

Re-Organization Meeting of Council
January 6, 2014
Chancellor Center

Swearing In Ceremony

The Honorable Donald Nasshorn conducted the swearing-in-ceremony and administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Charles F. Swartz, III; Tax Collector Judith S. Musto, and Councillors-Elect Tara Grunde-McLaughlin, Christopher Gusty, Robert J. Walker and Perry S. Warren.

Councillors took their seats at the table. Mayor Swartz called the January 6, 2014 Re-Organization Meeting of Newtown Borough Council to order. A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Swartz called for Nominations for President of Council. Councillor Auerweck nominated Robert Walker.

Mayor Swartz called for further nominations and there were none. Councillor Auerweck made a motion to close the nominations for President. Councillor King seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mayor Swartz called for a roll call vote. Councillors Auerweck, Grunde-McLaughlin, Gusty, King, Walker and Warren voted aye. With a unanimous vote, Robert Walker was elected President of Council.

Mayor Swartz called for nominations for Vice-President of Council. Councillor Walker nominated Councillor Auerweck.

Mayor Swartz called for further nominations and there were none. Councillor Walker made a motion to close the nominations. Councillor King seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mayor Swartz called for a roll-call vote. Councillors Auerweck, Grunde-McLaughlin, Gusty, King, Walker and Warren voted aye. With a unanimous vote, Lawrence Auerweck was elected Vice-President of Council.

Mayor Swartz vacated his chair and turned the meeting over to the newly elected President of Council, Robert Walker.

Remarks from Councillors

Councillor Gusty thanked everyone who helped him become a member of Council and said he looks forward to working with all those who contribute to the great Borough of Newtown. Mr. Gusty said he would welcome all suggestions, comments and ideas.

Councillor Warren also thanked everyone and noted that he follows in the footsteps of his grandfather who also served on Council. Mr. Warren said that

Newtown is a model to other communities and the election process exemplified that by running a clean and honest campaign.

Councillor King welcomed the new members of Borough Council and noted that he felt everyone would work well together. He also echoed the sentiments of Mr. Warren about Newtown being such a great place.

Councillor Grunde-McLaughlin also thanked everyone and said it was a pleasure to meet all the candidates and get to know Council. Ms. Grunde-McLaughlin is glad to serve everybody and will do her best to help Newtown continue to be the wonderful place that it is.

Councillor Auerweck wanted to repeat what he previously said which was that there are seven Newtonians here all working together to make the Borough a better place.

Mayor Swartz thanked everyone for the privilege and honor of serving them as Mayor and said he looked forward to working with all agencies in town and all members of Council.

Councillor Walker thanked everyone for their support during the election and he also thanked Council for the opportunity to serve again as President of Council. He said he would do his best to represent the interests of all the citizens of Newtown Borough and to listen to the input of Council. Mr. Walker thanked Mr. Burke and Mr. Machion for their service over the past four years.

Council Affirmed:

Mr. Warren explained that he felt the change in time for the Work Session meetings is consistent with Council's goals of openness and accessibility, by scheduling the Work Session and Council meetings at different times to make them available to different groups of people with different types of schedules. Mr. Warren said that he would encourage those setting agendas to take into consideration scheduling matters for both meetings for people with specific interests.

A motion was duly made by Councillor Warren, seconded by Councillor King, and carried unanimously, to set the schedule of meetings of Council as follows: Council meets the Wednesday prior to the second Tuesday for Work Session at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers. Unless otherwise advertised, all regular semi-monthly meetings of Council will be held on the second Tuesday and (where applicable) the fourth Thursday, in the auditorium of The Chancellor Center, 30 North Chancellor Street, commencing at 7:00 PM. All regular meetings of Boards, Commissions and Committees of Council are advertised and will be held in the Council Chambers unless otherwise advertised.

The November Council meeting will be held on November 10, 2014, instead of November 11, 2014, which is Veterans Day.

A motion was duly made by Councillor Warren, seconded by Councillor Grunde-McLaughlin, and carried unanimously to name as official newspaper(s) for legal notices and employment advertising, the Inter-County Newspapers (*The Advance*); *Bucks County Courier Times*; and if needed, *The Intelligencer* and/or the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

A motion was duly made by Councillor Gusty, seconded by Councillor Auerweck, and carried unanimously to name the following financial institutions as depositories for the Borough of Newtown: The First National Bank & Trust of Newtown and Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT).

A motion was duly made by Councillor Gusty, seconded by Councillor Warren, and carried unanimously, to adopt mileage reimbursement, when authorized by supervisor and/or President of Council, for employees and elected officials at 56.0 cents per mile as set by the IRS.

A motion was duly made by Councillor Gusty, seconded by Councillor King, and carried unanimously, for a resolution to authorize designated officials to execute documents and sign checks for First National Bank and the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust. Members of the Finance Committee, Treasurer and Borough Secretary will be named later.

Appointments

A motion was duly made by Councillor Auerweck, seconded by Councillor King, and carried unanimously, to appoint Marcia M. Scull to serve as Secretary, at will or at the pleasure of the Council.

A motion was duly made by Councillor Auerweck, seconded by Councillor Warren, and carried unanimously, to appoint Patricia A. Ours to serve as Treasurer, at will or at the pleasure of the Council.

A motion was duly made by Councillor Auerweck, seconded by Councillor King, and carried unanimously, to appoint Pickering, Corts & Summerson to serve as Borough Engineer, at will or at the pleasure of the Council.

A motion was duly made by Councillor Auerweck, seconded by Councillor King, and carried with Councillor Warren abstaining because of a conflict of interest, to appoint the law firm of McNamara, Bolla & Panzer to serve as Borough Solicitor, at will or at the pleasure of the Council.

A motion was duly made by Councillor Auerweck, seconded by Councillor Gusty, and carried unanimously, to appoint Keystone Municipal Services to serve as Building Inspector, Code Enforcement Officer, HARB Administrator and Zoning Officer, at will or at the pleasure of the Council.

A motion was duly made by Councillor Auerweck, seconded by Councillor King, and carried unanimously, to appoint Donald Smith as Chairperson of the Vacancy Board for a 1-year term through December 31, 2014.

Committee Reappointments

A motion was duly made by Councillor Gusty, seconded by Councilor King, and carried unanimously, to re-appoint Michael Hutchinson, to the Historic Architectural Review Board for a 3-year term through December 31, 2016.

Zoning Hearing Board Appointments

A motion was duly made by Councillor Gusty, seconded by Councillor Warren, and carried unanimously, to appoint William Palkovics to the Newtown Borough Zoning Hearing Board as an alternate through December 31, 2014.

A motion was duly made by Councillor Gusty, seconded by Councillor Warren, and carried unanimously, to re-appoint Harry Tomlinson to the Newtown Borough Zoning Hearing Board as an alternate through December 31, 2014.

Announcement of Openings on Boards and Committees

Councillor Gusty announced openings on the Recreation Board and Environmental Advisory Council, and asked those interested to contact the Borough Office.

Engineer's Report – Mario Canales

Mr. Canales thanked Council for the reappointment of Pickering, Corts & Summerson as the Borough Engineering firm.

Greene Street

Mr. Canales reported that he received the PennDOT highway occupancy permit for the handicapped ramps at Greene and Liberty Streets and for the storm sewer replacement at West Greene Street. The projects have been advertised for bid and the bid opening will be January 27, 2014. As part of the Transportation-funding Act, the prevailing wage ceiling was raised from \$25,000 to \$100,000, effective January 1, 2014. This means that any project under \$100,000 would not be required to pay prevailing wage and Mr. Canales felt that this project would be under that figure.

Escrow Releases

Mr. Canales reported that both building projects were completed and have gone through the 12-month maintenance bond period. He recommended release of the escrow funds.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Auerweck, and carried unanimously, to approve the final release of escrow for 400 E. Washington Avenue to John T. and Megan C. Kane in the amount \$3,710.19.
- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor King, and carried unanimously, to approve the final release of escrow for 255 S. State Street to John T. and Megan C. Kane in the amount of \$1,741.50.

Approval of Minutes

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Warren, seconded by Councillor King, and carried unanimously, to approve the December 4, 2013, Work Session minutes.
- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Warren, seconded by Councillor King, and carried unanimously, to approve the December 10, 2013, Council minutes.

Certificates of Appropriateness

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Grunde-McLaughlin, 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 #2013-008 Residents Robert & Edith Celeste, 125 N. Lincoln Avenue

The applicants were seeking revisions to the previously granted Certificate of Appropriateness #2013-008, noting that the garage roof would be installed as presented; gaps between the standing seams of the metal roofing would be filled in; and that the garage door would be steel with faux wood finish as presented, but without hardware.

COA 2013-027-H Resident Frances Zlock, 198 N. Chancellor Street

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the alterations to a carriage house, noting that the sliding door would be installed towards the street, as close to the north jamb as possible, and the existing window would be removed.

COA 2013-028-H Applicant: Newtown South State LLC/Rob Amend, 130 S. State Street, multi-use

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of third floor windows. HARB denied approval of the application as presented with the recommendation that the existing 6 over 6 true divided lite windows be restored, and the existing 1 over 1 window be removed and replaced with a new fabricated 6 over 6 window to match the existing 6 over 6 windows. Mr. Amend agreed to the recommendation.

Approval of Professional Invoices

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Warren, and carried unanimously, to approve the professional invoices for November and December 2013, as presented.

Consolidated Report

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor King, and carried unanimously, to accept, subject to audit, the Consolidated Expenditure report for the month of December totaling \$247,010.43.

Salt Purchase

Mr. Walker reported on the snow removal impact to the Borough for the month of December, noting that it cost approximately \$75,000 and that the Borough salt supply needs replacement. The recent storm cost an additional \$28,000 and Mr. Walker said that although expensive, the work was necessary to keep the Borough and those passing through it safe.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor King, and carried unanimously, to authorize the purchase of 120 tons of salt at a cost not to exceed \$9600.

Old/ New Business

There was no old or new business to discuss.

Public to be Heard

There was no one from the public who wished to be heard.

Call for adjournment of Re-Organization Meeting

A motion was duly made by Councillor Auerweck to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Scull
Borough Secretary

Attendees:

Jim McAuliffe
John Duggan
Bob & Judy Musto
Bob Bartels
Warren & Julia Woldorf
Diane LeBas
Liz Warren & Family
Rev. Ernie Curtin
Ted Schmidt
John Burke
Dennis O'Brien
Jane & Torie Swartz
Mike DiFiori
The McLaughlin Family
The Gusty Family
Peg Walker
Rev. Mary Miller
Fran Zlock
Rosemary Wuenschel
Officer Colleen Rosenfeld