

**Newtown Borough Council – Council Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2026**

Video time: 0:41

The Council Meeting of Newtown Borough Council was called to order at 5:30 P.M. on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at Borough Hall – 23 North State Street in Newtown Borough, PA.

[This meeting was recorded.](#)

President Heinz asked those in attendance to join her in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Councilors Heinz, Foley, Phillips, Tognini, Woldorf; Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin; Chief Sabath; Solicitors Naughton & Passero; Manager Totaro

Absent: Councilor Bauman; Fire Chief Forsyth

Public to be Heard *Video time: 1:16*

Charles Machion, Resident, commented on the large pothole at 117 N. State Street and requested that a pothole survey be conducted once the weather permits. He noted that 5 streetlights aren't working on State Street. Mr. Machion asked when PECO will be restoring Centre Avenue and State Street. Craig Totaro, Borough Manager, replied that PECO will repave early to mid-April. Mr. Machion requested that state elected officials be requested to push this restoration. President Heinz added that potholes on Washington Ave. need to be addressed.

Gary Roberts, Resident, noted that several Borough sidewalks were not shoveled during the recent snowstorms, forcing people to walk in the streets. President Heinz shared what the Ordinance states.

Joe Lovi, Resident, commended Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin for snowplowing efforts during the most recent snowstorm. President Heinz noted that the Mayor worked closely with the Borough contractor.

Certificates of Appropriateness – Kris Bauman *Video time: 5:00*

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Phillips, 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 2025-046, 19 Sterling Street, residence, Applicant: Charles Ralston, Five Clovers Construction
The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the construction of a 2nd floor addition.

HARB recommended approval of the application as submitted, noting that the visible new window will be simulated divided light and that the porch ceiling will be Azek, tongue and groove, smooth finish.

COA 2026-001, 26 S. State Street, retail store, Applicant: Craig Weidman

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for a hanging sign and a vinyl window cling.

HARB recommended approval of the hanging sign only.

COA 2026-002, 12 S. State Street, retail store, Applicant: Melinda Vallone

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for an in-kind window replacement.

HARB recommended approval of the application as submitted.

COA 2026-003, 109 N. State Street, residence Applicant: Joel Petty

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the construction of an addition.

HARB recommended approval of the application as submitted.

Mayor's Report – Tara Grunde-McLaughlin Video time: 7:13

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Tognini, and was unanimously tabled regarding the Antique & Classic Car Show, sponsored by the Newtown Business Association, on Sunday, July 26, 2026. 7:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. on State Street between Jefferson Street and Centre Avenue. Rain date is August 2, 2026.

Council will vote on this special event at the March 4th Work Session when the applicant is present.

Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin stated that arranging for curb-to-curb snow plowing along the snow emergency routes, and managing the snow removal in orchestrated batches, improved the results of the last snowstorm. Councilor Phillips noted the improvements on Washington Ave.

Police Report – Chief Sabath Video time: 8:50

Chief Sabath reported 188 calls for service in January, including 8 traffic accidents.

Solicitor's Report – Libby Naughton for Greg Heleniak Video time: 11:37

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to advertise an amendment to the Mobile Food Vendor Ordinance.

Manager's Report – Craig Totaro Video time: 13:27

Craig Totaro announced that he is approaching PECO for road restoration as soon as possible.

Mr. Totaro noted the increased expenses in the first quarter as well as the Frost Lane reimbursement of \$170K that is due to the Borough.

Mr. Totaro reported that the Comcast easement proposal will be on the March 4th Work Session agenda.

President Heinz requested that Manager Totaro work with PennDOT to pave Washington Ave.

President's Report – Emily Heinz Video time: 16:09

Approval of Minutes *Video time: 16:19*

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve the January 5, 2026 Reorganization Meeting minutes.
- A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve the January 21, 2026 Council Meeting minutes.

Budget & Finance – Emily Heinz, Gail Foley, & Julia Woldorf *Video time: 17:08*

- 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 January totaling \$442,911.90.

Personnel/Committees of Council Appointments – Gina Tognini *Video time: 17:43*

Councilor Tognini announced existing vacancies and made the following motions:

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Tognini, seconded by Councilor Phillips, and passed unanimously, to appoint Jennifer Brown to the *Human Relations Commission* for the remainder of a three-year term through December 31, 2028.

President Heinz reported the positive feedback that the Borough's Human Relations Commission recently received from Newtown Township.

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Tognini, seconded by Councilor Phillips, and passed unanimously, to appoint Katrina Maples to the *Recreation Board* for the remainder of a five-year term through December 31, 2030.
- A motion was duly made by Councilor Tognini, seconded by Councilor Phillips, and passed unanimously, to appoint Diane LeBas as Chairperson of the *Vacancy Board* for a 1-year term through December 31, 2026.

President Heinz thanked Councilor Tognini for her efforts in recruiting volunteers, noting their importance on our Boards and Commissions.

Old Business *Video time: 19:49*

Councilor Phillips questioned what was stated at last night's HARB meeting regarding the wall at 239 Court Street. Secretary Musto stated that Margaret Newman, HARB Consultant, will provide the meeting minutes by next Wednesday.

Councilor Woldorf stated that the Pedestrian Bridge Project should be going out for bid on Penn Bid at the end of the week.

Councilor Woldorf reported that an EV Ordinance discussion will take place at the March 4th Work Session, and supporting documents will be shared for Council's review prior to the weekend.

Announcements *Video time: 21:32*

President Heinz announced that the March Council Meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, March 10th and advised everyone that meeting information is available on the website calendar.

Public to be Heard *Video time: 22:12*

Joe Lovi, Resident, noted that the police station lease with the Newtown Fire Association was extended another 6 months and asked if there is a plan of action when that expires. President Heinz assured Mr. Lovi that negotiations are proceeding, and pursuing eminent domain will not be necessary.

Mr. Lovi asked whether the new owner of the former Steeple View property could construct a building for Borough use, noting that the Borough gave the prior owner approximately one acre of land at that site. Mr. Lovi suggested that Borough Hall could be used for the Newtown Borough Police Department; he added that this matter should have been in the 10-year Comprehensive Plan.

President Heinz called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 P.M. Councilor Phillips so moved, Councilor Tognini seconded, and the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy S. Musto
Borough Secretary

Attendees

Libby Naughton – CGBAG Law
Charles Machion
Gary Roberts
Craig Weidman-Zoom
Melinda Vallone-Zoom

Jonathan Passero – CGBAG Law
Joe Lovi
Charles Ralston
Bob Musto-Zoom
Warren Woldorf-Zoom