

Newtown Borough Council - Work Session Minutes
September 2, 2026

Video time: 00:15

The regular monthly Work Session of Newtown Borough Council was called to order at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at Borough Hall – 23 North State Street in Newtown Borough, PA. This [meeting was recorded.](#)

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

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

Public to be Heard *Video time: 0:00:47*

Charles Swartz, Resident, stated his approval of maintaining the snow removal contract with Scott's All Seasons and continue pre-purchasing road salt to save money as it has for 20 years. Mr. Swartz expressed his disappointment that HARB met to review an application that was not complete; he stated that as a Planning Commission member, he has witnessed things that have neither been up to standards nor met requirements.

Colette Zou, Resident, shared a revised race route for the Cupid's Chase 5K to be voted on at the next Council Meeting.

Terry Kiely, Resident, questioned availability of meeting minutes and recordings, and specifically a Walk Friendly Newtown report to Council that she had anticipated. Ms. Kiely stated that the Planning Commission used to have a recording secretary and believed there still should be one; she encouraged more transparency.

Environmental Advisory Council Presentation – Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers *Video time: 0:06:40*

Bob Mirales, EAC Member, shared the history of gas-powered leaf blowers, nearby municipalities that have adopted ordinances to ban them, and research results that include noise, carcinogens, and health risks to the operators. Mr. Mirales noted the survey conducted in Newtown last year; he provided examples of how the noise adversely affects the community and proposed next steps to educate the public.

Council discussion included the difference in noise level between gas-powered leaf blowers as compared to lawn mowers and weed whackers, differentiating between commercial and residential use restrictions, health and welfare implications, a future ordinance, and more.

Engineer's Report – Michele Fountain *Video time: 0:34:56*

Engineer Fountain summarized her report to Borough Council, sharing next steps to begin the 2026 Roadway Program. In response to the Engineer, Council decided to review the Preliminary/Final Subdivision and Land Development (SALDO) Plan application and Planning Module for 532 Penn Street

during the October meeting cycle. Councilor Foley reported that the Planning Commission has recommended approval of both. The Solicitor will advise the Zoning Officer to contact the applicant. Engineer Fountain updated Council on a SALDO application from 516 Centre Ave. as well as the MS4 annual report due by the end of September.

Mayor's Report – Tara Grunde-McLaughlin *Video time: 0:42:13*

The mayor announced the following special event requests to be voted on in 3 weeks:

- Turkey Trot 5K in honor of Brian Gregg, Thanksgiving morning

Council advised Carly Bovell, Organizer, to contact the Council Rock School District Administration to make sure that the upcoming Chancellor Center renovations won't interfere with their planning.

- Children's Fun Fest following the Halloween Parade, sponsored by the Newtown Rotary Club, Brian S. Gregg Memorial Park

Council discussed the event with Shari Donohue, Organizer, who described all the planned activities. Discussion took place regarding an alternate location if needed due to bad weather.

- Cupid's Chase 5K, sponsored by Community Options, Inc., on Saturday, February 13, 2027, 9:00-11:00am, on a revised race route. Rain date is February 20, 2027.

Colette Zou, Organizer, described the revised route due to potential construction at the Chancellor Center.

The mayor announced the following special event reminders:

- Black & White Dinner, sponsored by the Newtown Theatre on State Street between Greene & Jefferson Streets on Sunday, September 6th, 5:30-8:30pm. No rain date.
- Movie in the Park, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, sponsored by the Recreation Board, 6:00-8:30pm at Linton Memorial Park on Friday, September 11th. No rain date.
- Shofar in the Park, sponsored by Lubavitch of Bucks County at Pickering Field, on Sunday, September 13th, 5:30-6:00pm. No rain date.
- Fall Fest, sponsored by the Recreation Board, on Saturday, September 19th at Linton Memorial Park, 4:00-8:00pm. Rain date is Sunday, September 20th.
- PorchStock, sponsored by the Newtown Experience Group, on Saturday, September 26th throughout the Borough, 1:00-4:00pm. No rain date.

Solicitor's Report – Greg Heleniak *Video time: 0:58:23*

Solicitor Heleniak shared the Bucks County 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution for Council's consideration. The mayor shared her conversation with Glenn Forsyth, Emergency Coordinator,

regarding specific hazards in Newtown Borough. Solicitor Heleniak advised including Barry Isett & Associates in any correspondence; he will compile the information and coordinate with others prior to submitting it to the county.

In response to public comment, Solicitor Heleniak noted the difference between Committees of Council and Volunteer Committees such as Walk Friendly Newtown, stating the difference in legal requirements; meetings of working groups are not public meetings.

President's Report – Emily Heinz *Video time: 1:07:03*

President Heinz announced that Executive Sessions were held on Friday, August 28th and prior to today's meeting to discuss personnel and litigation.

President Heinz reported the date and location changes from the September 16th Council Meeting to a Council Meeting on September 22nd due to the Liberty Centre presentation.

The president announced the October 1st deadline for submissions to the Fall/Winter 2026 Newsletter.

President Heinz noted no changes to Lightpath and provided an update on the ongoing Borough Manager search.

Review agenda items proposed for next Council Meeting *Video time: 1:08:35*

President Heinz announced that the 2027 Police Pension and Non-Uniform Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO) information will be shared with Council for consideration at the next Council Meeting.

Budget and Finance – Gail Foley, Emily Heinz & Julia Woldorf *Video time: 1:09:13*

Solicitor Heleniak described the purpose of adopting an Ordinance regulating the Bucks County Tax Claim Bureau Collection Fee for delinquent taxes. The Solicitor will advertise the Ordinance for adoption at the September 22nd Council Meeting.

Councilor Woldorf announced that she is gathering information from the Committees of Council and Consultants with requests for the 2027 Budget.

Streets, Lights, and Properties – Emily Heinz & Julia Woldorf *Video time: 1:11:40*

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Tognini, and passed unanimously, to accept the bid of and authorize the contract for snow removal services for Scott's All Season, Inc., for the years 2026 to 2029, pursuant to the schedule of rates provided in their Proposal Form, subject to review and approval by the Borough Solicitor.

Joe Lovi, Resident, commended Scott Dengler for his ongoing snow removal services and suggested that the Mayor and Police Chief should authorize when to cease clearing streets and sidewalks following snowstorms. Mr. Lovi requested that Council consider pre-purchasing road salt for the upcoming winter season; Councilor Woldorf responded by requesting a quote from Scott Dengler.

- A motion was duly made by Councilor Woldorf, seconded by Councilor Foley, and passed unanimously, to accept a proposal from Realty Landscaping for Patriots Park path repairs at a cost not to exceed \$2,029.09.

In response to Councilor Woldorf, Scott Dengler provided an update on crosswalk painting that was also shared on the Borough website.

Councilor Woldorf announced the changes made in the revised draft of the EV Charging Ordinance and asked for Council's input on new multi-family apartment housing. Council discussed regulations for new construction, the number and levels of charging stations, future trends, extension cords, and more. Council agreed to pass the draft Ordinance on to CGBAG Law for their review.

Old Business - none

Announcements - none

Public to be Heard *Video time: 1:39:30*

Terry Kiely, Resident, questioned the publishing of approved Planning Commission (PC) minutes and stated, as a former PC member, that there used to be a recording secretary so that the Chair wouldn't be required to write the minutes.

Joe Lovi, Resident, questioned the number of residents who do their own yard work as compared to those who hire landscape companies, noting the trade-off between noise and property maintenance; Mr. Lovi stated that he's had asthma since he was a toddler and questioned health implications from gas-powered leaf blowers. Mr. Lovi stated that more frequent trash pickup by the Borough's contractor should be a higher priority.

President Heinz called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 P.M. Councilor Philips so moved, Councilor Woldorf seconded, and the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy S. Musto
Borough Secretary

Attendees

Terry Kiely
Warren Woldorf
Colette Zou
Bob Mirales
Charles & Jane Swartz
Bob Musto-Zoom
Jeff Werner-Zoom
Karen White-Zoom

Scott Dengler
Mary Lutz
Shari Donohue
Carly Bovell
Joe Lovi
Sean Barry-Zoom
Jeanne Haeckel-Zoom