

Council Work Session
September 3, 2014
Council Chambers

The regular monthly Work Session of Newtown Borough Council was called to order at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, September 3, 2014, by President of Council Robert Walker.

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

Amendments to the Agenda

The Secretary noted a change in the event requesting use of a banner.

Public to Be Heard –

No one wished to be heard at this time.

Banner Request – Terri Keane

Representing the Newtown Historic Association, Ms. Keane requested approval to hang a banner advertising the Holiday House Tour.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Auerweck, seconded by Councillor King, and carried unanimously, to approve placement of a banner at 1 S. State Street for two weeks prior to the Holiday House Tour on December 6, 2014.

Special Event Application – Mayor Swartz

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Warren, seconded by Councillor Grunde-McLaughlin, and carried unanimously, to approve the Special Event Application for the Newtown Library Company's 5K Run on October 18, 2014, from 8-11 A.M.

Engineer's Report – Mario Canales

Planning Module

Mr. Canales explained that the responsibility for sewage disposal needs of a municipality rests with the municipality, which is the reason for an Act 537 Plan. The vehicle for legally amending an Act 537 Plan is the adoption by Resolution of a Planning Module. The Steeple View project, Phase I, submitted their planning module for Borough approval. The Planning Commission reviewed the Planning Module, as did Engineer Canales and the Resolution was now before Council.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Gusty, seconded by Councillor Auerweck, and carried unanimously, to approve Resolution 09-03-14 accepting the Steeple View Planning Module.

Flood Plain maps

FEMA contacted Bucks County communities regarding approval of revised FEMA maps. They will be sending a Letter of Determination, which starts the process indicating that the maps are good. The maps become effective March 16, 2015, but prior to that date the Borough must update their Flood Plain Map Ordinance, which FEMA must approve.

Council authorized the Engineer to attend the September 8, 2014, Planning Commission meeting for review of the Buckman Place project.

Budget & Finance – Perry Warren

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

Mr. Walker reminded everyone that the deadline for initial submissions is September 9, 2014 and he asked liaisons to remind their respective committees of the need for that information.

Recreation Board – Tara Grunde-McLaughlin

Ms. Grunde-McLaughlin reported on the success of *Movies in the Park*. She reminded everyone of the upcoming *Music in the Park* event on September 5, 2014, in Linton Park.

During the *Movies in the Park* events, the Recreation Board sold ice cream and collected donations at the Popcorn Stand to fix the Linton Park fountain, which will have its 100th anniversary in 2019. Lucas Plumbing donated their time to examine and evaluate what would be required to reactivate the fountain. Mr. Walker noted that the Rotary Club would be working with Mr. Gusty to sell bricks for Linton Park to raise funds for the SEPTA Lot clean up and perhaps it could be a joint effort.

Streets, Lights & Properties – Robert Walker & Chris Gusty

Road Repair and Traffic Loops

Mr. Walker explained the need to make road repairs and replace traffic loops at the intersection of Lincoln and Washington Avenues. In response to Ms. Grunde-McLaughlin's question about traffic loops, Mr. Canales explained that the loops sense the cars and send signals to change the lights.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor King, and carried unanimously, to approve necessary road repairs at Washington and Lincoln Avenues, at a cost of \$4,160 for the North side and \$4,160 for the South side and \$2,000 for replacement of traffic loops.

Possible Parking Lot Paving Project Consideration

Mr. Walker asked Council members to look at the main Borough parking lot behind the bank building to determine whether milling/paving and storm water management should be considered when putting the 2015 budget together. There has been serious deterioration in the lot and the

cost for repair would be significant, but it is a potential liability to the Borough. The area on the Washington Avenue side is in decent condition, but the area along the creek and the actual parking spaces needs considerable work.

2015 Snow Removal Budget Consideration

The huge volume of snow last year resulted in an outlay of approximately \$350,000 for snow removal and there is another 2 1/2 to 3 months of possible snow activity this year. Knowing that, the Treasurer averaged the last eight years, which was \$147,000 per year. Keep in mind that the 2014 budget had \$100,000 in it and if the Borough increased the 2015 budget by another \$100,000 that would be about two mills of tax. Mr. Walker asked Council members to consider what that number should be for 2015.

Solicitor's Report – James McNamara

The Zoning Hearing Board application for 111 S. State Street was submitted and then distributed to Borough Council and the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mr. Gusty asked if there was any new information on the Steeple View/Heritage agreement, but Mr. Walker responded that it has not yet been resolved.

Old Business

Steeple View Traffic Study

Mr. King reviewed the 2010 traffic study for Steeple View and provided Council with some information found in the report, which included that the designated "level of service" was level D. The study did not consider any other future developments [like the Promenade] and the study used a peak hour in the morning, a peak hour in the afternoon and another at rush hour to obtain its statistics. In response to Ms. Grunde-McLaughlin's question about level of service, Mr. King explained that it was the amount of time spent at an intersection, i.e. the longer the wait, the higher the level, with levels ranging from A to F. The Planning Commission required the traffic study to include Saturday traffic. Mr. King noted that the figures from 2010 to 2013, whether with "build" or "no build" were not significantly different. Mr. Walker did not feel that the figures would change much, even if the developer completed another traffic study. Mr. King questioned whether adding new planned developments, like the Promenade or the two bank projects, would change the statistics. Mr. King will speak to the Engineer to see if he has seen the traffic study and what he would recommend including, if the traffic study was revisited by Pennoni Associates.

DCNR Grant

Mr. Warren reported that the Borough has not heard the status of the DCNR grant, but he confirmed that the County extended the date for use of the Open Space funds to December 31, 2016. That extension allows the Borough to wait for the results of the DNCR grant before making a submission for use of the Open Space funds.

Police Department Computer Upgrades

Mr. Walker reported that upgrades to the police department Cody system would cost \$5,000-5,500 and would include a new server and software upgrades. There are sufficient funds in the police department budget to cover the expense.

New Business

Mr. Warren announced that the Shade Tree Commission would meet on September 23, 2014, at 7 P.M.

Mr. Walker reported that the Borough moved the speed board to South State Street. He received a letter from a man on Congress Street complimenting the Borough on their attempts to control speed but he did ask about the new location. People tend to accelerate coming out of the curve and it was the suggestion of the police department to locate the sign there. Mr. Walker noted that the Borough sent a letter to all property owners on Penn Street notifying them of the results from the Penn Street speed board positioning, which showed that there is virtually no speeding on Penn Street. The volume of traffic is significant but although the perception may be that cars are speeding, in actuality they are not. The next location for the speed board will be Edgeboro Drive.

Public to be Heard

No one wished to be heard at this time.

On a motion by Mr. Gusty and second by Mr. Warren, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Scull
Borough Secretary

ATTENDEES

Ted Schmidt
Jeff Werner