

**Council Meeting
December 17, 2025
7:00 P.M.
Chancellor Center**

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

President Heinz called the regular semi-monthly meeting of Newtown Borough Council to order at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. Mayor Burke asked for a Moment of Silence in honor of Glenn D. Hains who served as Newtown Borough Mayor from January 1995 through May 2008. President Heinz asked those in attendance to join her in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public to be Heard

Sheila Shenoy, Non-resident, invited everyone to a free meditation event in Doylestown, as part of World Meditation Day, on December 21st at 9:30 AM.

Presentation of Plaque in Recognition of Mayor Burke's Service

President Heinz presented Mayor Burke with a plaque commemorating his years of service as both a Borough Councilor and Mayor and expressed her appreciation in getting to know and work with him.

Certificates of Appropriateness – Kris Bauman

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Bauman, seconded by Councilor Foley, 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 2025-044, Applicant: Vincent Piacente, 121 Court Street, Stack residence

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for renovations to the house and garage.

HARB recommended approval of the application as submitted, noting that the three awning windows on Elevation 4 and the awning window in the gable on the garage will be changed to casement or square windows, and the hood over the rear door will be lowered.

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Bauman, seconded by Councilor Phillips, 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 2025-045, Applicant: The Fence Guys, 134 Liberty Street, Kushner residence

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of an existing fence.

HARB recommended approval of the application as submitted, noting that the good side of the fence will face outward.

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Bauman and seconded by Councilor Tognini, to follow the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board and direct the President of Council to sign the following Certificate of Appropriateness. It was then unanimously tabled by Councilor Woldorf and seconded by Councilor Phillips.

COA 2025-047, Applicant: Benjamin Phillips, Ralph C. Fey Architects, 110 N. Lincoln Avenue, Deitzel residence

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for installation of a fence.

HARB recommended approval of the style and material of the fence in the application, contingent upon Zoning approval.

Council noted that this applicant has submitted a Zoning Hearing Board application and Council's decision on this COA application will take place after that hearing.

Police Report – Chief Sabath

The Chief reported 186 service calls in November, 55 traffic citations primarily for speeding and aggressive driving, and 4 traffic accidents. Chief Sabath announced that the Turkey Trot 5K in honor of fallen officer Brian S. Gregg raised \$20K for the Bucks County Scholarship Fund. He shared additional Newtown Borough Police Department (NBPD) activity throughout the month.

Mayor's Report – John Burke

Mayor Burke acknowledged the Newtown Experience Group volunteers for all their efforts with the annual tree lighting and the Newtown Business Association for organizing the holiday parade. President Heinz announced that Borough Hall was on this year's Newtown Historic Association Holiday House Tour; she thanked Councilor Tognini for decorating Borough Hall and coordinating volunteers to host.

Solicitor's Report – Greg Heleniak

Solicitor Heleniak thanked Mayor Burke for his service; he did not receive any questions regarding his report.

Manager's Report – Craig Totaro

Manager Totaro reported that 13 trees were recently planted in Newtown Borough, largely due to efforts of the Shade Tree Commission, including the Susan Turner Memorial tree in Patriots Park.

Manager Totaro stated that the 2024 Audit has been completed, the new website is under construction, and the Frost Lane sidewalk project is complete. The Manager supports reappointing Bee, Bergvall and Company as independent auditors due to their historic knowledge. The Manager thanked Mayor Burke for working together with him on the police collective bargaining agreement.

Councilor Bauman commended Manager Totaro for his work on the 2026 budget.

President's Report – Emily Heinz

President Heinz announced that the following topics have been advanced from previous meetings where they were discussed at length:

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Woldorf, and passed unanimously, to adopt the 2026 Budget.
- A motion was duly made by Councilor Foley, seconded by Councilor Tognini, and passed unanimously, to adopt Ordinance #807 setting the 2026 Real Estate Tax millage.
- A motion was duly made by Councilor Tognini, seconded by Councilor Phillips, and passed unanimously, to adopt Ordinance #808 regarding the Fire Code in the Borough.
- A motion was duly made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to enter a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Newtown Borough Police Officers Association for a four-year term expiring December 31, 2029.

President Heinz expressed her appreciation for having the NBPD protecting our community and the desire to keep them safe and happy.

Approval of Minutes

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Foley, seconded by Councilor Phillips, and passed unanimously, to approve the November 5, 2025 Work Session minutes.

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Foley, seconded by Councilor Phillips, and passed unanimously, to approve the November 18, 2025 Council Meeting minutes.

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

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to accept, subject to audit, the Consolidated Expenditure Report for the month of November totaling \$208,167.82.
- A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to adopt Resolution 12-17-2025 regarding the appointment of Bee, Bergvall and Company as an Independent Auditor for fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027.

Personnel/Committees of Council Appointments – Gina Tognini

Councilor Tognini announced a few current committee vacancies; she also stated that mostly all volunteers whose terms end this year are seeking reappointment in 2026.

Old Business – Councilor Woldorf confirmed with President Heinz that Borough Hall closure dates during the holidays will be posted on the website and at Borough Hall.

Announcements - Councilor Phillips announced that Caroling through the Borough, sponsored by the Recreation Board earlier this evening, was a success with 30-40 participants.

Public to be Heard - none

President Heinz called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Councilor Phillips so moved, Councilor Tognini seconded, and the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy S. Musto
Borough Secretary

Attendees

Marybeth, Erin & Bridget Burke
Jeff Werner
Tara Grunde-McLaughlin

Warren Woldorf
Sheila Shenoy
Robert Stack

Glenn D. Hains Memorial Page

The Honorable Glenn D. Hains served as the Mayor of Newtown Borough for 13 years, beginning in January 1995. He resigned in May 2008 when he accepted the position of Bucks County Solicitor in Doylestown.

Mayor Hains left his mark on Newtown Borough in numerous ways. The first marriage ceremony he performed as Mayor was for Dave and Mary Callahan. He also conducted the swearing-in ceremony for Sergeant Sean Orr when he first joined the Newtown Borough Police Department as a Part-time Police Officer.

Mayor Hains is remembered by colleagues, friends and neighbors in the community for his intelligence, integrity, generosity, kindness, and care for the community he served.