

Council Meeting
March 12, 2024
7:00 P.M.
Chancellor Center

Present: Councilors Heinz, Bauman, Foley, Phillips, Woldorf; Mayor Burke; Solicitor Clarke;
Police Chief Sabath; Fire Chief Forsyth
Absent: Councilor Raymond

President Heinz called the regular semi-monthly meeting of Newtown Borough Council to order at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. The President asked those in attendance to join her in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public to be Heard - none

Certificates of Appropriateness – Kris Bauman

❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Bauman, seconded by Councilor Woldorf, and passed unanimously, to follow the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board and direct the President of Council to sign the following Certificate of Appropriateness, thereby approving the historical appropriateness of the application, with final approval by the Code Enforcement Officer.

COA 2024-001, Applicant: Monika Kozlowska, 24 N. State Street, business

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for installation of a sign and an awning for Zenskin beauty shop.

HARB recommended approval of the application as presented, noting that the new bracket will be mounted to the existing 4" x 4" post attached to the wall, and the awning will have the same lettering on the front as proposed.

Fire Report – Chief Forsyth

Chief Forsyth reported that there were 106 service calls in February which included 14 alarm systems, 61 EMS incidents, 72 fire safety inspections in the township, 1 fire safety inspection in the borough, and more; the Chief announced firefighter training that took place. Chief Forsyth emphasized the importance of smoke detector maintenance as he shared that a fatal house fire occurred in Newtown Township, making it the second house fire to claim lives in the past 13 months; he encouraged anyone to call them at 215-968-2800 ext. 255 if they need assistance with testing and maintaining smoke detectors. The Chief also shared an incident where a car drove into a retail cosmetic store in the township.

Chief Forsyth announced that Newtown Fire and Emergency Services will be staffed 7 days per week, 12 hours per day, as of April 4, 2024. This was facilitated by the receipt of a substantial grant which funded the hiring of 5 additional full-time firefighters.

Police Report – Chief Sabath

Chief Sabath reported 161 calls for service in February which included 7 traffic accident investigations, drunk driving, one assault, fraud incidents, and more. The Newtown Borough Police Department (NBPD) will participate in National Drug Take-Back Day on April 27, 2024, which includes the collection of sharps and Narcan. The department will also be conducting a grant funded Pedestrian Safety Blitz.

In response to Councilor Bauman's request on behalf of Walk Friendly Newtown (WFN), Chief Sabath will place the sentinels out as soon as possible and move the speed board sign to N. Lincoln Ave.

Mayor's Report – John Burke

Mayor Burke announced the following:

Special Event Request:

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Bauman, seconded by Councilor Woldorf, and passed unanimously, to approve the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 27, 2024, sponsored by the American Legion-Morell Smith Post 440, 9:00 – 11:30 A.M., along the designated parade route and at Borough Hall. No rain date.

Special Event Reminder:

- Shamrock Shuffle 5K, sponsored by Boss Events, on Saturday, March 16, 2024, 9:00 – 11:00 A.M. on a designated race route. No rain date.

In response to Councilor Bauman, President Heinz announced that all special events approved by Council are posted on the website.

President Heinz announced that motions made at Council Meetings are thoroughly discussed at preceding Work Sessions; video recordings are posted on the borough website.

Solicitor's Report – Mike Clarke

Solicitor Clarke confirmed the process taken to adopt the following ordinance.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Phillips, and passed unanimously, to adopt Single-Use Plastics Ordinance #799, regulating and minimizing single-use plastic bags, straws, utensils and expanded polystyrene.

Robin Hoy, Non-Resident, supported this ordinance and hopes that Wrightstown Township does the same.

President Heinz acknowledged the hard work of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) in promoting this ordinance.

Topics Advanced from previous Work Sessions – Emily Heinz

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Bauman, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve Borough Policy POL-002 Recruitment, Selection, Retention, and Removal of Members of Advisory Boards, as amended.
- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Bauman, seconded by Councilor Woldorf, and passed unanimously, to approve Borough Policy POL-005 Business Integrity, as amended.
- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Foley, seconded by Councilor Phillips, and passed unanimously, to approve the signing of a letter by the Council President, authorizing the Bucks County Board of Health to offer protection against the West Nile Virus by participating in its annual mosquito habitat reduction efforts.

Councilor Woldorf confirmed that the EAC reviewed and approved the letter.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Woldorf, and passed unanimously, to advertise Ordinance #800, amending Snow Emergency Ordinance §535-34 A (3).

Councilor Woldorf stated that the amended ordinance clarifies that parking is allowed during snow emergencies on all borough roads except those with signage indicating otherwise.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Phillips, and passed unanimously, to approve the proposal for the Patriots Park garage window installation from D.A. Zerby at a total cost of \$3,600.

President's Report – Emily Heinz - none

Approval of Minutes

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Bauman, and passed unanimously, to approve the February 7, 2024 Work Session minutes as amended.
- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Bauman, and passed unanimously, to approve the February 13, 2024 Council Meeting minutes.

Budget & Finance –Emily Heinz, Gail Foley & Julia Woldorf

❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Foley, seconded by Councilor Woldorf, and passed unanimously, to accept, subject to audit, the Consolidated Expenditure Report for the month of February totaling \$357,628.85.

Personnel/Committee of Council Appointments– Josh Phillips

❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Woldorf, and passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Bob Mirales to the *Environmental Advisory Council* for the remainder of a three-year term through December 31, 2026.

Tara Grunde-McLaughlin, Resident, spoke favorably of Bob Mirales and acknowledged his previous involvement on other Committees of Council.

President Heinz announced the remaining vacancies on Committees, Commissions, and Boards which include:

Civil Service Commission – 1 Alternate
Human Relations Commission – 2 Members
Joint Historic Commission – 1 Member
Recreation Board - Secretary
Shade Tree Commission – 1 Member

Streets, Lights & Properties – Emily Heinz & Julia Woldorf

❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Bauman, and passed unanimously, to authorize the advertisement of the 2024 Roadway Improvement Program which includes S. Norwood Ave. from Washington to Centre Ave., N. Elm Ave. from Andrew Drive to 202 N. Elm Ave., S. Congress St. from Washington to Centre Ave., and base repairs on Jefferson and N. State Streets, at an estimated cost of \$231,855.

President Heinz noted the prioritization of road work includes coordination with the Newtown Artesian Water Company to share repair costs.

Old Business - none

Announcements

President Heinz reminded Council of the April 1st semi-annual printed newsletter deadline.

President Heinz reported that the traffic light installation began on Monday at the intersection of Washington and Lincoln Avenues, with an anticipated completion in May; crosswalks may

be closed during construction and the public is reminded to only cross streets at the crosswalks.

Councilor Bauman noted Council's input on color selection for the wall to be constructed at the intersection. Councilor Woldorf noted that the engineering team provided the design. Councilor Bauman questioned the aesthetic appropriateness of the wall in this location but, noting that it is only 16 inches high, found it to be acceptable.

Public to be Heard - none

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy S. Musto
Borough Secretary

Attendees

Warren Woldorf
Tim Markey
Samantha McGraw

Tara Grunde-McLaughlin
Katherine Borish
Robin Hoy – Non-Resident