

Council Work Session
January 7, 2015
Council Chambers

The regular monthly Work Session of Newtown Borough Council was called to order at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, January 7, 2015, by President of Council Walker.

Present were Councillors Auerweck, Gusty, Walker and Warren; Mayor Swartz; Solicitor Bolla; and Engineer Canales. Councillors Grunde-McLaughlin and Councillor King were excused.

Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Public to Be Heard

Kathy McDermott introduced herself to Council and expressed her interest in serving on the Planning Commission. In addition to her own home, she and her sister purchased a property for her parents, so she feels that she has a vested interest in the Borough.

Marv Cohen, a resident and property owner in the Borough for 22 years, also expressed interest in serving on the Planning Commission. He feels that many interesting things will be happening in the Borough in the near future and wants to be a part of it. Since he is semi-retired, he has time to take an active and pro-active interest in Borough issues.

Jen Nichol, a 5 1/2-year resident of the Borough, is interested in serving on the Recreation Board. She and her husband have three children and love living in the Borough. Ms. Nichol is a Juvenile Probation Officer for Bucks County and she would like to become more involved in the Borough community.

Mayor's Report – Charles Swartz

Mayor Swartz noted that Council received copies of the Chief's contract and asked for approval of the 2015 contract.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Auerweck, seconded by Councillor Gusty, and carried unanimously to approve Chief Wojciechowski's police contract for 2015 and authorize the Mayor and President of Council to sign the contract.

Mayor Swartz explained that the DROP program would be for the Police Chief and all current full-time police officers. Mr. Walker said that Council would have the option to include future full-time officers in the DROP program. In response to Councillor Warren's question, President Walker said that this is a permanent commitment to the current full-time police officers and could not be changed.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Gusty, seconded by Councillor Warren, and carried unanimously, to approve the DROP program for all full-time police officers in their current contract and all future contracts.

Engineer's Report – Mario Canales

The Borough sent the FEMA Floodplain Ordinance to the Bucks County Planning Commission and the Newtown Borough Planning Commission for their review. All property owners must receive letters regarding the ordinance adoption hearing at least 30 days prior to the meeting and all properties must be posted no less than 7 days prior to the hearing.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Warren, seconded by Councillor Gusty, and carried unanimously, to authorize the Solicitor to advertise the ordinance for adoption at the February 10, 2015, Council Meeting.

Mr. Canales discussed the Edgeboro Drive road project for 2015 and felt that it would probably be ready for bid by the end of the month. With the price of oil coming down, prices should be much better than originally expected. Mr. Canales suggested having an "add alternate" with the bids to pave an additional section of road from Frost Lane down to the curve at the end of North State Street. The amount of base repair is unknown at this time, so there is an allowance built into the project budget and if not required for base repair, it could be applied elsewhere.

The MS4 Permit year ends at the end of February and there is a requirement to hold a public meeting to present the program updates and obtain public input. The Engineer will make a presentation at the February Council meeting.

Budget & Finance – Chris Gusty & Perry Warren

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Warren, seconded by Councillor Gusty, and carried unanimously, to approve the Professional Services Invoices for the month of November 2014.

Solicitor's Report – William J. Bolla

Mr. Bolla is working on development, financial security, and stormwater agreements for Buckman Place [119 N. State Street]. He said that the Land Acquisition Agreement [with Heritage Conservancy] is being modified and he will review it when it is received.

Old Business

Mr. Walker said that Allan Smith has a goal to begin Phase I [Steeple View] during the first quarter of the year and he suggested that Mr. Smith make monthly Work Session reports beginning in February to keep everyone updated on the project.

Mr. Gusty reported on completion of the first phase of the SEPTA lot clean up, and he will pursue an extension of the Right of Entry agreement with SEPTA for additional work in the Spring.

New Business

Mr. Walker explained that new legislation now requires additional qualifications and responsibilities of the Tax Collector. "Sitting" tax collectors must have six hours of continuing education credits annually to maintain their status. Those individuals running for the first time must become qualified prior to their swearing in. In addition, the Tax Collector must appoint a Deputy Tax Collector.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Gusty, seconded by Councillor Auerweck, to appoint Marcia Scull as Deputy Tax Collector for Newtown Borough to assist the Tax Collector, when necessary. Council tabled the motion after Councillor Warren questioned the wording

“when necessary,” as the wording in the Act is “incapacitated.” Solicitor Bolla will research the issue for Council.

Mr. Warren announced that the Shade Tree Commission would meet on January 20, 2015, at 6 P.M.

Mr. Walker raised the issue of tree stumps, since the Shade Tree Commission had approached one Council member about removing his tree stump; however, he has noted at least five tree stumps in town. Mr. Walker suggested that the Shade Tree Commission make a recommendation on the disposition of tree stumps in the right-of-way.

Public to be Heard

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Scull
Borough Secretary

ATTENDEES

Ted Schmidt
Jeff Werner
Julia & Warren Woldorf
Marvin Cohen
Kathy McDermott
Jennifer Nichols