

Council Meeting
August 8, 2017
Chancellor Center

President of Council Robert Walker called the regular semi-monthly meeting of Newtown Borough Council to order at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, August 8, 2017. Mr. Walker asked those in attendance to join him in a moment of silence. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Councilors Walker, Gusty, King, McDermott and Rodowicz; Mayor Swartz and Solicitor Bolla. Absent: Councilor Grunde-McLaughlin

Amendments to the Agenda

None

Public to be Heard

Paul Salvatore, Resident, thanked Newtown Borough on behalf of the Newtown Business Association for the use of its streets for the Antique and Classic Car Show; the annual event drew its largest crowd of 10,000 people. Mr. Salvatore also shared, on behalf of the Newtown Rotary Club, that their golf outing raised \$24,000 for Pickering Manor. Upcoming Newtown Rotary events include a bike collection in October and a 50/50 raffle that will be drawn on October 30, 2017. The raffle will benefit local organizations like the Newtown Library Company, Ambulance Squad, and the Recreation Board.

Tyler Hoff, Director of Friends Home and Village, invited Borough Council and the public to attend their fundraiser on September 15, 2017.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Swartz reported that he attended a two-hour drug education forum in Yardley Borough, hosted by their Mayor; Approximately 135-150 people were in attendance, including municipal representatives, police, the District Attorney, State Representative Warren, and staff from Congressman Fitzpatrick's office.

Mayor Swartz reported on the Push out the Pusher Campaign, a crime watch effort sponsored by the Bucks County District Attorney's office. He offered to share information and materials with members of Council, who will then decide about moving forward.

Mr. Swartz announced that the Newtown Borough Memorial Day Parade received a One of the Best 2017 Awards from The Intelligencer.

Special Event Reminders:

Music in the Park, including 3-4 musical performances and a food truck, at Linton Memorial Park, sponsored by the Recreation Board, on Friday, September 8, 2017, 6:30 – 9:30 P.M.

Public Pot-Luck Dinner on North State Street, sponsored by the Newtown Theatre, on Saturday, September 9, 2017, 6:00 – 10:00 P.M.

In response to President Walker's question, Mayor Swartz reported that the Push Out the Pusher Campaign signs are the size of typical lawn signs.

President's Report – Robert Walker

President Walker reported that the budget cycle has begun and reminded Council that there is a deadline of September 12, 2017 to submit budget requests.

Solicitor's Report – William Bolla - none

Engineer's Report – Mario Canales

Mr. Canales conducted the public participation component of the Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP), required by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), noting that the public has until August 23, 2017 to submit comments. He reiterated all of the requirements associated with this process, noting that all public comments will be included in the PRP. Newtown Borough will need to reduce its sediment load by 10% and the nutrient load by 5%. Engineer Canales described the seven sections of the PRP, and noted that the Plan is on the Borough website and at Borough Hall. Based on calculations provided by DEP, Mr. Canales stated that the Borough's sediment load is calculated at 286,000 pounds per year which results in the need to reduce sediment by 29,000 pounds. Best management practices (BMPs) must be selected to achieve this reduction. Mr. Canales reported that the Newtown Common Bank Stabilization Project would reduce sediment by 4,500 pounds per year. Another potential project is a bioswale which channels water from Frost Lane to the Newtown Creek; it would provide approximately 2,200 pounds of sediment reduction. Mr. Canales noted that the Borough would still need 22,000 pounds in reduction of sediment. Since Newtown Station is not receptive to this project, Mr. Canales approached Allan Smith who is willing to participate in this project; Steeple View would include 488 linear feet of stream bank stabilization, providing the balance of reduction needed.

DEP also requires that municipalities identify the funding mechanisms for completing this work over the next 5 years. An existing grant will fund the Newtown Common Project, and the remainder of work will be paid through the general fund. The Borough could also seek additional grants.

Any BMPs must be maintained, and operation and maintenance guidelines must be adhered to. There were no public comments, questions, or concerns to add to the PRP.

In response to Councilor Rodowicz, Engineer Canales stated the swale from Frost Lane to Newtown Creek is a public right of way and is maintained by the Borough.

Engineer Canales requested a check for \$500, payable to the Commonwealth of PA in early September, to submit with a notice of intent.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor King, seconded by Councilor McDermott, and carried unanimously, to authorize the Council President to sign a 2018 MS4 Notice of Intent Application.

Certificates of Appropriateness – Robert King

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor King, seconded by Councilor Gusty, and carried unanimously, to follow the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board and direct President of Council to sign the following Certificates of Appropriateness, thereby approving the historical appropriateness of the application, with final approval by the Code Enforcement Officer.

COA 2017-29, Applicant: Forman Sign Company, 202 S. State Street, Fine Wine & Good Spirits

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of 1 non-illuminated wall sign on the east elevation, 1 non-illuminated wall sign on the west elevation, and white lettering on 3 existing awnings for the state store.

HARB recommended the approval of the application, as presented.

COA 2017-32, Applicant: Boyd Geyer Sign Corp., Howard Geyer, 255 S. State Street, Insight Advisors

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of a hanging sign from a flag style post.

HARB recommended the approval of the application, as presented.

Presentation of Minutes

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Gusty, seconded by Councilor Rodowicz, and carried unanimously, to approve the July 11, 2017 Council Meeting minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance – Robert Walker, Chris Gusty & Kevin McDermott

Consolidated Report

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor McDermott, seconded by Councilor Gusty, and carried unanimously, to accept, subject to audit, the Consolidated Expenditure Report for the month of July totaling \$155,257.83.

Personnel Committee – Kevin McDermott

Councilor McDermott reported that two resignations from the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) have been received from Eric Sieckmann and Michael Bergey due to relocations out of Newtown. Open committee positions now include three for EAC, one Alternate for Zoning Hearing Board, and members for Ad Hoc Traffic & Parking Committee.

Old Business

Councilor Rodowicz reported that the climbing cave has been successfully installed at Brian S. Gregg Memorial Park.

Councilor King stated that he is speaking with Solicitor Bolla regarding budgeting for historic preservation.

Councilor McDermott reported that Mike Italia, Zoning Officer, has recently visited the burnt home at 246 S. State Street, is speaking with the owner and their contractor, and expects to see plans for renovation soon.

New Business - none

Public to be Heard - none

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy S. Musto
Borough Secretary

ATTENDEES

Julia & Warren Woldorf
Jeff Warner
Paul Salvatore
Jane Connor
Tyler Hoff