

H. Grant/Emergency Management Coordinator-Mike Wentz

~~I. Code Enforcement – Scott Lede~~

J. Engineer’s Report – Jason Newhard

- 1) See report
- 2) 645 Lehigh Gap Street-possible action to be taken-executive session
- 3) 306 Oak Street-possible action to be taken-executive session-need an agreement of sales to be started
- 4) J & A Properties (Wener Eye Center) planning Commission recommends- Patrice made the motion approval as a sketch plan of record for combining lots and eliminating a parcel. David W seconded the motion. David W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

K. Solicitor’s Report – Michael Corriere- executive session needed

12. New Business –

A. Motion to close the following escrow accounts made by Jen. Patrice seconded the motion. David W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

- 1) SKA Holdings aka Lehigh Gap Seamless Gutter
- 2) Mid-Atlantic Renew aka Main Street Twins
- 3) Univ Rel LLC II

B. Walnutport Authority is notifying council Jonathan Kenyon is now the treasurer. Rica Cook resigned her position. They have a vacant seat on their board.

C. David W made the motion giving permission to the D&L to place RaceFest signs at kiosk at lock tenders house & by the boat launch parking lot. Patrice seconded the motion. David W-yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

13.Unfinished Business –

- A. Procedure for insurance claims-table
- B. CODERED-Annette working on it

14.Open seats yet

- A. UCC Appeal Board-3
- B. Recreation Board
- C. Vacancy Board-1

15.Mayor's Announcements – Happy Fathers Day

16.Adjournment – Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Iris at 10:18 pm. David W. seconded the motion. David W- yes, Iris-yes, Harold-yes, Patrice-yes, Jen-yes, David S. & Mike-yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Annette S Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer