

Council Meeting
April 10, 2012
Chancellor Center

President Robert Walker called the regular semi-monthly meeting of Newtown Borough Council to order at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 10, 2012. Mr. Walker asked those in attendance to join him in a moment of silence and to remember Kevin Edmonds who recently passed away. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the moment of silence.

Present: Councillors Auerweck, Burke, King, Machion, Walker and Warren; Mayor Dennis O'Brien and Solicitor William J. Bolla.

Mayor's Report – Dennis O'Brien

Special Event Reminders

- Hope on the Vine – April 21, 2012, from 5-10 PM at the Stocking Works- Sponsored by Newtown Rotary Club
- Election Day – April 24, 2012
- Arbor Day – April 27, 2012, from 10 A.M. until Noon at Brian S. Gregg Memorial Park

Volunteer Proclamations

In recognition of Volunteer Month, Mayor O'Brien read a Proclamation thanking all volunteers and volunteer organizations for donating their time to Newtown Borough and its residents, making it one of the best small towns in America.

Recognition of Gerard J. O'Malley

Mayor O'Brien then recognized former Councillor Gerard O'Malley with a plaque, acknowledging his years of service and dedication as a member of Newtown Borough Council from January 2008 to January 2012. Mr. O'Malley thanked Council saying that it had been an honor to serve his community.

Annual Report of the Police Department – Chief Anthony Wojciechowski

Chief Wojciechowski presented the March Police Report, which included 2 DUI arrests. The Borough Police Department, formed in 1980, currently has five full-time officers and seven part-time officers. The Chief reported on the various training programs required by the State of Pennsylvania for his police officers, which includes 16 hours of mandatory training, and non-mandatory training in other areas. Homeland security and public safety are the main concerns for the Borough officers and the main resident complaint is traffic. Many of the problems handled are quality of life issues, which include graffiti and out-of-control animals. In 2011, the Borough police wrote 3170 incident reports, which included criminal investigations for 3 burglaries, 57 thefts, 15 vandalisms and 6 assaults, in addition to follow-up for disorderly conduct and public intoxication. Chief Wojciechowski said that the *Boots on the Ground* program which

takes place May through June on Friday and Saturday nights involves either walking or riding a bike to cover a specific area between Starbucks down Penn Street to Linton Memorial Park and back around Centre Avenue to South State Street. The patrols are highly visible and this program encourages the youth to behave. More officers need bike training, which includes riding down steps, and the Chief is hoping to obtain another bicycle. The Borough police department is a member of the Southeastern Emergency Response Team (SERT) that includes 13 police departments with special training in hostage negotiation and special weapons training. If the Borough is not a member of this team, but needs their services, they would bill the Borough per officer at an hourly rate, which for a normal incident could cost approximately \$100,000. Membership in SERT guarantees no cost to the Borough should services be required. The Borough belongs to the Major Incident Response Team (MIRT), which responds to major disasters or Presidential visits and supplies traffic enforcement and security, again at no cost to the Borough as a member. Court prosecutions involve an overtime expense to the Borough but are necessary to pursue those who have broken the law. Last year 1700 parking tickets were written, 1000+ moving violations (red lights, stop signs, speeding, etc.), and they arrested 18 individuals for DUI or controlled substances.

Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda

President's Report

Mr. Walker announced that the Borough did not receive the ARLE Grant that would have assisted in the replacement of mandated Borough signage. The Borough added \$84,000 as a budget line item in 2012 for sign replacement, and they should revisit the figure, since the Borough did not receive the additional funds.

Public to be Heard

There was no one from the public who wished to be heard at this time.

Certificates of Appropriateness

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Auerweck, and carried unanimously, to follow the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board and direct President of Council to sign the following Certificates of Appropriateness, thereby approving the historical appropriateness of the application, with final approval by the Code Enforcement Officer.

COA 2012-008-H Applicant: Annalisa Alessandro-Reavy, 126 S. State Street, Primary Colors Salon

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign for Primary Colors Salon, to be mounted on the front door and noting that a black border of no more than 1/2" thick would be added, keeping within the 5" x 15" size of the proposed sign and the lettering to be adjusted to accommodate the border.

COA 2012-009-H Applicant: Dennis A. Helmstetter, 24 N. State Street, All Sports Officials, LLC

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for a wall sign for All Sports Officials, LLC, to be mounted on the front façade of the building.

Presentation of Minutes

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Burke, seconded by Councillor Warren, and carried unanimously, to approve the March 7, 2012, Council Work Session Meeting minutes.
- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Machion, and carried unanimously, to approve the March 13, 2012, Council minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance – Robert Walker

Consolidated Report

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Machion, seconded by Councillor Burke, and carried unanimously, to accept, subject to audit, the consolidated expenditure report for the month of March 2012 totaling \$101,775.14.

Solicitor’s Report – William J. Bolla

Mr. Bolla presented three proposed Ordinance amendments.

- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Warren, seconded by Councillor King, and carried unanimously, to adopt Ordinance #724 amending the Newtown Borough Zoning Ordinance to update definitions and ensure consistency among Borough Ordinances and with current standards.
- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Warren, seconded by Councillor Machion, and carried unanimously, to adopt Ordinance #725 amending the Newtown Borough Sub-Division and Land Development Ordinance to update definitions and revise the ordinance to ensure consistency in the ordinance and current standards.
- ❖ A motion was duly made by Councillor Warren, seconded by Councillor Auerweck, and carried unanimously, to adopt Ordinance #726 amending the Newtown Borough Neshaminy Creek Watershed Act 167 Stormwater Management Ordinance to update definitions and revise ordinances to ensure consistency between Borough ordinances and with current standards.

Mr. Bolla reminded property owners that although small projects are exempt, voluntary implementation is highly encouraged. Capturing and controlling stormwater run-off as close to the source has the best chance of minimizing further damage downstream. The

1000 square foot limitation on new impervious area is cumulative for all permit applications submitted since the date of the ordinance.

Old Business

Mr. Burke reported that he scheduled a meeting with a manufacturer’s representative to look at the swing in the tot lot at Linton Memorial Park.

New Business

Mr. Warren announced dates for the Household Hazardous Waste drop-offs and for electronics drop-offs.

Mr. Auerweck said that he would present suggested changes to the Fee Schedule at the next Work Session and he has consulted with the Zoning Officer on these changes.

Public to be Heard

There was no one who wished to be heard at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Scull
Borough Secretary

ATTENDEES

Warren & Julia Woldorf	
Jeff Werner	<i>The Advance</i>
Jim McAuliffe	
Ted Schmidt	
Chris English	Courier Times
Gerard O’Malley	