

Newtown Borough Council - Work Session Minutes
June 3, 2026

Video time: 00:39

The regular monthly Work Session of Newtown Borough Council was called to order at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, June 3, 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, Woldorf; Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin; Chief Sabath; Solicitors Dorfschneider & Penrose; Engineer Fountain

Absent: Councilors Bauman & Phillips

Public to be Heard *Video time: 01:41*

Matthew Neuman, Resident, provided an update on Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) and feedback on PennDOT's purview in the legal right of way where permits are limited to utilities. Mr. Neuman noted potential policy changes for EVSE management at the state level and asked Council to consider options going forward.

Amy Smith, Non-Resident and Newtown Historic Association (NHA) Board Member, submitted a special event application for Market Day and is available to address questions regarding mobile food vendors.

Terry Kiely, Resident, expressed concerns that Lightpath had met with the Borough Manager in July and November 2025 to discuss cable installation through the Borough's historic district. Ms. Kiely questioned the lack of communications and suggested that Council evaluate how and why a negative event occurred to prevent it from happening in the future. Ms. Kiely requested that the Comprehensive Plan of 2022 be used to guide sidewalk installations.

Engineer's Report – Michele Fountain *Video time: 09:16*

Engineer Fountain announced that the 2026 road program will now include Brian S. Gregg Park curb, crosswalk, and ramp improvements; work on Edgeboro Drive, except for addressing potholes, will be postponed for a year to coincide with the new TASA grant. The Engineer reported that the Planning Commission made a conditional recommendation to approve the revised land development plan for 532 Penn Street.

Ms. Fountain confirmed that the Pedestrian Plan her engineering firm is producing will answer a lot of the questions raised this evening by Ms. Kiely.

Mayor's Report – Tara Grunde-McLaughlin *Video time: 12:25*

The Mayor announced the following special event requests for approval in two weeks:

- Music on State Street, Thursday evenings 7/9-9/3, benefiting the Opus Outreach Foundation
- Newtown Holiday Parade, sponsored by the Newtown Business Association (NBA), December 6th. Shighla Jackson, NBA member, announced that the change in parade route is due to

consolidation in one location large enough to stage all the acts. Ms. Jackson stated that the NBA will alert residents along the parade route and encourage activity on State Street. Chief Sabath confirmed that traffic coverage should be fine.

- Breast Cancer Fundraiser on 10/15, sponsored by Main Street, formerly known as Pine2Pink.
- Market Day, sponsored by the Newtown Historic Association, on 10/3. Amy Smith, NHA member, described the request for a maximum of 8 food vendors that aren't all categorized as food trucks. President Heinz advised Ms. Smith regarding the permitting process.

The Mayor announced the following special event reminders:

- Movie in the Park, *School of Rock*, sponsored by the Recreation Board at Linton Memorial Park on Wednesday, June 17th, 6:00-9:00pm.
- Pride Flag Raising, sponsored by the Human Relations Commission, at Borough Hall on Friday, June 5th, 6:00pm.

Solicitor's Report – Greg Heleniak *Video time: 30:16*

Solicitor Heleniak announced an extension of the current lease agreement with the NFA through December 31, 2026 for Council approval at the next meeting.

The Solicitor announced the Continued Appeal Hearing to discuss the 239 Court Street retaining wall cap. Christine and Tim Deegan provided samples displaying the proposed limestone replacement and the rough finish; Council will vote to approve in two weeks.

The Solicitor read a draft Resolution that included requirements to install sidewalks, curbs, and driveway aprons as part of subdivision and land development projects, new construction, substantial property improvements, and at the point of sale; he added that, according to what is stated in the Ordinance, Council may proceed. Council deliberated over the proposed requirements in the resolution that include a resale inspection requirement to include sidewalk repairs and more, with Councilor Foley expressing a desire to hear from the residents. The Solicitor will modify the resolution for consideration at the next Council Meeting which may be followed by an Ordinance Amendment.

Solicitor Heleniak reviewed and compared a Bamboo Ordinance presented by the Shade Tree Commission with a model Ordinance his firm has used in other municipalities, noting a close alignment between the two. The Solicitor received feedback from Council regarding the permitted time for removal of bamboo, violations, penalties, proper disposal, potted bamboo plants, and more. The Solicitor will incorporate Council's input into a draft Ordinance for review in July.

President's Report – Emily Heinz *Video time: 1:08:56*

President Heinz announced that a town hall meeting was held by Lightpath at the American Legion last week; it resulted in Lightpath's consideration to reroute the fiber optic lines outside of the Borough. Another meeting will take place next week among Lightpath, PA State government elected officials and Borough officials. Updates will be provided on the Borough website.

Old Business *Video time: 1:10:25*

Councilor Woldorf stated that the EAC sponsored Native Plants Workshop was highly successful; planters are on display on the Borough Hall front porch.

Councilor Woldorf reported that the Pedestrian Bridge bids came in well over budget and were rejected by the Township, which is the grant recipient. It is out for rebid as of yesterday as a base bid, with add alternates to be considered later.

Announcements - none

Public to be Heard *Video time: 1:12:12*

Tim Jones, Resident, disagreed with the patchwork approach to sidewalk installation, and expressed concern over the financial cost of requiring sidewalks on future home buyers.

Matthew Neuman, Resident, stated that the existing Sidewalk Ordinance allows for improvements to be enforced.

Terry Kiely, Resident, asked if any other Bucks County municipalities require sidewalks at the point of sale. Ms. Kiely noted that the patchwork of sidewalk installations will occur over decades. Ms. Kiely, former Planning Commission Member, pointed out that the 2022 Comprehensive Plan states that one side of each street should be chosen for the installation of sidewalks; she pointed out numerous streets that were identified 20 years ago that do not have sidewalks and the importance of notifying residents before making this significant change.

Brett Barry, Resident, confirmed with President Heinz that only Council Members in remote attendance are permitted to speak.

Mary Lutz, Resident, raised specific concerns about traffic impact and the lack of sidewalks on Penn and Elm Streets, particularly around planned developments.

Barb Hilton, Resident, expressed concern regarding the 661 Penn Street proposed Township development. Ms. Hilton suggested that the developer of 532 Penn Street be requested to place funds for sidewalk installation into an escrow account; the funds could apply towards a future sidewalk and curb plan, noting that curbs are needed given the rainwater issues on that street.

President Heinz called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 P.M. Councilor Phillips so moved, Councilor Tognini seconded, and the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy S. Musto
Borough Secretary

Attendees

Barbara Miller
Barbara Hilton
Terry Kiely
Tim Jones
Chrissy & Tim Deegan
Marie Keefer
Hannah Penrose-CGBAG Law
Bob Musto-Zoom
Warren Woldorf-Zoom
Jeanne & Steve Haeckel-Zoom
Diane LeBas-Zoom

Amy Smith
Mary Lutz
Warren Dallas
Shighla Jackson
Matthew Neuman
Wanda Leypoldt
Michael Dorfschneider- CGBAG Law
Jim Bruno-Zoom
Eugene Kiely-Zoom
Brett Barry-Zoom