

Council Work Session
October 22, 2009
Council Chambers

A special Budget Work Session of Newtown Borough Council was called to order at 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 22, 2009, by President of Council Mark Craig.

Present: Councillors Craig, Jaslow, O'Malley, Walker and Woldorf; and Mayor Dennis F. O'Brien. Councillor Sellers arrived at 5:45 P.M.

Mr. Craig explained that this work session was primarily for discussion of the Proposed 2010 Budget and that detailed minutes are not kept for the budget work session.

Mr. Craig asked Chris Ortwein, Executive Director of the Newtown Corporation, to explain changes made to the Corporation by-laws, since there had been additional changes after Council received the first draft. Council's decision on a donation to the Newtown Corporation was dependent on Borough Council accepting the by-law changes. After discussion, Council decided to postpone a decision until the November Council meeting. Prior to making a decision, Council wished to confirm with Newtown Township that they had agreed to the by-law changes and had authorized their donation to the Newtown Corporation. For budgeting purposes, Council did agree to put \$5000 into the 2010 budget, but a final decision would be made after all information is received.

Councillors Walker and O'Malley, with the assistance of Treasurer Pat Ours, presented the 2010 Draft Budget. After lengthy discussion on numerous issues, Ms. Ours made note of the suggested changes and will incorporate them into the Draft Budget for discussion at the November Work Session.

The suggestion was made to put the Borough Ordinances on the website. The Secretary will speak to General Code about the cost involved.

Mr. O'Malley commented that the budget was a challenge this year since revenue is "flat" or declining and expenses continue to rise. Future Councils will need to have some tough discussions on the level of services, the use of the operating reserve, revenue generation and expense cuts.

Council discussed the possibility of offering short-term disability to all full time employees, assuming 75% of the employees would participate. The issue will be further explored.

Mr. Jaslow noted that there is no lighting in the easement between S. State Street and Isaac Newton's and he was concerned about the liability in that area. Ms. Ours explained that the area is not the responsibility of Newtown Borough but of property owner Luciano Blancato.

Public to be Heard

There was no one who wished to be heard at this time.

There was a motion to adjourn at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Scull
Borough Secretary

IN ATTENDANCE

Phil Hagan	Washington Avenue
Bill Heinemann	35 N. Chancellor Street
John Burke	301 S. Norwood Avenue
Chris Ortwein	Newtown Corporation