

Newtown Borough Council - Work Session Minutes
August 5, 2026

Video time: 00:20

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

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

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

Public to be Heard *Video time: 0:00:45*

Terry Kiely, Resident, requested information on the Lightpath project, noting the website has not been updated.

Ms. Kiely also asked for public information regarding the pedestrian planning project. She shared communication with State Representative Warren's office regarding their staff's willingness to work with the Borough community on grant projects. Ms. Kiely stated her successes and expertise in grant writing and offered to assist in obtaining a sidewalk grant for the 500 block of Penn Street.

Colette Zou and Ariele Reighard, Non-residents, introduced themselves to discuss Cupid's Chase 5K.

Rachel Morgan, Non-resident and A Woman's Place Volunteer, announced her attendance on behalf of the organization's request to display purple ribbons in the commercial district during the month of October.

Engineer's Report – Michele Fountain *Video time: 0:03:49*

Engineer Fountain reported that the 2026 Road Program has been advertised by PennBID; bids will be opened on August 17th and a bid tabulation will be presented for approval at this month's Council Meeting.

Engineer Fountain updated Council on a meeting with the Council Rock School District regarding their upcoming construction project and stormwater improvements at the Chancellor Center Administration building.

In response to Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin, Engineer Fountain confirmed that it is preferred to initiate road programs earlier in the year, noting that this year's delay was largely due to the attempt to include the Brian Gregg Park improvements. Ms. Fountain noted that there was no 2025 road program and next year's program will likely be in coordination with Newtown Artesian Water to receive a 50% reimbursement.

In response to Councilor Bauman, Engineer Fountain stated that a sidewalk study meeting with Council has taken place and a second meeting is scheduled this month to include Walk Friendly Newtown and Planning Commission members.

Streets, Lights & Properties – Emily Heinz & Julia Woldorf *Video time: 0:09:40*

Councilor Woldorf stated the DCNR requirements for the Brian Gregg Memorial Park project which include design, construction, and bid document preparation services; a proposal from ARRO Consulting for \$32,775 with \$1,000 for reimbursable expenses will be considered by Council at the next meeting. In response to the Mayor, Councilor Woldorf stated that the Recreation Board approved the playground equipment in preparation for this grant; the concept plans prepared for the grant submission are available to Council.

Councilor Woldorf updated Council on a rebid for snow removal services, noting requirements for a mandatory meeting, deadline for proposals, and a vote by Council at the September 2nd Work Session.

Mayor's Report – Tara Grunde-McLaughlin *Video time: 0:13:51*

Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin shared the following special event requests to be voted on in two weeks:

- Shofar in the Park, sponsored by Lubavitch of Bucks County, September 13th, Pickering Field, 5:30-6:00pm. No rain date.
- Dancing on State Street, sponsored by Lubavitch of Bucks County, October 3rd, 8:00-9:00pm. No rain date.
- Cupid's Chase 5K, sponsored by Community Options, Inc., on Saturday, February 13, 2027, 9:00-11:00am, on a designated race route. Rain date is February 20, 2027. Colette Choe, Event Coordinator, described the event; their charity partner supports children with disabilities.
- Display of Purple Ribbons, sponsored by A Woman's Place, September 26th – November 1st, in the center of town on public property. Rachel Morgan, Coordinator, shared the purpose of this display to bring awareness to domestic violence.
- Witches' Ride, Saturday, October 31st 10:00-11:00am, along Borough roads, with the charity partner to be determined. Nicole Rodowicz, speaking on behalf of Nicole Morris, Event Coordinator, described the adult bike ride through town which is limited in size and does not require road closures. Council deliberated on which roads to be included.
- PorchStock, sponsored by The Newtown Experience Group, on Saturday, September 26th, 1:00 – 4:00pm, on properties throughout the Borough. No rain date.
- Haunted Hustle 5K, sponsored by NR2F1 Foundation, October 17th, 8:00-11:00am, on a designated race route. No rain date.

Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin shared the following special event reminders:

- Music on State Street, Thursdays 6:00-7:30pm in front of 16 South State Street, benefiting the Opus Outreach Foundation, has been canceled until further notice due to utility issues.
- Newtown Celebrates America 250 on Saturday, August 8th from 9:30am-4:00pm. The Mayor described the many events and activities that are taking place and shared the organization's website. Councilor Tognini extended an invitation for volunteers.

Solicitor's Report – Greg Heleniak *Video time: 0:31:45*

Solicitor Heleniak shared edits to the Bamboo Ordinance to include assurances of riparian buffers, sheathing provisions, and more.

Council considered the ZHB hearings scheduled for August 20th at 417 E Centre Ave. and 26 N Chancellor St., deciding to send the Solicitor to oppose both applications.

Historic Architectural Review Board – Kris Bauman *Video time: 0:42:40*

Councilor Bauman shared a Special HARB Meeting request for August 12th to review the annex renovations at the Brick Hotel located at 1 E. Washington Ave., noting that this matter needs to be resolved for the new restaurant to receive a Certificate of Occupancy. Council debated whether to hold the meeting when requested drawings had not yet been submitted, shared concerns over the matter being tabled again, but decided to move forward with the meeting; the Borough Secretary confirmed advertising and HARB notification. The Solicitor stated that honoring this request would not set a legal precedent.

President's Report – Emily Heinz *Video time: 0:56:40*

President Heinz announced that the advertisement for the Borough Manager would be posted on the Borough website on Monday; application review is targeted for the third week in August.

Budget & Finance – Emily Heinz, Gail Foley, & Julia Woldorf *Video time: 0:57:13*

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Tognini, and passed unanimously, to confirm the payment of one-time work orders for police department landscape cleanup, dead shrubbery removal, and hard surface weed control in the total amount of \$4,291.69 to Realty Landscaping.

Councilor Woldorf noted the desire for a one-time clean-up along State Street and in parking lots prior to the Newtown Celebrates America 250 special event.

In response to Nicole Rodowicz, Resident, Council confirmed that the parking lot landscape was cleaned up except for one location where there are live power lines.

Mary Lutz, Resident, commented on the improvements at 103 S. State Street.

Old Business *Video time: 1:01:23*

In response to Councilor Bauman, President Heinz announced that the Lightpath route is still pending; consideration is being given to a new route that would include S. State Street from the Newtown Bypass to Barclay Street and into the Township. The Mayor announced her desire to minimize the amount of time the orange cables will be exposed on State Street.

In response to Mayor Grunde-McLaughlin, President Heinz and Councilor Woldorf stated that crosswalk painting is being evaluated. The mayor noted recent attacks on water sources and asked to consider having the Newtown Artesian Water Company attend a Council Meeting.

Announcements - none

Public to be Heard – none

President Heinz called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 P.M. Councilor Woldorf so moved, Councilor Foley seconded, and the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy S. Musto
Borough Secretary

Attendees

Terry Kiely
Warren Woldorf
Colette Zou
Rachel Morgan
Jeff Werner-Zoom
Karen White-Zoom

Nicole Rodowicz
Mary Lutz
Ariele Reighard
Bob Musto-Zoom
Jeanne & Steve Haeckel-Zoom