

The March 10, 2015 meeting of the Newtown Village Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Curt Cosby, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Councilmembers: Joe Harten
Mark Kobasuk
Cheryl McConnell

Chuck Short
Curt Tiettmeyer
Daryl Zornes

Solicitor: Doug Miller

Fiscal Officer: Keri Everett

Full-time Police Officer

Mr. Kobasuk made a motion to hire Ethan Simms as full-time police officer, seconded by Chuck Short. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Swearing-in Full-time Police Officer

Ethan Simms was sworn in as full-time Newtown police officer by Mayor Curt Cosby. Everyone applauded and welcomed Ethan to Newtown.

Moundview Rental

Pauline Murrie is renting the Moundview house and pavilion on July 17th. Mayor Cosby said he thought it would be a good gesture to waive the rental fee. He said Pauline has done a lot for the Village and it wouldn't be setting precedent by waiving the fee this one time. Mr. Tiettmeyer said Council discussed this last year when rental fees were waived for Mrs. Murrie and we are somewhat setting a precedent by waiving the rental fees. While he agrees that Pauline is a significant contributor to the Village, there are many others that also contribute their time, treasure and talent. Would we be saying that other significant contributors are eligible for free use of the facilities, asked Mr. Tiettmeyer? Mayor Cosby said given the role she has played, he doesn't have a problem saying that. He believes people should be recognized that have gone above and beyond. Mr. Tiettmeyer said it is inappropriate to single out one person to use it for free. Mr. Short said Pauline was instrumental in renovating the first floor and he would be inclined to allow her to have the facilities this one time at no charge. Mr. Harten said it strikes him as inappropriate and it seems to be two times thus far that Mrs. Murrie has used the facilities at no charge. Mr. Harten said he would be in favor of a process that would take these requests into consideration for all members of the Village that do a lot for the Village. Mr. Joe Motz, Mr. Lynn Burger, John and Sandy Russell and others also give a lot of their time for the betterment of the Village. He said it would be best to go through some sort of a process, rather than an ad-hoc thing for a certain person. This is the second year in a row that this request has come forward. Mr. Harten said as chair of Parks, if Council is interested in considering such a process, he would be happy to look into it. Mrs. McConnell said she is really not interested, as she worked on the renewal fees last year and feels the fees are so reasonable for residents. It's a beautiful facility and it's such a subjective issue and we don't want to get into the business of counting people's hours. Mrs. McConnell said there are so many ways to honor those that do so much for the Village that don't involve a monetary gain on their part. Mrs. McConnell said while she respects Mrs. Murrie very much and appreciates all she has done for the Village, she doesn't think this is the best way to honor her work in the Village. It's an issue of fairness to others. Mr. Kobasuk agreed with Mrs. McConnell that everyone should be treated the same. He recognized Joe Motz and Matt Cuff sitting in the audience for their time they donate to the Village. Mr. Kobasuk said he likes Pauline too and the rates are reasonable. Everyone should be treated the same; everybody pays.

Planning Commission: (Reported by Cheryl McConnell)

The committee will meet Tuesday, March 17th at 7pm.

Meeting w/Forest Hills School Board: (Reported by Cheryl McConnell)

A meeting will take place Wednesday, March 18th at 8am to discuss the possible relocation of school busses. Members of the Planning Commission will also be present.

Newtown Business Association (Reported by Cheryl McConnell)

Since last September, Mrs. McConnell has attended the NBA monthly meetings and has learned a lot about our local businesses. The NBA is reformatting their organization, which includes new sub-committees. A Business Development Team has been formed to help attract new businesses and to help improve the process for a new business coming into Newtown.

Matt Cuff, owner of Just Q'in Barbeque and Newtown Business Association President, said the Business Development Team hopes to be a source of information and have involvement with a new business coming into Newtown. In an effort to expedite a new business setting up in the Village of Newtown, the Business Development Team will assist with communicating Village requirements to the new business to make certain proper procedures are followed.

Village Beautification Project Proposal

In an effort to establish a year-round identity, unity and consistency, Shannon Adams, owner of My Flower Service, and a member of the Newtown Business Association, introduced a beautification project to the NBA. Ms. Adams said the project will consist of various-sized flower pots filled with seasonal flowers at the main intersections. This project will require private and public funding – a total of \$5,882 is needed to complete the proposed project for 2015. Permanent fixtures are estimated to cost \$1,702 with \$4,180 covering the planting and maintenance of the flowers. \$2,500 has been raised by the NBA and local business contributions. \$3,382 was requested from Village Council. My Flower Service will water, fertilize and maintain the pots of plants located at the main intersections. The summer plantings will last through the fall and the fall plantings will have plants specific to the fall with evergreens, which would last through the entire winter. The pots would then be replanted May 2016 with summer plantings. Shannon will seek approval from Building and Zoning Commissioner Mike Spry, as to the placement of the pots for visibility purposes.

Mr. Kobasuk made a motion to authorize \$3,382 for the Newtown Beautification Program, in conjunction with the Newtown Business Association. Mrs. McConnell seconded the motion.

Discussion

Mr. Harten thinks the project is worthwhile, but asked which line the money would come from. Mr. Tiettmeyer said worst case the money would be taken from the contingency fund, but may come from another source. Mr. Tiettmeyer said it's a worthwhile endeavor and a great idea for the Village.

All Aye. Motion Carried.

MVCA / Short Park Agreement (Reported by Joe Harten)

Solicitor Miller and MVCA's attorney have come to an agreement on the language part of the agreement. Mr. Harten and Mr. Kobasuk will meet next week with MVCA to discuss technical business details. Once the details are resolved, an agreement will be brought to Council for review and final approval.

2015 Bike Trail Map (Reported by Joe Harten)

August 2014, Council approved \$500 to promote Newtown and advertise in the 2015 Bike Trail Map. Martin Schickel, publisher of the Bike Trail Map, will deliver the 2015 Bike Trail Map to the Municipal Center next week. The map was presented to Council. The Municipal Center and American Indian Artifact Education Center is featured on the map. Newtown is on the mileage guide for the bike trail as a highlighted destination. Mr. Harten encouraged the Newtown Business Association to reach out to Martin Schickel to advertise in the 2016 Bike Trail Map.

LMFD Fire Board Update (Reported by Mark Kobasuk)

The next meeting is 3.18.2015; the Board did not meet in February.

Ordinance, Salary for Newly Hired (Police Department)

Mr. Kobasuk made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Short. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Kobasuk made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 07-2015 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARY FOR A NEWLY HIRED FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER, WAIVING THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Zornes seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Harten-Yes, Mrs. McConnell-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Tiettmeyer-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Short-Yes. Motion Carried.

Checklist

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to approve the 3.10.2015 Checklist for \$56,109.63. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Ordinance, Adopting Permanent Appropriations 2015

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 08-2015 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2015 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Harten-Yes, Mrs. McConnell-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Tiettmeyer-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Short-Yes. Motion Carried. Motion Carried.

Resolution, Contract for Police Department Renovation Project

John P. Tumlin & Sons, Ltd. submitted the lowest and best bid in the amount of \$333,770.

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Kobasuk. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 19-2015 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A BID AND AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT RENOVATION PROJECT, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Zornes seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Harten-Yes, Mrs. McConnell-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Tiettmeyer-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Short-Yes. Motion Carried.

Electric Aggregation Public Hearings (Reported by Curt Tiettmeyer)

Public Hearings will now take place 4.14.2015 at 2:00pm and 6:30pm at the Municipal Center.

Municipal Center Odor Issue (Reported by Curt Tiettmeyer)

Structural Systems Repair Group removed the access panel and replaced it with a full-size door for better access. The smoke test was postponed due to the weather. Air quality in the building has improved, but is still being monitored.

Council Minutes

Mr. Zornes made a motion to approve the 2.24.2015 Council Minutes, seconded by Mr. Tiettmeyer. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Ordinance, 2015 Salary Compensation

Mr. Zornes made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Tiettmeyer. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Zornes made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 09-2015 AN ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR VILLAGE PERSONNEL, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Harten seconded the motion.

Discussion

There was a line for hiring future full-time police officers with a rate established. This line was deleted since the rate could change based on one's experience level. The salary for a new hire police officer coming onboard will be approved at the time of employment. The salary ordinance also has a declared part-time hourly rate for a maintenance technician.

Roll Call: Mr. Harten-Yes, Mrs. McConnell-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Tiettmeyer-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Short-Yes. Motion Carried.

Maintenance Department

Mr. Short made a motion to rehire Tony Baxter as a part-time (as needed) maintenance technician. Mrs. McConnell seconded the motion.

Discussion

Mayor Cosby said Tony Baxter helped with the last snow storm, as the maintenance guys had exceeded the hours that are allowed per shift. Mr. Kobasuk asked if this fits in with Mark's budget. The established part-time hours have been reduced to account for outsourcing the cleaning of the buildings with JaniKing, said Mr. Tiettmeyer. Mayor Cosby will discuss the part-time rate (\$14/hr) with Tony. Mr. Kobasuk suggested that Mayor Cosby ask Mark what hourly rate he suggests and bring back any changes to Council.

Trash from Landfills on SR 32

Discussion took place regarding trash on SR 32 coming from both Newtown Landfill and Burger Environmental. Mr. Short will discuss this with Mark Gillespie.

Martin Marietta Update (Reported by Solicitor Miller)

The Brief is due March 30th – oral argument has not been set as of today.

Lenten Fish Fry

The Fish Fry will resume Friday, March 13th (5-7pm). All are welcome! Organizers cancelled the February 27th and March 6th dates due to the weather since the fish is cooked outside. We apologize for any inconvenience to those that didn't receive the message they are cancelled.

Property Maintenance Issue

Mayor and Council received a letter from a resident regarding the 6840 School Street property. Mr. Kobasuk asked Mayor Cosby if any action would be taken on the 6840 School Street property. Mayor Cosby talked to Dick Weber, Property Maintenance Inspector today and he has taken no action on the property as of today. Mr. Tiettmeyer asked that Mr. Weber attend the 3.24.2015 Council Meeting to discuss this property, as well as other property issues.

Mr. Kobasuk made a motion to adjourn at 8:37pm, seconded by Mr. Harten. Motion Carried.

Transcribed by Becky Fairley