

Council Work Session
June 4, 2014
Council Chambers

The regular monthly Work Session of Newtown Borough Council was called to order at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, by President of Council Robert Walker.

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

Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments for the agenda.

Public to be Heard

No one wished to be heard at this time.

Mayor's Report – Charles F. Swartz, III

Special Events Application

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Warren, seconded by Councillor King, and carried unanimously, to approve the Special Event Application for Market Day on October 11, 2014, with set up at 10 A.M. and ending at 4 P.M.

Hiring of Part-time Police Officers

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Gusty, and carried unanimously to follow the recommendation of Mayor Swartz and Chief Anthony C. Wojciechowski and hire, at will, Thomas Joseph Weldon, Michael Anthony Kirk, and Shawn Michael Lyons, as non-civil service part time police officers, subject to the day-to-day supervision of Chief Wojciechowski or the officer in charge in the absence of Chief Wojciechowski, at a starting salary of \$18.00 per hour, effective June 5, 2014.

Thomas Joseph Weldon is 27 years old, married, and a resident of Holland PA. Mr. Weldon attended Neshaminy High School in Langhorne PA, where he graduated in June 2005. Mr. Weldon is presently employed as a Peace Officer by Bucks County Emergency Services and has been since December 2011. Mr. Weldon attended Montgomery County Police Academy and graduated on July 20, 2011.

Michael Anthony Kirk is 29 years old, married, and a resident of Levittown PA. Mr. Kirk attended Pennsbury High School in Fairless Hills PA, where he graduated in June 2002. Mr. Kirk has been employed as a Code Enforcement Officer by Falls Township since 2010. Mr. Kirk attended Montgomery County Police Academy and graduated on July 18, 2012.

Shawn Michael Lyons is 38 years old, and a resident of Langhorne, PA. Mr. Lyons attended LaSalle College High School in Wyndmoor, PA, where he graduated in 1994. Mr. Lyons attended the Philadelphia Police Academy in 2008 and received his Act 120 training. Mr. Lyons worked for the Bristol Township Police Department as a full-time police officer for 5 years from 2007 to 2012 and was furloughed due to budgetary reasons. Mr. Lyons is presently employed by Redner's Market in Warrington as a night manager and by the Northampton Police Department as a part-time dispatcher.

Correspondence

- Mayor Swartz read a letter from the Morrell Smith American Legion Post #440 thanking Council members for their participation in the 2014 Memorial Day Parade.
- Mayor Swartz received a letter from the Recorder of Deeds office regarding *Honor Flight Bucks County* with an invitation to all Bucks County WWII veterans to be their guests on a free bus trip to Washington, D.C. to tour the veterans' memorials on September 22, 2014.

Engineer's Report – Mario Canales

MS4 Report

Mr. Canales asked authorization for President of Council to sign the MS4 report for submission to DEP and then reported that the Borough was now entering the renewal permit process, which includes several new requirements. Council should schedule a meeting to discuss stormwater and to solicit public input and participation. Council discussed setting up a table at public events like the Car Show and Market Day to distribute information and document public involvement with a sign-in sheet. Mr. Walker asked Ms. Woldorf about Newtown Creek Coalition participation, which she agreed to discuss.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Gusty, seconded by Councillor Warren, and carried unanimously, to authorize the President of Council to sign the MS4 report.

SEPTA Lot Update – Chris Gusty

Mr. Gusty reported that SEPTA agreed to a five-year extension of the Right of Entry Agreement and Mr. Bolla will review the document. Mr. Gusty felt confident that enough money could be raised for the initial SEPTA lot clean up.

Summer Meeting Schedule – Robert Walker

After discussion of vacation schedules, Council agreed to cancel the July Work Session, and will consider the possible cancellation of the August Work Session.

Budget & Finance – 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 April 2014.

Speed Board

Mr. Walker said Council designated \$7,400 for the purchase of two speed boards, but because of the need to upgrade the police server, he recommended purchasing only one board at this time. Once Council receives estimates for the server cost, they might consider reallocating money for a second speed board to the cost of a server.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Gusty, seconded by Councillor Grunde-McLaughlin, and carried unanimously, to purchase a speed board for \$3,252.

Streets, Lights & Properties – Robert Walker & Chris Gusty

Salt Purchase

The previous pre-purchases of salt provided the Borough with a “preferred customer status,” which allowed it to have access to salt when supplies were low.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Auerweck, and carried unanimously, to approve the pre-buy purchase of 120 tons of salt at a cost of \$9,600 by *Scotts All Seasons*.

Expansion of Permit Parking

Council has been working to expand the Borough’s permit parking using the upper lot adjacent to the old Stockburger showroom. Engineer Canales noted that the lot would not be available when Mr. Smith starts the Steeple View project because it would become a staging area for the construction. Another possible location would involve cutting an access road through the property, which would create an added expense of approximately \$1,500-2,000 to the already projected \$4,200 expense. A site visit will be scheduled with Mr. Smith, Engineer Canales, Mr. Walker and Scott Dengler of *Scott’s All Seasons* to assess the area.

Line Striping

Although line striping is typically completed annually, because of the high snow removal costs, Mr. Walker suggested striping only the high traffic areas this year. The Borough would budget to stripe the lower volume areas in 2015.

Crosswalks

The crosswalk at N. Lincoln and Washington Avenue is crumbling and Mr. Walker asked *Scott’s All Seasons* for an estimate for repairs.

Signage

The signage upgrade project is almost complete with the “Stop” signs and the concentration will then be on “Speed Limit” signs. During the analysis of speed limit signs, Mr. Dengler noted that

there were no speed limit signs on the entire length of Chancellor Street, so his first priority would be to install signs every 1/4 mile on Chancellor Street.

Solicitor's Report – William Bolla

Mr. Bolla reminded Council that a "No Parking Ordinance" would be ready for adoption at next week's Council meeting.

The Conditional Use Application for Steeple View may be filed within the next month or two, which would require scheduling a special hearing within 60 days of filing.

Old Business

Mr. Warren received information from Ms. Woldorf regarding the Conservation Grant, with information on several other available grants, which include tree planting in watersheds.

After the May Work Session, Ms. Grunde-McLaughlin spoke with the Recreation Board regarding "No Smoking in Parks" signage and they supported the idea. She has since found out that although municipalities have passed "No Smoking in Parks" ordinances, they cannot override the state law, which allows smoking, and therefore those municipal ordinances are unenforceable. Mr. King suggested using signage for educational purposes, perhaps making individuals feel guilty about smoking in parks. The Solicitor will look into the legalities of the issue.

New Business

Mr. Warren reported that the Shade Tree Commission would meet on June 24, 2014, at 7 P.M.

Planning Commission – Mark Craig

The Planning Commission found inconsistencies between the Zoning Ordinance and SALDO Ordinance related to parking space size. The basic difference is that the Zoning Ordinance requires 10' x 18 parking spaces and SALDO requires 9' x 18 spaces. One suggestion is to remove space size from the Zoning Ordinance and only refer to it in SALDO, with a recommendation to adopt 9' as the standard. The spaces in the Borough parking lots are currently 9' and if the size increased to 10' that would result in 10% fewer parking spaces. Mr. King agreed the ordinances should be consistent, but he voiced concern about making the spaces smaller at 9'.

The Sewage Facility Planning Module for Steeple View requires a response from the Planning Commission within 60 days. The Planning Module only addresses two historic structures on the property, but there are actually three historic structures. The Engineer said that the Planning Commission could resubmit for further review asking that the third structure be included. In addition, the Planning Module mentions wetlands, but wetlands are not included on the drawing. This would also be added by the Planning Commission in their request for further review.

Public to be Heard

No one wished to be heard at this time.

On a motion by Mr. King and second by Mr. Gusty, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Scull
Borough Secretary

ATTENDEES

Julia & Warren Woldorf
Ted Schmidt
Jeff Werner
Mark Craig