

Council Meeting
February 14, 2017
Chancellor Center

President of Council Robert Walker called the regular monthly meeting of Newtown Borough Council to order at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 14, 2017. President Walker asked those in attendance to join him in a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Amendment to the Agenda - none

Public to be Heard

Sally Thompson, resident of N. Chancellor Street, requested Council to appoint someone to represent the Borough and residents at the Newtown Township Planning Commission meetings with regards to the proposed expansion at Pickering Manor. She expressed concerns regarding drainage and traffic issues. To President Walker's question, Ms. Thompson said she would attend the next meeting.

Mayor's Report – Charles F. Swartz, III

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Grunde-McLaughlin, seconded by Councilor McDermott, and passed unanimously, to approve the Special Event Application for Movies in the Park in 2017, sponsored by the Recreation Board, on June 28th, July 12th, July 19th, July 26th, and August 2nd, from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. at Linton Park, with rain dates on June 29th, July 13th, July 20th, July 27th, and August 3rd.

President's Report – Robert Walker

President Walker reported that interviews for Borough Council took place at the February 8, 2017 Work Session; Council needed to fill the vacancy that was created when Perry Warren resigned. Nicole Rodowicz was selected as Councilor and was sworn in at the Work Session since a scheduling conflict prohibited her from attending tonight's meeting. President Walker welcomed Ms. Rodowicz to Council and noted her strong work ethic.

Certificates of Appropriateness – Robert King

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor King, seconded by Councilor McDermott, and carried unanimously, to follow the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board and direct President of Council to sign the following

Certificate of Appropriateness, thereby approving the historical appropriateness of the application, with final approval by the Code Enforcement Officer.

COA 2016-049-H, Applicant: Joe Panas - 106 S. Chancellor Street, Crane residence

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of windows and fencing.

HARB recommended denial of the proposal for replacement of the existing windows with aluminum clad windows, as presented in the application, with the recommendation that the existing windows be repaired and if beyond repair, replaced in kind

HARB recommended approval for the installation of aluminum fencing, as presented in the application.

COA 2017-02, Applicant: Julia Woldorf – Newtown Common, W. Greene Street

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of a split rail fence and gate, 2 solar lamp posts, and bollards, as part of the Newtown Common and Creek Restoration.

HARB recommended the approval of the application, as presented, for the fence, light fixtures and bollards.

COA 2017-03, Applicants: Tom Ksiazek & Melinda Carney - 118 N. Congress Street, residence

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of existing board and batten siding, replacement of shingles on pent roof, addition of panel shutters, and minor repairs and replacement of window trim, fascia, soffits and gutters.

HARB recommended the approval of the application, as amended to eliminate the use of vinyl siding, and noting that the applicants would repair or replace the board and batten siding in kind; replace the upper front right windows to match existing windows, replacing vinyl in kind with vinyl; install wood shutters, attached to the building with modern fastenings; and repair or replace in kind the gutters, fascia and downspouts.

COA 2017-05, Applicant: Colleen Beissel - 114 S. State Street, bluemercury Inc.

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for installation of signs for bluemercury spa.

HARB recommended the approval of the application, as amended, noting that the lettering would be installed within the fascia as shown in the sheet distributed 1/25/17, pin mounted; the sign above the front door with blue background would be eliminated; the two proposed flag signs would be eliminated; the sign over the south wing front gable is approved as presented; and noting that the board does not recommend any backlit internal lighting.

COA 2017-01, Applicant: Alex Mazzucca - 205 Court Street, residence

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of existing slate roof with GAF Slateline shingles to match neighbor's roof.

HARB recommended the approval of the application, as presented.

COA 2017-04, Applicant: Council Rock School District - 30 N. Chancellor Street

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the construction of a storage shed on the property.

HARB recommended the approval of the application, as presented, noting that the siding would not be vinyl but would be the artificial siding option; 1 x 6 fascia and all artificial siding will be smooth.

President Walker confirmed with Ms. Woldorf that the solar lamps specified in COA 2017-02 are LED lights.

With regards to Councilor Grunde-McLaughlin's question about COA 2017-03, it was confirmed that the homeowners also have the option to repair wooden clapboard if found beneath the board and batten siding; regarding COA 2017-04, Mr. King reported that the shed was approved with a 4 inch overhang.

Approval of Minutes

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor King, seconded by Councilor Grunde-McLaughlin, and carried unanimously, to approve the January 4, 2017 Work Session Meeting minutes.
- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor King, seconded by Councilor McDermott, and carried with President Walker abstaining, to approve the January 10, 2017 Council Meeting minutes.

Councilor McDermott reported an inaccuracy in a statement made at the January 10, 2017 Council Meeting, which was recorded in the meeting minutes. He read the first

paragraph under the Solicitor's Report that pertained to the claim that the Planning Commission had not received the request to review the FEMA Flood Plain Ordinance Amendment. Councilor McDermott reported that Secretary Musto emailed all members of the Planning Commission, along with the Solicitor and himself, on December 8, 2016.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Consolidated Report

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor McDermott, seconded by Councilor King, and carried unanimously, to accept, subject to audit, the Consolidated Expenditure Report for the month of January totaling \$109,633.47.

Personnel Committee – Kevin McDermott

Councilor McDermott reported that most open positions were filled over the past month. The open committee positions remaining include one for the Environmental Advisory Council, one Alternate for the Zoning Hearing Board, and members for the Ad Hoc Traffic and Parking Committee. He encouraged the public to volunteer.

Streets, Lights & Properties – Robert Walker

- ❖ A motion was duly made by President Walker, seconded by Councilor King, and carried unanimously, to accept the bid from Bray Brothers, Inc. for the North Lincoln Avenue Resurfacing Project, with the addition of the milling and overlay of a portion of Jefferson Street, for a total amount of \$99,915.15.

Solicitor's Report – William J. Bolla

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor McDermott, seconded by Councilor King, and carried unanimously, to adopt the amended FEMA Flood Plain Provisions of the Newtown Borough Zoning Ordinance.

Solicitor Bolla reported that the publication of the Ordinance Amendment and all reviews had been completed. Following the motion, the Solicitor requested that Secretary Musto advise Engineer Canales to inform FEMA that the Ordinance Amendment has been adopted.

Old Business

Councilor King reported that he reviewed a letter from the Borough Zoning Office and met with Harry Weaver to discuss the HARB Ordinance and enforcement policy. Councilor King will forward the letter to the Secretary for distribution to the Solicitor and Council.

New Business

Councilor Grunde-McLaughlin reported that the wood railing, between the walk way and the creek on the Centre Ave. bridge, is in need of paint. President Walker requested that Secretary Musto contact PennDOT for painting.

Public to be Heard

Ted Schmidt, Planning Commission member, remarked about the correction Council McDermott made in his review of the January Council Meeting minutes. Mr. Schmidt believed his statement at the January meeting was that the Planning Commission had never reviewed the FEMA Flood Plain Ordinance Amendment. He acknowledged having received the email notification from Secretary Musto.

The meeting adjourned 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy S. Musto
Borough Secretary

ATTENDEES

Julia & Warren Woldorf
Ted Schmidt
Bill Heinemann
Sally Thompson
Jeff Werner
Tom Crow