

Newtown Borough Council – Council Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2026

Video time: 0:48

The Council Meeting of Newtown Borough Council was called to order at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, August 19, 2026 at the Chancellor Center – 30 North Chancellor 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, Bauman, Foley, Phillips, Woldorf; Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin
Solicitors Heleniak & Dorfschneider; Chief Sabath

Public to be Heard *Video time: 1:32*

Paul Salvatore, Resident, requested that the final four candidates for the Borough Manager position be interviewed at a public meeting as was done when hiring Police Chief Sabath.

Mr. Salvatore noted the rebidding of the snow removal contract, given that no contractors applied in the first round of bids and expressed concern that the vehicle requirements for snow removal are insufficient to meet the Borough's needs. Mr. Salvatore questioned the quality of snow removal services on those streets that are lower on the priority list.

Councilor Bauman reported that Borough Council follows the Sunshine Act and employment decisions are made publicly. Mr. Salvatore stated that the past Borough Manager was not interviewed at a public meeting.

Shari Donohue, Non-resident and Newtown Rotary Club Member, shared a proposal for a children's Fall Fest at Brian Gregg Park on October 24th to follow the Halloween Parade. Council will review the special event application at the September 2nd Work Session.

Mayoral Proclamation Honoring Awardees of Newtown Fire ~ Rescue – Tara Grunde-McLaughlin

Video time: 10:12

Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin read a proclamation honoring the awardees for their ongoing commitment to public safety, announcing the name and length of service of each awardee. The Mayor presented an additional proclamation to Warren Dallas, Newtown Fire Rescue President, for 50 years of service to the community. The Awardees of the Newtown Fire ~ Rescue received a standing ovation.

Certificates of Appropriateness – Kris Bauman *Video time: 14:30*

Councilor Bauman reported that a special HARB meeting was held last week to review the restoration of the kitchen annex at the Brick Hotel; he thanked both Council and HARB members for agreeing and attending the meeting, demonstrating the desire to move this project forward. Due to insufficient information, HARB tabled the application.

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Bauman, 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 2026-040, 111 Mercer Street—Porch floor replacement, Applicant: Patricia Pugh

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace her porch decking with mahogany.

HARB recommended approving the application as presented.

COA 2026-041, 245 S. Chancellor Street—Fence, Applicant: Ann Stroehlein

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a new fence.

HARB recommended approving the application as presented.

COA 2026-043, 14 Liberty Street —Brick Repointing, Applicant: Newtown Fire Association

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness to repoint three sides of the original brick firehouse.

HARB recommended approving the application as presented.

COA 2026-044, 10 S. State Street—New signs, Applicant: Natalia Baryshukaia

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of new signage.

HARB recommended approving the application as presented.

COA 2026-046A, 1 E. Washington Avenue—Awning and Canopy, Applicant: Verindar Kaur

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of the awnings.

HARB recommended approving the new awnings on the building.

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Bauman and seconded by Councilor Phillips, 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.

Council and the Solicitor discussed the definition of in-kind replacement and whether that referred to the original or existing condition of a structure; Councilor Woldorf questioned whether HARB COAs had been issued for past renovations to the home.

- A second motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Bauman, and passed unanimously, to table the following COA application to enable Council to review the file on this property to determine the appropriateness of this request.

COA 2026-045, 207 Penn Street —Window Replacement , Applicant: Linda Wolfenson

The applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace existing vinyl windows.

HARB recommended approving the application to replace all windows with vinyl except for three kitchen windows which will be upgraded to wood.

Councilor Foley expressed her desire to hear from HARB prior to tabling the window replacement.

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Bauman, seconded by Councilor Phillips, and passed with Councilors Heinz, Philips, and Woldorf in favor, Councilors Bauman, Foley, and Tognini opposed, and the Mayor breaking a tie, to follow the recommendation of the Historic Architectural Review Board and deny the following Certificate of Appropriateness.

COA 2026-046B, 1 E. Washington Avenue—Awning and Canopy, Applicant: Verindar Kaur

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of the awnings and the installation of a new canopy.

HARB recommended denying the canopy and recommended the installation of an awning at the entrance that matches the others.

Council debated on the appearance and appropriateness of the canopy.

Chase Troudi, Donatelli's Business Owner, stated that the canopy would shield restaurant goers from the rain.

Jim McAuliffe, HARB Chairperson, shared HARB's perspective in support of denying this application.

Rose Wuenschel, Resident, stated that she liked the appearance of the canopy in combination with the awnings and noted the improvement from the tents that had been there for five years.

David Oxley, Non-resident, shared his approval of the canopy along with the beautification and improvement to this property; he stressed the importance of supporting the business community.

Madeline Jones, Non-resident and Realtor, noted that Mr. Troudi has made a significant investment in improving this property and asked that it be taken into consideration.

Following the final vote, Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin requested that the applicant work with HARB to decrease the size of the canopy.

- 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 deny the following Certificate of Appropriateness.

COA 2026-038, 209 & 211 Court Street—Door Replacement, Applicant: Tiffany and Chris DiMedio

The applicant was seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of doors.

HARB recommended denying both applications stating the existing door at 209 should be repaired and restored while the replacement of the doors at 211 should be in wood.

Police Report – Chief Sabath Video time: 42:28

Chief Sabath reported 214 service calls in July; the Newtown Borough Police Department (NBPD) operated under an aggressive driving grant, with an emphasis on speeding and red-light running violations, that resulted in 57 traffic citations. The Chief reported on fraud investigations and incidents, October 24th Medication Takeback Day, and recent special events. Councilor Woldorf requested more enforcement at the intersection of Washington and Lincoln Avenues.

Mayor's Report – Tara Grunde-McLaughlin Video time: 45:10

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve Shofar in the Park, sponsored by Lubavitch of Bucks County at Pickering Field, on Sunday, September 13th, 5:30-6:00pm. No rain date.
- A motion was duly made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve Purple Ribbons, sponsored by A Woman's Place, September 26th-November 1st, in the center of town on public property.

President Heinz stated that the ribbons are placed on light posts in honor of domestic violence awareness.

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve PorchStock, sponsored by the Newtown Experience Group, on Saturday, September 26th throughout the Borough, 1:00-4:00pm. No rain date.
- A motion was duly made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve Dancing in the Street, sponsored by Lubavitch of Bucks County, on Saturday, October 3rd, 8:00-9:00pm, on State Street between Greene Street and Washington Avenue. No rain date.
- A motion was duly made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve the Haunted Hustle 5K Walk/Run, sponsored by the NR2F1 Foundation, Saturday, October 17th, 8:00-11:00am, on a designated race route. No rain date.
- A motion was duly made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve the Witches' Ride on Saturday, October 31st, 10:00-11:00am, along a designated bicycle route. No rain date.
- A motion was duly made by Councilor Phillips and seconded by Councilor Foley, to approve the Cupid's Chase 5K, sponsored by Community Options, Inc. on Saturday, February 13, 2027, 9:00-11:00am, along a designated race route. Rain date is February 20, 2027.

Council discussed the race route, noting that it goes through the Chancellor Center parking lot which will be fenced off due to construction at that time. Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin will discuss a revised race route with the applicant.

- A second motion was duly made by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Woldorf, and passed unanimously, to table the Cupid's Chase 5K, sponsored by Community Options, Inc. on Saturday, February 13, 2027, 9:00-11:00am, along a designated race route. Rain date is February 20, 2027.

Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin commended the NBPd for their assistance at the Newtown Celebrates America's 250th event. President Heinz agreed and thanked the Newtown Historic Association for all their planning.

Solicitor's Report – Greg Heleniak – none

President's Report – Emily Heinz *Video time: 53:11*

President Heinz announced that Council Meetings are moving to Borough Hall due to schedule conflicts and renovations at the Chancellor Center for the foreseeable future.

President Heinz added that there is no update on the Lightpath project as they are still pursuing easements on private property.

President Heinz stated that an active search for a new Borough Manager is underway.

Streets, Lights & Properties – Emily Heinz & Julia Woldorf *Video time: 54:35*

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Phillips, and passed unanimously, to accept a proposal from Scott's All Seasons for crosswalk painting and installation of an ADA mat at a cost not to exceed \$ 10,200.

President Heinz acknowledged the assistance of Walk Friendly Newtown in determining the crosswalks in need of painting.

Topics advanced from prior meetings: *Video time: 55:30*

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Tognini, and passed unanimously, to authorize the Council President to sign a contract, accepting the 2026 Roadway Improvement Program Construction bid from Harris Blacktopping, Inc., for the bid amount of \$81,461.25 based on the unit prices in the bid.
- A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Phillips, and passed unanimously, to approve the proposal from ARRO Consulting Inc. for design, construction and bid document preparation services for the Brian S. Gregg Memorial Park project, as funded through a DCNR Grant, in the amount of \$32,775 with \$1,000 for reimbursable expenses.

Approval of Minutes *Video time: 57:00*

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Foley, seconded by Councilor Tognini, and passed unanimously, to approve July 1, 2026 Work Session minutes.
- A motion was duly made by Councilor Foley, seconded by Councilor Tognini, and passed unanimously, to approve July 15, 2026 Council Meeting minutes.

Budget & Finance – Emily Heinz, Gail Foley, & Julia Woldorf *Video time: 57:47*

- 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 July totaling \$174,552.56.

Old Business – none

Announcements – none

Public to be Heard *Video time: 58:40*

Karen White, Resident and HARB Member, stated that all original building materials were removed from the exterior of the house at 207 Penn Street prior to 1991 and replaced with vinyl. Ms. White added that it would be a financial hardship for a property owner to restore this home to its original condition; she noted that COA 2026-045 would improve the home with the installation of a few wood windows.

Mary Lutz, Resident, expressed her appreciation that the repairs at 103 S. State Street were done prior to the Newtown Celebrates America's 250th event.

President Heinz called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 P.M. Councilor Phillips so moved, Councilor Tognini seconded, and the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy S. Musto
Borough Secretary

Attendees

Newtown Fire Association Members
Paul Salvatore
Karen White
Chase Truidi
Warren Woldorf
Madeline Jones
David Oxley
Robert & Rhona Remstein

Nicole Morris
Mary Lutz
Jim McAuliffe
Rachel Morgan
Jen Nicholl
Rosemary Wuenschel
Shari Donahue