Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Attendance

The March 10, 2026 regularly-scheduled meeting of the Newtown Village Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Madam Mayor Tracy Boone, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Council Members:	Terry Fairley	Sarah Donohue	Solicitor Emily Supinger
	Jerry Schwab	Jordy Collins	Fiscal Officer Keri Everett
	Ali Alspaugh		Assistant to the Mayor Becky Fairley
	Scott Thompson		Police Chief Tom Synan

Approval of Council Minutes

Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the regularly-scheduled 02.10.2026 Council Minutes; Mr. Fairley seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Engineering Report, submitted by Verdantas, previously CT Consultants Engineering – March 4, 2026

1. Church Street
   - Project Complete.
   - Contract Price $332,151.70. Final construction cost $274,356.32.
2. Little Dry Run – MRF Funded, OPWC Funded
   - Construction was completed in late November. Concrete demolition was completed early November. Pavement work including full depth replacement areas, milling, and pavement placement was completed the week of 11/24. Due to cold weather temporary pavement markings have been applied to the road surface, thermoplastic paint will be applied in spring 2026. Invoicing received and in process. Contract price $461,354.40. Final construction cost $405,857.67.
   - Village is holding 5% for completion of punch list and thermoplastic pavement markings. OPWC closed out.
3. Little Dry Run – Wall Concerns
   - The existing stone and mortar wall is failing on the upstream and downstream end. .
   - A survey was forwarded to Village in November. Survey highlighted that the existing wall is primarily outside of the ROW. However, it does fall within an existing storm water easement.
   - Atlas has completed borings for a geotechnical report. Verdantas will review once the report is received to begin advancing the design for a new wall.
4. Little Dry Run Drainage at Ivy Hills Boulevard
   - Verdantas has performed a field inspection of the culverts at Ivy Hills Boulevard and has made recommendations for improvements that could assist in cleaning out the smaller culvert.
5. Debolt Park
   - Connector - A topographic basemap for preliminary design has been prepared and has been reviewed with the Village.
   - Fitness Court – The Village has approved Verdantas proceeding with work to provide two locations for a fitness court, as well as preliminary coordination with OEPA for excavation in Debolt Park (both within and outside of the limits of the landfill). This preliminary coordination would also include the Connector Road concept layout.
6. Pavement Condition Ratings & Funding:

   The roadways in the Village with the four lowest pavement condition ratings (PCR) in the 2023 inventory are as follows:
   - Round Bottom Road - PCR 63
     - MRF and OPWC applications submitted in September, 2025.
     - Project Costs and Funding Requests:
       - Total Opinion of Construction Costs - $928,600
       - MRF Grant Request - $300,000 – anticipated to hear in February.
       - OPWC Grant Request - $464,300 – Not Funded through local district. Forwarded to Small Government

- Best Case Remaining Village Construction Dollars - $164,300
- We recommend applying to OPWC again in 2026 if not funded through Small Government.
- Main St (Round Bottom to East Corp Line) - PCR 66
- Ragland Road - PCR 71

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS:

Mayor's Report

Police Safety Session

- The Police Safety Session will be held on Thursday, March 12th from 6-9p at the Police Station
- Chief Synan, Lt. McBreen, Sgt. Vontz and Det. Bischoff will present various topics: fraud and scam detection, preventing home intrusions and car thefts, reporting crimes, basic self-defense habits, how to identify signs of drug use/how to get help and many more!

Chamber of Commerce Update

- Meeting was last Thursday
- Steve Sievers (Asst Twp Administrator) from Anderson Twp spoke
    - Anderson Art Collaborative Updates
    - Updating Comprehensive Plan (every 5 years)
    - Old Fort Riverfront planning–concept plan being developed with a goal to open up the area for the public to enjoy
        - Meeting with neighbors in Old Fort, Shademore & Cottage Park now and will be making recommendations to Board of Trustees soon
- Bob Wetterer–Light the Tower spaghetti and meatball dinner in Mt. Washington on March 28th from 4-7p at the United Methodist Church on Corbly Road.

LDR/Ivy Hills Creek

- Reviewed recommendations from Verdantas Maintenance supervisor, committee chairperson, and fiscal officer.
- Working on next steps

Short Park/Debolt Connector

- There was a recent Facebook post that was filled with false information about the Debolt Connector. I can't address every false claim, but I think it is important to take a few moments to clarify the facts…
- I have attended meetings with Verdantas and MVCA to discuss the FB claims and other updates.
- The Debolt Connector appeared in the council packets in December 2025, January 2026, and February 2026 under the Verdantas monthly reports.
- This is the first formal look into the Debolt Connector concept. The concept was discussed previously between Mayor Kobasuk, Greg Beasley, and Chief Synan as a one lane gravel road and did not go further than a discussion.
- I have also heard that Hamilton County denied the concept of the connector road in Short Park. Hamilton County does not have authority over roadways within a municipal park owned by the Village, so that claim is false.
- Important to note that during our meeting, Greg Beasley offered to share their prior traffic studies with the Village for our review and also added that he will present the idea of another traffic study specific to the Debolt Connector to their Board of Directors.
- In the November 2014 election, 74% of Newtown voters supported the Village entering into a 25-year joint venture (with the potential to extend it another 25 years) with MVCA which included work at Short Park.
- From what I can gather, residents are confusing the previous work done looking into the athletic complex at Short Park, which included an entrance/exit onto Debolt Road, but it did not involve this idea of the Debolt Connector.

Daisy Fields

- Update from Josh Blatt from John Henry Homes
- Siteworx will be the contractor
- Subcontractor availability continues to cause frustration and has slowed the pace of the project
- They hope to break ground in late spring/early summer with anticipated paving in November, but these are all estimates and subject to change

America 250–Ohio

- Application has been submitted
- Once approved, the Village will be looking for committee volunteers
- Stay tuned for more information

Budget

- Fiscal Responsibility is crucial
- Important to operate with a balanced budget and save our surplus for true emergencies and unforeseen situations
- I want to thank everyone that participated in our discussions for this year's budget
- Keri and I met with department supervisors and chairpersons
- It wasn't perfect, but it was important to me to give more discretion to department supervisors where possible
- Important to note that final appropriations must be submitted to the County by March 31st and the Village cannot spend any money after March 31st without an approved budget.
- With that said, my goal is to incorporate fuller committee involvement later this year to start the budget preparation process for 2027

Newtown Historical Project

- Going GREAT!!
- Consistent volunteers
- Progress is slow and not always fun
- Nice to sort through information and learn more about the Village

Orange Bag Recycling

- Newtown is already a participating community
- New option to recycle hard-to-recycle plastic items
- See info on website for more details
- https://www.hefty.com/hefty-renew/starter-kit-for-curbside-pick-up
- I am going to schedule a tour of the Rumpke Recycling Center–please let me know if you would like to join me and learn more about recycling at Rumpke

Hamilton County Board of Health District Advisory Council Yearly Meeting

- Very informative
- Lead remediation program if we have any houses in Newtown with lead issues and small children
- Online access to their inspections of public swimming pools and restaurants
- City assessment fees are increasing 5% for 2027
- Discussed the We Thrive program and benefits to communities by increasing health initiatives and also have grant funds available

National Fitness Campaign Meeting

- Brian from National Fitness Campaign and Danielle joined call as a courtesy
- Discussed UC Grant, ODNR grant (hoping to apply for that this year) and other opportunities
- I shared my request for funding with the Ohio Capital Budget
- My plan is to fund National Fitness Court Studio with little to no money from Village funds

Council Members Reports

Maintenance Report (Mr. Fairley)
Things are running smoothly in the Maintenance Department – annual catch basin inspections have been done. There are ongoing discussions about the best solutions for silt removal in front of the 30-inch stormwater pipe that runs underneath Ivy Hills Blvd.

Safety Services Report (Mr. Schwab)
Officers have been completing required annual training.

Finance February Report – (Mr. Thompson)
Mr. Thompson made a motion to accept the February Finance Report. Mr. Fairley seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Special Flag Committee (Mr. Thompson)
Ms. Alspaugh spoke with the Mercer Elementary Principal, as well as the Innovation Specialist, and they were both really excited to help find a way to integrate students into the flag design competition! They decided students in grades 4-6 will be working on flag designs during their innovation period, which is the time they spend in the Mercer library. I should have designs from them before the April meeting. Mr. Thomson said the Committee will meet soon – more info to come.

Planning Commission Update (Mr. Collins)
Last Thursday, Feb. 26th, the Planning & Zoning Committee met to hear a new conditional use permit application from Emma & Phil Jones, the owners of Lobsta Bakes of Maine. The Jones wish to expand their business by taking over the former Edward Jones "yellow" house and turning it into a curated event space where they will host prix fixe themed dinners and lunches on certain days. It is important to note that this will not be a full time "restaurant" but rather a limited use event space where guests will have to reserve their spot in advance and is limited in how many guests will attend. Our partners at McBride Dale Clarion studied the impact this might have on our Village and they determined that this conditional use fits very well with the ethos and spirit of the Village of Newtown. They also determined that this use will not impact the Village negatively, as no additional traffic would be noticed on the roads and the infrastructure for parking is more than adequate, and fire code will be followed as to the number of people in the building at once. Additionally, the Jones have made it clear they are committed to making thoughtful improvements to accessibility from the minimal parking lot to their property and will be doing interior renovations to fit their needs without changing the exterior of the building, which is all currently compliant with Village code. They also have all the permits and health code necessities to serve food; this would simply be another extension of the wonderful business they are already running. The Planning and Zoning committee passed the vote unanimously and as Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Committee, I can say we are very excited for the Jones and for their vision of what they want to bring to our Village. We wish them all the success in their new venture!

There was no old business to discuss, as prior to Feb. 26th, the last meeting was in October of 2025.

Debolt Connector to Main Street (Ms. Donohue)
Ms. Donohue stated for the record that she believes the connector project be separated from the Fitness project, as she feels it is not appropriate to spend taxpayer dollars on a project that would benefit the private school, MVCA. She said we should bill MVCA for engineering expenses – Mr. Fairley said….bill MVCA for what? Everything is to benefit the Village of Newtown, not MVCA. The Connector Road project is a Village project – MVCA has zero input to alleviate the traffic congestion.

Mr. Fairley and Mayor Boone recently met with Headmaster Greg Beasley to update him on the possibility of the connector road – next steps are to have an engineering company perform a traffic study. Mr. Beasley said he will take to their Board to see if they would be able to contribute to this expense. More info to follow after the traffic study, if it is in fact done for this potential project.

Solicitor's Report (Solicitor Supinger) no report at this time.

Legislation

Ordinance, Appropriations and Expenditures Ending 12/31/2026
Mr. Thompson made a **motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Fairley. Roll Call: Mr. Schwab-Yes, Mr. Thompson-Yes, Ms. Alspaugh-Yes, Mr. Collins-Yes, Mr. Fairley-Yes, Ms. Donohue-Yes. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

Mr. Thompson made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 04-2026 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF NEWTOWN DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026. Mr. Schwab seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ms. Alspaugh-Yes, Mr. Thompson-Yes, Mr. Fairley-Yes, Mr. Collins-Yes, Ms. Donohue-Yes. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Ordinance, Adopting/Enacting American Legal Publishing's Ohio Basic Code 2026
Ms. Alspaugh made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Collins . Roll Call: Mr. Schwab-Yes, Mr. Thompson-Yes, Ms. Alspaugh-Yes, Mr. Collins-Yes, Mr. Fairley-Yes, Ms. Donohue-Yes. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Ms. Alspaugh made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 5-2026 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND ENACTING AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING'S OHIO BASIC CODE, 2026 EDITION, AS THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE VILLAGE OF NEWTOWN, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Schwab-Yes, Mr. Thompson-Yes, Ms. Alspaugh-Yes, Mr. Collins-Yes, Mr. Fairley-Yes, Ms. Donohue-Yes. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution, Comprehensive Cybersecurity Program
Mr. Schwab made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Fairley. Roll Call: Mr. Schwab-Yes, Mr. Thompson-Yes, Ms. Alspaugh-Yes, Mr. Collins-Yes, Mr. Fairley-Yes, Ms. Donohue-Yes. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Schwab made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 09-2026 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND ADOPTING A COMPREHENSIVE CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM PURSUANT TO OHIO HOUSE BILL 96. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Schwab-Yes, Mr. Thompson-Yes, Ms. Alspaugh-Yes, Mr. Collins-Yes, Mr. Fairley-Yes, Ms. Donohue-Yes. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution, Electric Aggregation Agreement
Mr. Fairley made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Thompson. Roll Call: Mr. Schwab-Yes, Mr. Thompson-Yes, Ms. Alspaugh-Yes, Mr. Collins-Yes, Mr. Fairley-Yes, Ms. Donohue-Yes. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Fairley made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 10-2026 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ELECTRIC AGGREGATION AGREEMENT WITH A SUPPLIER RECOMMENDED BY ENERGY ALLIANCES, INC. Mr. Schwab seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Schwab-Yes, Mr. Thompson-Yes, Ms. Alspaugh-Yes, Mr. Collins-Yes, Mr. Fairley-Yes, Ms. Donohue-Yes. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution, Cincinnati Soccer Club
Council wishes to enter into an agreement with the Cincinnati United Soccer Club for the use of athletic fields located in Short Park, in the Village of Newtown.

Mr. Collins made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Fairley. Roll Call: Mr. Schwab-Yes, Mr. Thompson-Yes, Ms. Alspaugh-Yes, Mr. Collins-Yes, Mr. Fairley-Yes, Ms. Donohue-Yes.

Mr. Collins made a motion to approve Resolution No. 11-2026 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH CINCINNATI UNITED SOCCER CLUB FOR USE OF ATHLETIC FIELDS. Mr. Fairley seconded the motion. Mr. Schwab-Yes, Mr. Thompson-Yes, Ms. Alspaugh-Yes, Mr. Collins-Yes, Mr. Fairley-Yes, Ms. Donohue-Yes. All Aye. Motion Carried.

New Business

- **Mr. Fairley made a motion to approve $3,732.27 to Ag-Pro for Kubota Repair Cost – Final Invoice ($11,232.27) Mr. Collins seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.**
  (Mr. Fairley made a motion to approve $7,500 at the 1.13.2026 Council Meeting)
- **Mr. Schwab made a motion to authorize the Fiscal Officer to issue a reimbursement payment in the amount of**
  $473.60 to Councilman Fairley and Administrative Assistant for special legal services. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

- Mr. Fairley wants to put together a steering committee to implement a five-year plan for the Village. He is working on a form and will present to council at the April meeting.
- Ms. Alspaugh talked about Women's Equity Pledge from Hamilton County Commissioner Denise Driehaus. Ms. Alspaugh, Ms. Donohue and Mayor Boone attended a celebration of Women in Hamilton County. From mayors and council members to judges, trustees, school board members, commissioners and county leaders, more than 230 women now serve in election office across Hamilton County—including 8 of the 11 countywide offices and more than half of the judicial seats.

  Ms. Driehaus asked Ms. Alspaugh if she would be willing to ask council to sign her Women's Equity Pledge. This would be a non-binding, voluntary pledge, encouraging organizations and municipalities to show their support for pay equity and workplace fairness. The deadline for the pledge is March 31, so I would like to make a motion to participate. Ms. Alspaugh, along with Mayor Boone and Council woman Sarah Donohue attended the event downtown celebrating elected women officials in a celebration for Women's History Month. All wore purple.

  Ms. Alspaugh said this is a cause very dear to Commissioner Driehaus and it seems very fitting for Newtown to join this year, as we have our first woman mayor, two women councilmembers, as well as other amazing women such as our assistant to the mayor, our solicitor and fiscal officer. I assume that we are already doing most of the things outlined in the pledge. Ms. Alspaugh said to her it seems more of symbolic pledge to show women and girls that Newtown is a safe and great place to live and work.

Women in Politics – Hamilton County

Ms. Alspaugh made a motion to join for Newtown to join the Women's Equity Pledge with Hamilton County Commissioner Denise Driehaus, motion was seconded by Ms. Donohue. Roll Call: Mr. Schwab-No, Mr. Thompson-No, Ms. Alspaugh-Yes, Mr. Collins-No, Mr. Fairley-No, Ms. Donohue-Yes. Motion Failed 4:2.

Council Checklist

Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Checklist dated 3/10/2026 in the amount of $240,785.45. Mr. Farley seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Fairley made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:20pm; motion seconded by Mr. Schwab. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Transcribed by Becky Fairley