

Newtown Borough Council -- Work Session Minutes
March 4, 2026

Video time: 0:47

The regular monthly Work Session of Newtown Borough Council was called to order at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, March 4, 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, Tognini, Foley, Phillips, Woldorf; Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin; Chief Sabath; Solicitors Heleniak & Passero; Engineer Fountain; Manager Totaro
Remote: Councilor Bauman

Public to be Heard *Video time: 1:15*

Mallore Neuman, Resident, spoke about her medical condition and the challenges she faces due to a lack of a driveway on her property. She requested a variance to install a driveway, highlighting the need for safety and convenience, but was denied by the zoning hearing board. The Council discussed a compromise involving a designated parking spot along with a pillar agreement that includes the hanging of an electric car charger, which Mallore agreed to in exchange for the variance.

Matthew Neuman, Resident, expressed frustration over a temporary installation in his yard, noting it resulted from anger and disappointment over their inability to resolve the issues as described by his wife, Mallore.

Engineer's Report – Michele Fountain *Video time: 9:29*

Engineer Fountain stated that she will share her review of a Zoning Overlay Ordinance at next week's Council Meeting. The Engineer announced the completion of the Frost Lane sidewalk and bicycle sharrow project and is reviewing the 110 North State Street subdivision and land development project. Engineer Fountain reported no changes in the Court & State LLC development.

Mayor's Report – Tara Grunde-McLaughlin *Video time: 10:43*

Special Event Requests:

Angelo Louridas, Newtown Business Association (NBA) Member, provided a map that shows the location of port-a-potties at the car show, as requested. The NBA will apply for food trucks.

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve 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, including the use of the Borough Hall parking lot. Rain date is August 2, 2026.

Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin announced the following events to be voted on next week by Council:

- Recreation Board - Arbor Day 2026

- Memorial Day Parade, sponsored by the American Legion – Morell Smith Post 440

The Annual Wine Walk Fundraiser, sponsored by the Newtown Theatre, does not need Council approval as it doesn't include street closure or police services.

Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin announced the following special event reminder:

- Shamrock Shuffle 5K, sponsored by Boss Events benefitting charity partner A Love for Life, on Saturday, March 14, 2026, 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. on a designated race route. No rain date.

Solicitor's Report – Greg Heleniak *Video time: 19:49*

The Solicitor reviewed the 446 Washington Avenue appeal stipulation, which involves a settlement for a zoning appeal case where the Neumans were denied a driveway in their front yard. The Solicitor explained the process and timeline for finalizing the settlement, noting that Council's approval would send a message to the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) to move forward. The Council will vote on the settlement next week, and Solicitor Heleniak will communicate their decision to the ZHB if they do not act. The Solicitor stated that the court will make the final decision and explained the different scenarios that would result from that final decision. The Solicitor responded to numerous questions from Council, some of which pertained to compliance with the pending EV Ordinance and the settlement agreement. Councilor Woldorf suggested that the conversation continue in Executive Session.

Manager's Report – Craig Totaro *Video time: 42:55*

Manager Totaro presented the terms of a Comcast easement agreement which includes receiving \$5,000 plus \$1,000 for legal review, transfer of wires, removal of inactive wires, and enforceable deadlines.

The Borough Manager stated that an LSA Pedestrian Planning Grant, received in 2022-23, is in the process of being implemented and extended; the Manager has prepared an RFP to release to planning firms. Ms. Tognini agreed to participate and assist with the process of vetting proposals and Council agreed to include the Walk Friendly Newtown Committee in the selection committee.

Manager Totaro discussed landscaping services, proposing a new RFP for a one-year contract with auto-renewal and a May 1st start date. The Council agreed to add weed removal from under trash cans and playground mulched areas to the RFP specifications. Council will vote next week to solicit bids.

Manager Totaro discussed the upcoming renovation of the Chancellor Center in 2027, which will render the Board Room unavailable. Borough Council explored options, including using the sewer authority building or remaining at Borough Hall. The Manager announced the updating of technology at Borough Hall to include installing a large screen monitor. Chief Sabath stated that the Chancellor Center renovations are scheduled to begin this November.

Manager Totaro addressed a request from the Newtown Theatre regarding an anonymous donation to install historical pavers at Patriots Park. He and Councilor Woldorf noted some restrictions to park modifications due to the grant funding for this project. Council suggested they respond to the

anonymous donor with an option to restore the carriage house and/or install historical panels inside the carriage house. Councilor Tognini proposed that Patriots Park, with a renovated carriage house, be available to the public for a fee.

Borough Council reviewed and discussed a proposed electric vehicle (EV) charging ordinance. Council members examined various aspects of the ordinance, including regulations for installing EV charging stations in public rights-of-way, requirements for new construction, and safety protocols. The discussion touched on concerns about the placement of charging stations, safety features, and the impact on historic properties. Council members also debated whether to require new homes to be "make-ready" for EV chargers. The conversation ended with a decision to compile remaining thoughts and questions about the ordinance, which Councilor Woldorf would review and address.

President's Report – Emily Heinz *Video time: 1:58:27*

President Heinz announced that she and Manager Totaro will work on a policy regarding external communications to local media from staff and committees; the policy will include social media and be considered by Council in April.

Personnel/Committees of Council Appointments – Gina Tognini *Video time: 2:00:24*

Councilor Tognini announced two remaining member vacancies on the Human Relations Commission. The Council discussed pending decisions regarding recording secretaries.

Old Business - none

Announcements *Video time: 2:00:31*

President Heinz announced that an Executive Session will follow the meeting to discuss litigation.

Councilor Woldorf stated that the Pedestrian Bridge project is advertised on Penn Bid.

Chief Sabath announced that Kella Ann Gregg, widow of deceased Newtown Borough Police Officer Brian S. Gregg, passed away last week.

Secretary Musto reminded Council of the March 17th deadline for newsletter submissions.

Public to be Heard - none

President Heinz called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 P.M. Councilor Phillips so moved, Councilor Foley seconded, and the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy S. Musto
Borough Secretary

Attendees

Angelo Louridas
Don Hayden
Warren Woldorf
Bob Musto-Zoom

Jeff Werner
Matthew & Mallore Neuman
Karen White-Zoom