

**Newtown Borough Council - Work Session Minutes**  
**July 1, 2026**

*Video time: 00:16*

The regular monthly Work Session of Newtown Borough Council was called to order at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, July 1, 2026 at Borough Hall – 23 North State Street in Newtown Borough, PA. This [meeting was recorded](#).

Present: Councilors Heinz, Bauman, Tognini, Foley, Woldorf; Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin; Chief Sabath; Solicitors Heleniak & Dorfschneider

Absent: Councilor Phillips; Engineer Fountain

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

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

**250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States of America** *Video time: 00:53*

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Tognini, seconded by Councilor Woldorf, and passed unanimously, to adopt Resolution 07-01-26, commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States of America.

Councilor Tognini read the resolution aloud which reaffirms the borough's commitment to constitutional government and civic engagement.

Jane Scopelite and Mary Gonzalez, Residents, thanked Councilor Tognini for the resolution.

**Public to be Heard** - none

**Mayor's Report – Tara Grunde-McLaughlin** *Video time: 05:58*

Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin announced the following special event requests which will be voted on in two weeks:

- Movie in the Park, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, sponsored by the Recreation Board, on September 11<sup>th</sup>
- Black & White Dinner, sponsored by the Newtown Theatre
- Fall Fest, sponsored by the Recreation Board, on September 19<sup>th</sup>
- Halloween Parade, sponsored by the Recreation Board, on October 24<sup>th</sup>

Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin reminded the public of upcoming special events:

- Music on State Street, Thursdays 6:00-7:30pm beginning on July 9<sup>th</sup> in front of 16 South State Street, benefitting the Opus Outreach Foundation
- The Newtown Antique and Classic Car Show on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> on State Street, 10:00am-3:00pm
- Newtown Celebrates America 250 on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am-4:00pm

Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin requested Council's support of the Creative Districts Grant as proposed by Ashara Shapiro, ARTWRKD, at the June 17<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. The Mayor read a letter to Council from

Ms. Shapiro requesting a Resolution and a 10% municipal financial commitment for five years totaling \$25,000; an advisory council will decide how to use the grant funds. Councilor Woldorf wanted to learn more about the activities they plan to do and how they will interface with the Newtown Experience Group (NEG). Council expressed their overall support.

**Solicitor's Report – Greg Heleniak** *Video time: 0:19:21*

Solicitor Heleniak updated Council on the Comcast easement request to provide service to the First National Bank, noting that verbiage regarding hanging and abandoned wires and the pole project are not permitted in this agreement. The Solicitor outlined the different utility requirements and responsibilities that exist in the franchise agreement between Comcast and the Borough. Comcast is willing to work separately with the Borough to address, expedite, and resolve these matters. President Heinz expressed not entering an easement agreement until these issues are resolved. In response to the Solicitor's recommendation to identify locations where wires need to be removed, Council suggesting walking through town with a Comcast representative.

Following discussion, Council agreed to send the Solicitor to the July 16<sup>th</sup> Zoning Hearing Board to oppose the special exception request for a residential conversion and removal of an existing building at 108 S Lincoln Ave.

Solicitor Dorfschneider shared the changes made to the Bamboo Ordinance pertaining to violations, fines, disposal, and potting. Council will review the amended ordinance at the August Work Session.

In response to Councilor Woldorf, Solicitor Heleniak stated that an ordinance should be considered to regulate AI data centers although the feasibility of installation in the Borough is low.

**President's Report – Emily Heinz** *Video time: 0:43:43*

President Heinz provided an update on the installation of fiber optic cable, stating that Lightpath has identified two potential alternative routes outside of the Borough and is working to secure a location by the end of June.

President Heinz announced that the PECO gas main repair work is scheduled to begin July 8<sup>th</sup> and notifications to affected residents are being distributed.

President Heinz shared new State Street banners provided by the NEG. Council discussed that the NEG website is displayed on the banners; Council will accept them if already printed but advise not displaying their website on the banners in future.

President Heinz announced the following motion due to Joint Historic Commission meeting date changes and the location change from the Chancellor Center to Borough Hall for Council Meetings beginning in September.

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to approve and advertise the amended 2026 Meeting Schedule for Borough Council Meetings and Boards, Committees, and Commissions.

## **Personnel/Committees of Council Appointments – Gina Tognini** *Video time: 0:54:30*

Councilor Tognini announced that Colleen Curtin has resigned from the Recreation Board and thanked her for her years of service; she stated that a new application was submitted to fill that vacancy but from a non-resident.

Councilor Tognini announced two remaining openings on the Human Relations Commission.

## **Old Business** *Video time: 0:55:01*

Councilor Woldorf reported that, since no bids were received for snow removal services, she will write the new proposal and requested input from Council. The Solicitor noted this is a request for bid as opposed to an RFP since it is not a professional service; he will assist with the timeline for advertising. Council will discuss this matter at the next Council Meeting.

## **Announcements** - none

## **Public to be Heard** *Video time: 0:56:59*

Charles Machion, Resident, proposed taking photos of the abandoned coiled cables to present to Comcast; Councilor Foley added the suggestion for the public to report them through the website like pothole reporting.

Mr. Machion requested that weeds be routinely addressed by the landscape contractor at the Washington Avenue bridge. Mr. Machion also suggested hiring a retired person to become a Part-time Borough Manager.

Tim Jones, Resident, suggested that Walk Friendly Newtown may be interested in taking photos to assist with the Comcast cable project; he encouraged Council to communicate this to the public.

In response to Joe Lovi, Resident, Councilor Woldorf verified that the last snow removal bid mandated that Council approve expenditures exceeding \$85,000 but that amount is subject to change in the new bid. Mr. Lovi noted that the cap was low considering it has been a minimum budget item costing \$200,000 and snow removal costs have increased; he stated that the mandatory equipment list needs modifications.

Mr. Lovi questioned whether the special event permit application process should be followed for the Council Rock School District graduation parade; he suggested street closures.

Mr. Lovi suggested improving public maintenance processes given recent complaints. Mr. Lovi was disappointed that the Borough Manager retired 3 months after receiving an 8% raise; he proposed that a financial committee be formed instead of hiring a new manager.

Mary Gonzalez, Resident, requested that tonight's resolution be publicized. President Heinz stated that it will be posted on the Borough website.

President Heinz called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 P.M. Councilor Bauman so moved, Councilor Tognini seconded, and the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy S. Musto  
Borough Secretary

**Attendees**

Mary Gonzalez  
Jeff Menard  
Joe Lovi  
Charles Machion  
Jeff Werner-Zoom  
Warren Woldorf-Zoom

Jane Scopelite  
Tim Jones  
Jamie Schurra-CGBAG Law  
Matthew Neuman-Zoom  
Bernie Sauer-Zoom  
Karen White-Zoom