

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Attendance

The December 12, 2023 regularly-scheduled meeting of the Newtown Village Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Mark Kobasuk, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Council Members: Chuck Short (Vice Mayor)
Terry Fairley
Daryl Zornes (excused)
Peg Quallen
Jerry Schwab
Jeff Drescher (excused)

Solicitor Emily Supinger
Fiscal Officer Keri Everett
Assistant to Mayor Becky Fairley
Police Chief Tom Synan

Public Hearing

Council held a public hearing to consider the proposed change in zoning from Planned Village (PV) to Residential Two Family (R-TF) Current owner and applicant of 3625 and 3627 Church St. is Miami Valley Christian Academy. The Public Hearing was properly advertised – no one spoke from the public.

Mr. Fairley made a motion to close the Public Hearing, motion was seconded by Mr. Short. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Approval of Council Minutes

Mr. Schwab made a motion to approve the regularly-scheduled 11.14.2023 Council Minutes and 11.16.2023, 11.17.2023 and 12.07.2023 Special Council Minutes. Ms. Quallen seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Engineering Report dated 12.07.2023, submitted by CT Consultants Engineering

1. Church Street
 - Estimated Construction Cost - \$358,000 (2023 Estimate)
 - Grant funding was awarded through the Hamilton County Municipal Roadway Fund (MRF) for Church Street resurfacing work - \$98,360.00.
 - OPWC funds were applied for the week of September 25th in the amount of \$129,720. We received initial ratings and our preliminary opinion is that the project will not be funded by OPWC.
 - Please confirm if you would like CT to put together a proposal to complete the design and put the project out to bid. Anticipated construction, July 2024.
2. Little Dry Run
 - Little Dry Run is an MRF approved funding street. MRF funding was applied for in the amount of \$175,000. A 50% funding match was applied for- the total project estimate is \$337,000. We expect funding to be announced in January. The project would resurface Little Dry Run from SR 32 to the Village Corp Limit.
3. McCullough's Run
 - CT has reached out the Jones Fish Hatchery to review the plan- the owner has no issues with the current plans.
 - The preliminary plan has been forwarded to the Floodplain Administrator for review. It was reviewed and we were told to forward to ODNR for review. ODNR provided guidance that an H&H Study was not necessary. The Floodplain Administrator concurred.
 - Nationwide Permit Application in progress. Application was forwarded to the Village for digital signature. Typical turnaround time for nationwide is approximately 90 to 120 days.
 - Final approvals of the stream modifications are expected during the winter of 2023/2024 with the project being bid for construction in spring of 2024.
 - Application was made to Hamilton County for Funding through a special program that utilizes a balance of ARPA funds for storm water projects for a \$214,900 grant. We anticipate a funding announcement prior to the end of the year.
4. Moundview Park Sanitary Sewer
 - A State Capital Budget Request was submitted, and a presentation was made on December 5, 2023, in support of the project.
 - An additional information sheet requested for State Representatives will need to be submitted to Rep. Bakers Office.
 - If funded, funding can be available in July of 2024.

5. Eastern Corridor Project
 - ODOT presented an update specific to the Village of Newtown at the June Council Meeting. A meeting was held with ODOT, OPWC and Village on August 28th and September 7th to discuss additional funding options.
 - The first phase would include adding a turn lane on SR 32 from Little Dry Run to East Corp Line:
Based on current estimates, the Village would apply for the following dollar amounts:
 - Total Project - \$4,765,000 (\$3,790,000 for Construction and \$975,000 for ROW)
 - OKI: May 2024, 80% of Construction and ROW – total \$3,812,000 (\$3,032,000 for Construction and \$780,000 for ROW)
 - OPWC: September 2026 - \$758,000 (construction dollars only)
Which leaves a budget shortfall of \$195,000 for ROW acquisition. OPWC will not pay for ROW if applying for LTIP funds (most likely source of funding).
 - CT will begin coordinating with ODOT after the first of the year to begin the process for applying for OKI funds in May 2024. If OKI funding is not received, the Village and ODOT do not need to move forward with the project.
6. Drywells at Round Bottom and SR32
 - An application was made to Hamilton County for funding of to address the issues with the drywell. Grant application was for \$150,000. We anticipate a funding announcement prior to the end of the year.
7. CT staff met with the current village environmental consultant to transfer information and is reviewing that information in preparation of assuming that role for the Village.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS:

Mayor's Report

Winterfest in the Village: Winterfest was held on December 9th – this was the second event held after the original WinterFest had ended for a few years. Mayor Kobasuk thanked the Winterfest Committee and all involved – even with the rain, the event was well-attended.

Council Members Report:

2023 November Finance Packet (Mr. Fairley)

As part of the audit compliance, Mr. Fairley made the following motion – revenues are up 114% - expenses are within the budget with all departments. Tax revenue at this time is a little behind but should see an increase by the January 2024 meeting.

Mr. Fairley made a motion to accept the November 2023 Finance Packet presented to Council. Mr. Short seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Planning Commission Update (Mr. Schwab)

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2024 AT 6PM. The purpose of the meeting is to consider a Conditional Use for 3511 Round Bottom Road for a company called "Tint World".

Solicitors Report

Solicitor Supinger explained the ordinance amending personnel policies regarding drug and alcohol in the workplace. This legislation presented tonight clarifies that the Village of Newtown remains a Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace, prohibiting illegal substances, as opposed to the state law.

LEGISLATION

Ordinance, Temporary Appropriations

Council desires to approve temporary appropriations for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024

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

Mr. Fairley made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 18-2023 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF NEWTOWN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024. Mr. Short seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Fairley-Yes, Mr. Short-Yes, Mr. Schwab-Yes, Mr. Drescher-Yes, Ms. Quallen-Yes. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Ordinance, Amending Personnel Policies

Purpose of this ordinance is to clarify and reinforce its Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy in light of recent changes in state law.

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

Mr. Short made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 19-2023 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL. Mr. Fairley seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Fairley-Yes, Mr. Short-Yes, Mr. Schwab-Yes, Mr. Drescher-Yes, Ms. Quallen-Yes. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Ordinance, Zone Change

On October 26, 2023, the Village of Newtown Planning Commission held a public hearing to consider the application of Miami Valley Christian Academy, the current owner of 3625 and 3627 Church Street, more particularly described as Hamilton County Parcel Nos. 501-0002-0007-00, 501-0002-0024-00, 501-0002-0043-00, and 501-0002-0010-00 (the "Property"), for a proposed amendment to the zoning map of the Village of Newtown (the "Application"). **the Application seeks a rezoning of the Property from Planned Village (PV) to Residential Two Family.**

Mr. Schwab made a motion to suspend the rules, Mr. Fairley seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Schwab made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 20-2023 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A ZONE CHANGE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3625 AND 3627 CHURCH STREET IN THE VILLAGE OF NEWTOWN. Mr. Short seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Fairley-Yes, Mr. Short-Yes, Mr. Schwab-Yes, Mr. Drescher-Yes, Ms. Quallen-Yes. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution, Employee Benefits

Council wishes to obtain employee health, dental, vision, and life insurance.

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

Mr. Fairley made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 32-2023 A RESOLUTION APPROVING CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYEE HEALTH, DENTAL, VISION AND LIFE INSURANCE. Mr. Short seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Fairley-Yes, Mr. Short-Yes, Mr. Schwab-Yes, Mr. Drescher-Yes, Ms. Quallen-Yes. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution, Cincinnati United 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.

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

Mr. Short made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 33-2023 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH CINCINNATI UNITED SOCCER CLUB FOR USE OF ATHLETIC FIELDS. Mr. Fairley seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Fairley-Yes, Mr. Short-Yes, Mr. Schwab-Yes, Mr. Drescher-Yes, Ms. Quallen-Yes. All Aye. Motion Carried.

New Business

Council Checklist

Mr. Fairley made a motion to approve the 12/12/2023 Council Checklist for \$362,932.49. Mr. Drescher seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Council Members

Chuck Short served on Council for twelve years – we had cupcakes prior to the meeting and Mayor Kobasuk and Council thanked Mr. Short for his service to the Village of Newtown. Mayor Kobasuk also thanked Mr. Zornes for his many years of service – Mr. Zornes was not present. Tracy Boone and Sarah Donohue will begin their term serving on Village Council January 1, 2024 in these two positions.

Mr. Fairley made a motion to adjourn at 6:15pm; seconded by Ms. Quallen. Meeting Adjourned.

Transcribed by Becky Fairley