

Council Meeting
September 16, 2025
7:00 P.M.
Chancellor Center

Present: Councilors Heinz, Foley, Tognini, Woldorf; Mayor Burke; Manager Totaro; Solicitors Heleniak & Bethala; Police Chief Sabath; Fire Chief Forsyth
Remote: Councilor Bauman
Absent: Councilor Phillips

President Heinz called the regular semi-monthly meeting of Newtown Borough Council to order at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 16, 2025. The President asked those in attendance to join her in a moment of silence for those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and for Fallen Newtown Borough Police Officer Brian S. Gregg who was killed in the line of duty 20 years ago, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public to be Heard

Chris Brill, Resident, expressed concern regarding motorized bicycles along sidewalks, noting the danger to pedestrians.

Mr. Brill also questioned the proposed earlier start time of the holiday parade, noting that it may interfere with religious services.

Barbara Simmons, Resident, speaking on behalf of Newtown Friends Meeting and other local faith leaders, requested that the holiday parade begin at 2:00 P.M. as in the past. Ms. Simmons shared concerns regarding road closures and choosing between religious services and the parade.

Certificates of Appropriateness – Kris Bauman

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

COA 2025-015, Applicant: Alejandra Alvarez, 154 N. Congress Street, residence

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of the existing vinyl siding and addition of a fence in the backyard.

HARB recommended approval of the application as submitted, noting that the siding will be smooth Hardie Plank with a 4 1/2" - 5" exposure to be used on the house and the addition.

COA 2025-027, Applicant: Maritza Barrantes, 109 Mercer Street, Saunders residence

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for a full roof replacement.
HARB recommended approval of the application as submitted.

COA 2025-030, Applicant: D. Scott Miller, 304 Edgeboro Drive, residence

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of a deck with a Trex deck at the back of the house; replacement of the roof on the house, the garage, and the shed; and the replacement of the garage siding with board and batten wood siding.
HARB recommended approval of the application as submitted.

COA 2025-032, Applicant: Eileen Dutton, 300 Edgeboro Drive, residence

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the repair of the existing retaining wall with similar material, the removal of the existing deck, and the addition of a walkway from the existing brick pad to existing stairs.
HARB recommended approval of the application as submitted.

COA 2025-033, Applicants: William & Judith Fellows, 149 N. State Street, residence

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the construction of a pergola over a new patio behind the house.
HARB recommended approval of the application as submitted.

Fire Report – Chief Forsyth

Chief Forsyth shared the August report, announcing 13 emergency responses and 10 fire safety inspections in the Borough. The Chief introduced Rory LaRosa, Deputy Chief of Newtown Fire Services; he announced that October is Fire Safety Month, and they are actively recruiting new members. In response to Manager Totaro, Chief Forsyth stated that he'd share data providing the number of volunteers and paid firefighters per service call.

Police Report – Chief Sabath

The Chief reported 254 service calls in August and continuation of their aggressive driving campaign. There were 130 traffic stops resulting in 33 warnings and 97 citations, primarily for speeding and red-light violations. Chief Sabath reported 4 traffic accidents, one of which

involved 3 vehicles and resulted in injury on Washington Ave. The Chief also reported thefts from unlocked vehicles, an arrest, and juvenile incidents.

Chief Sabath announced that there will be a gravesite service on September 29th at 9:00 A.M. in honor of Officer Brian S. Gregg who remains the last police officer murdered in Bucks County.

Chief Sabath advised that e-bikes are not allowed on sidewalks as opposed to pedi-cycles.

Mayor's Report

Special Event Applications:

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to take from the table consideration of the Newtown Holiday Parade, sponsored by the Newtown Business Association.

President Heinz announced that the Newtown Business Association (NBA) responded to a list of questions from Council regarding the holiday parade.

Dan Petty, NBA Parade Organizer, responded to Council's requests and discussed the staging time, start time, total duration, full schedule of parade day activities in both municipalities, singing of the National Anthem, and more. Concerns included the interruption of religious services, additional security to support both police departments, parade theme, number of acts, and screening for appropriateness of acts. Mr. Petty stated that there will not be political acts in the parade. Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to move the start time from 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Foley, seconded by Councilor Tognini, and passed unanimously, to approve the Newtown Holiday Parade, sponsored by the Newtown Business Association, on Sunday, December 7th, 9:00 A.M.-5:00P.M. with a 12:30 P.M. start time, along a designated route. No rain date.

Tara Grunde-McLaughlin, Resident, noted that tractors in the parade need to stage earlier than other acts in the parade.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve the Peace Pole Installation, sponsored by the Newtown Rotary Club, on Sunday, October 5th, 2:00 – 6:00 P.M., in a designated location at Linton Memorial Park. Rain date is Sunday, October 19th.

Barbara Simmons, Resident, stated that the Peace Pole ceremony will take place between 4:00 and 5:00 P.M.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve Torah Dancing, sponsored by Lubavitch of Bucks County, on Tuesday, October 14th, 7:45 – 8:45 P.M., on State Street between Greene Street and Washington Avenue. No rain date.
- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve the Halloween Movie in the Park, sponsored by the Newtown Recreation Board, on Friday, October 17th, 6:00-9:00 P.M., at Linton Memorial Park. No rain date.
- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve the Halloween Parade, sponsored by the Newtown Recreation Board, on Saturday, October 25th, 9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M., on a designated parade route ending at Brian S. Gregg Park. No rain date.
- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve the Tree Lighting, sponsored by the Newtown Experience Group, on Friday, December 5th, 6:30 – 8:30 P.M., at the Newtown Fire Association on Liberty Street. No rain date.

Nicole Rodowicz, Newtown Experience Group (NEG) Member, announced that the NEG is collaborating with Chief Sabath and Walk Friendly Newtown to take measures for improving pedestrian safety at the tree lighting.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve the Chanukah Lighting, sponsored by Lubavitch of Bucks County, on Sunday, December 21st, 4:00 – 5:30 P.M., on State Street between Greene Street and Washington Avenue. No rain date.

Special Event Reminders:

- Newtown Library Company 5K, Saturday, October 4th, 8:30-10:00 A.M. beginning and ending at 114 Centre Ave., along a designated race route. No rain date.
- Market Day, sponsored by the Newtown Historic Association, Saturday, October 4th, 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. Set-up beginning at 7:00 A.M. Rain date is Sunday, October 5th.

President Heinz announced that the Haunted Hustle 5K organizer has requested use of the municipal parking lot at Borough Hall for her event. The Solicitor advised that Council should vote to approve this change at an upcoming meeting.

Solicitor's Report – Greg Heleniak

Solicitor Heleniak provided background information and the necessity to vote on the following motions.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Tognini, and passed unanimously, to adopt Resolution #9-16-2025 authorizing the execution of the Pedestrian Bridge Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Newtown Township.

Richard Furst, Resident, asked where the pedestrian bridge will be located. Councilor Woldorf described the location, noting that it will not be built on the old bridge piers.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Tognini, and passed unanimously, to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Newtown Township regarding the engineering and construction of the pedestrian bridge.

Manager's Report – Craig Totaro

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Tognini, and passed unanimously, to approve the 2026 Pension Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) in the amount of \$16,051.00 for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan.

President Heinz confirmed with Manager Totaro that the MMO amount could be increased.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Tognini, and passed unanimously, to approve the 2026 Pension Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) in the amount of \$70,368.00 for the Police Pension Plan.

Manager Totaro announced that the budget schedule has been set for discussions and approvals at upcoming meetings.

Manager Totaro stated the need for Council to approve the driveway pavers at 35 South Chancellor Street.

- ❖ A motion was duly made and amended by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Tognini, and passed unanimously, to approve the brick pavers for the driveway at 35 S. Chancellor Street, as depicted in the materials presented.

Manager Totaro proposed applying for a PECO Green Region Grant to use along the Newtown Creek easement at 110 N. State Street. The Manager announced that it is a \$10K grant with a \$10K municipal match. Council will consider the adoption of a Resolution to apply for the grant at the October Work Session.

Manager Totaro announced that the NEG has requested use of the Borough lampposts to display banners throughout the year. Nicole Rodowicz confirmed the NEG is interested in pursuing an agreement with the Borough for use of the 20 posts that are not being used for the Hometown Heroes. They're proposing seasonal banners with QR codes that draw people to the NEG website. Ms. Rodowicz will coordinate with Manager Totaro and Solicitor Heleniak to further the discussion and move forward.

Councilor Woldorf and Manager Totaro announced that a grant was applied for and received to install 100 plants from Bowman's Wildflower Preserve; they will be planted along the Old Skunky easement at 210 S Chancellor Street, Newtown Common and Patriots Park.

President's Report – Emily Heinz

President Heinz announced the need for a new Fire Services Agreement with Newtown Township and shared the current proposal for the next three years. The President stated that the Borough is currently paying \$189,712, and the amount will be raised each year by approximately 1 mill, .5 mill, and .5 mill respectively, to an amount of \$275,484. in 2028. President Heinz stated that additional funds will still need to be transferred from the general fund. The President noted that there was a mixed reaction from the Newtown Township Supervisors who are on the joint municipal Fire Services Committee.

Approval of Minutes

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Foley, seconded by Councilor Woldorf, and passed unanimously, to approve August 6, 2025 Work Session minutes.
- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councilor Foley, seconded by Councilor Tognini, and passed unanimously, to approve August 20, 2025 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 August totaling \$288,481.32.

Personnel/Committees of Council Appointments – Gina Tognini

Councilor Tognini announced the following committees of Council vacancies:

- Civil Service Commission – Recording Secretary
- Human Relations Commission – 3 Members
- Newtown Bucks County Jt. Municipal Authority – 1 Member

Old Business - none

Announcements

President Heinz reported that an executive session took place prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel.

Public to be Heard

Dan Petty, NBA Holiday Parade Organizer, confirmed a 12:30 P.M. start time, 9:00 A.M. staging time, and street closure at approximately 11:30 A.M., stating that the NBA had responded to questions regarding parking but didn't realize noise was a concern. President Heinz stated that, if the Friends Meeting agreed to a parade start time earlier than 12:30 P.M., Council would reconsider their decision.

Eileen Dutton, Resident, asked if the pedestrian bridge will be lit 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Councilor Woldorf noted that the final bridge design is not complete so more information will be available going forward, noting that safety lighting and downlighting along the path is being considered. In response to Ms. Dutton, Councilor Woldorf stated that bicycles will be allowed on the pedestrian bridge but not e-bikes. Ms. Dutton inquired about signage and snow removal as well.

President Heinz called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 P.M. Councilor Tognini so moved, Councilor Woldorf seconded, and the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy S. Musto
Borough Secretary

Attendees

Randi Lawrie
Trish Beasley
Eileen Dutton
Fred & Cheri Peters
Marcia Lincoln-Heinz
Chris Brill
Tara Grunde-McLaughlin
Dan Petty
Richard Furst
Todd McGonigal

Warren Woldorf
Rory LaRosa
Barbara Simmons
Mike Sellers
Veronica Lincoln
Nicole Rodowicz
Kathleen McCafferty
Rebecca Rescate
Dana Weissenberg