

Council Work Session
December 3, 2014
Council Chambers

The regular monthly Work Session of Newtown Borough Council was called to order at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, December 3, 2014, by Vice-President of Council Lawrence Auerweck.

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

Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Public to Be Heard

Business owner Connie Trainor referred to the recent parking survey, which included 191 responses. Although parking is very important to her, she wants to see the project move forward. She spoke to Allan Smith and he expressed to her that he would address the parking issue and would consider changing parking, if necessary.

Paul Salvatore was one of the individuals responsible for the parking survey and he noted that 93% of the people drive to Newtown, while only 7% walk. The survey showed that 25% of the drivers park in the lot behind Starbucks, 5% in the Liquor Store lot, 38% on State Street, and 31% in the main municipal lot. Based on the survey, the majority of customers would not pay to park. Mr. Salvatore asked if, as part of the Conditional Use approval, Council could require that Mr. Smith build the parking garage first, since losing parking would have an adverse affect on the businesses. Mr. Bolla cautioned Council not to consider anything said at this meeting, only what was presented at the Conditional Use Hearing.

David Witchell, 25 S. State Street, wanted clarification of what plan was on the table for Conditional Use, as he had not understood the parking lot component. Mr. Bolla said that the presented plan includes use of the parking lot and that is part of Council's deliberation in making a decision. Mr. Witchell reminded Council that he asked Mr. Smith at the Conditional Use Hearing if he would consider reconfiguring the parking to accommodate the concerns of the community and he said he would.

Resident Marc Waldinger asked Council to consider him for the open position on the Planning Commission. As a 25-year resident, he is very interested in attracting and maintaining business in the Borough, while retaining the unique character of the Borough.

Mayor's Report – Charles Swartz

Mayor Swartz presented a request from Chief Wojciechowski to purchase a new police vehicle. The Police Committee considered two vehicles, a Ford Expedition and a Ford Explorer. After a comparison of the models, the decision was made to purchase the Expedition, as it afforded more rear space for equipment. After the trade-in of one police vehicle and adjustments, the cost of \$41,520 would be reduced to \$14,963.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Gusty, seconded by Councillor Grunde-McLaughlin, and carried unanimously, to purchase a 2015 Ford Expedition at a net cost of \$14,963.

Request for Handicapped Parking Space on Mercer Street

A resident who lives on the corner of Court and Mercer Streets requested a handicapped parking space on Mercer Street. After discussion, Council decided that the request needed more investigation before they could consider a decision.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Warren, and carried unanimously, to table a decision on the handicapped parking space request and refer it to the Traffic Committee.

Engineer's Report – Mario Canales

Mr. Canales provided Council with a draft Flood Plain Ordinance, but noted that Council still must designate a Flood Plain Administrator and Deputy Administrator, to be named in the ordinance. After review by the Bucks County Planning Commission and the Newtown Borough Planning Commission, Council will consider advertising the ordinance for adoption.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Gusty, seconded by Councillor Warren, and carried unanimously, to designate the Zoning Liaison as Flood Plain Administrator and the Historic Architectural Review Board Liaison as the Alternate Flood Plain Administrator.

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 October 2014.

Recreation Board

Ms. Grunde-McLaughlin reported that the Recreation Board plans to apply for a Department of Environmental Protection grant to help fund Arbor Day, but the grant does not have any matching requirement. Ms. Grunde-McLaughlin will seek Council's approval to submit the application at the December Council meeting.

Ms. Grunde-McLaughlin acknowledged donation of two sets of "Corn Hole" games from the Newtown Presbyterian Church and said the Recreation Board would use them at various events.

Solicitor's Report – William J. Bolla

Mr. Bolla provided Council with a draft of a "Young Lungs at Play" Resolution and Council could decide at the December Council meeting if they wish to adopt the Resolution.

The Conditional Use Hearing concluded on November 18, 2014, and Council will make a decision on the application at 6 PM on December 11, 2014, in Council Chambers.

Mr. Bolla reported that he received an extension until February 28, 2015 from the applicant for the property at 139 N. State Street. The applicant may bring a new plan forward before that time, but Mr. Bolla suggested that Council make a decision at their January meeting.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Mr. Warren announced that the Environmental Advisory Council would hold their meetings at 6:30 P.M. on the second Monday of each month and the next meeting would be December 8, 2014, in Council Chambers.

Mayor Swartz reminded everyone of the upcoming Tree Lighting at the Firehouse, the Historic House Tour, and the Holiday Parade.

Mr. Gusty announced that he would present re-appointments for various boards at the December Council meeting. While making his calls to committee members, he found that some members on the Human Relations Commission, Planning Commission, Recreation Board, and Shade Tree Commission did not wish to be reappointed. The Borough received applications for some of the positions and anyone else interested should submit an application for consideration. Council will make those appointments at the January Council meeting.

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
Paul Salvatore
Connie Trainor
David Witchell