

The June 12, 2007 meeting of the Newtown Village Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor John Hammon, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Councilmembers: Curt Cosby Mark Kobasuk
Doug Evans Debbie McCarthy (arrived 7:38 p.m.)
Tracy Hueber (absent) Ken Pulskamp

Mayor: John Hammon
Solicitor: Doug Miller
Fiscal Officer: Keri L. Everett
Chief of Police: Tom Synan
Street Commissioner: Charlie Siegel (absent)

Auxiliary Patrolman

Chief Synan has asked Marc Poteet to join the Village of Newtown Police Department as an auxiliary police officer. Mayor Hammon nominated Marc Poteet and asked council to confirm the nomination with a motion.

Councilmember Pulskamp made a motion to approve the nomination. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Swearing-In Auxiliary Officer

Mayor Hammon performed swearing-in ceremony for Marc Poteet.
Council and audience welcomed him to the Village of Newtown.

Audience Participation / Citizen Input

Resident Ken Patterson: 6835 East Plum Street. (Frank Baker's Property) (**Attachment**)

Mr. Patterson presented council with a petition from surrounding residents on E. Plum Street. Petition is in regards to junk at 6834 E. Plum Street; problem has been going on for years. Mr. Patterson hopes the petition will expedite the process to clean up the junk at Frank Baker's property. Mr. Dick Weber began the process two weeks ago. Chief Synan said Mr. Baker was served a letter and Mr. Weber talked with Solicitor Miller regarding prosecution. Mayor Hammon said a vehicle was towed.

Resident Margaret Greiss: Mrs. Greiss expressed her concern, regarding Rev. Preston and the Newtown United Methodist Church tearing down the parsonage. Mayor Hammon and council informed Mrs. Greiss that the Village of Newtown has nothing to do with the parsonage and recommended for her to discuss her concerns with Rev. Howard Preston.

Resident Frank Baker: 6834 E. Plum Street. Mr. Baker said he did bring in a motor home and took it away and brought another trailer in to clean out the stuff he stores in his house. The license to the trailer was outdated.

Mayor Hammon reminded Mr. Baker that due to many property violations he has been taken to Housing Court in Hamilton County, as well as Newtown Mayor's Court. Mr. Baker's property is in violation of Newtown's Property Maintenance Code and he has parked an unregistered vehicle on the street. Mayor Hammon told Mr. Baker that a vehicle must run and must have current license in order to park on the street. Mr. Baker said he understood what Mayor Hammon was saying.

Councilmember Doug Evans told Mr. Baker that it is to the point where people want to see things cleaned up and Mr. Evans offered his services to help Mr. Baker. Mr. Evans said he will do whatever he can to help Mr. Baker clean up his property. Our goal is to clean up the village and Mr. Baker's property is the poster child of the village. We need to keep the people's property values up. Dick Weber, Property Maintenance Inspector, is here to enforce our ordinances and clean up the village.

Mr. Baker said he has wanted to clean things up for a long time and things will be cleaned up. Mr. Baker said his health comes first and he has not been well, but will do what he needs to do. Mr. Baker said he has valuable stuff at his house and he will be living back at his house pretty soon. He currently lives in Deer Park.

Mr. Evans said he will talk to Mr. Baker after the meeting; he wants to fix the problem.

Resident Darwin Brooks: 6620 Crull Street.

Parking In Front Yard: Mr. Brooks asked who enforces the ordinance. Chief Synan said he has told Mr. Brooks several times to call the police when he sees a vehicle in the front yard. He said there is no need to take pictures and come to council; all he needs to do is call the police and they will take care of it. Chief Synan said he has yet to receive a phone call.

Mayor Hammon said Mr. Weber plans to attend the June 26th council meeting to discuss new legislation. He has recommendations for council and one is the parking situation that is occurring. Mr. Brooks point is there are employees that drive by everyday and they are aware of it, but someone still has to call. Chief Synan said they have discussed this before and instead of taking

pictures and making a production to council; he told Mr. Brooks he calls him on 100 different things so just call and he will make sure it is taken care of.

Mr. Evans assured Mr. Brooks that council is not going to stop; it just needs to be cleaned up.

Mayor Hammon

Full-Time Police Officer Opening

Chief Synan's previous slot has been opened and he has talked to me regarding the procedure in evaluating the part-timers. They have made a recommendation I accept.

Mayor Hammon nominated Charles J. Popov as a full-time police officer, effective July 1, 2007.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to affirm the Mayor's recommendation to hire Charles J. Popov as a full-time police officer, effective July 1, 2007. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Mayor Hammon requested an executive session to discuss property acquisition.

Moundview Park

Mayor Hammon had given proposal for Mike Cornette to do work at Moundview and no action was taken. He reminded council that he would not push for it unless a motion is made to allocate those funds.

Construction – Olentangy/Rio Grande

Mayor Hammon stated construction has begun. Mr. Cosby asked how much the funds are. Mayor Hammon said \$3,500 and \$4,500.

Employee Recognition

Mayor Hammon said due to family problems he feels he has not been able to give a lot of time but wants to recognize employees who have stepped up to get things accomplished. Field Training Officers: Sgt. Shawn McBreen and Police Office Jim Vontz did work on an evaluation process in selecting the full-time officer. Keri has worked on replacing our fax machine with possibly hooking up our copier as a fax machine and also additional phone lines for the police department's new workstations. Tony Baxter has stepped forward during Charlie's absence due to illness. Tony was supposed to be on vacation and moving; at my request, he elected not to take vacation. While Charlie is out if Tony or Robert needs to take time off, the other one cannot go out and cut grass or do anything with power tools. I'd like to recognize all the boys for stepping forward and doing an excellent job.

Mrs. McCarthy asked Mayor Hammon where the vacant maintenance-technician position stood. Mayor Hammon said with Charlie's illness he did not feel it appropriate to hire someone without Charlie's input. Mayor Hammon said he will hire a temporary person if Tony and Robert become swamped with work.

Chief Synan

Hiring Process

In the fourteen years I have been here, this was probably the fairest hiring process we have done. It was based on a point-system and evaluations. We obtained input from the full-time officers. John's and my opinion was we're not going to be here forever and this full-time person will probably be here for the next twenty-thirty years. The point system worked out very well; along with evaluation and input from the full-time officers.

Part-timers Resigned

- 1) Elizabeth McNay went full-time with Pierce Township.
- 2) One officer was unable to complete training.
- 3) Rose Fredrick worked here a very long time and did a great job. I was very upset to see Rose leave; she assisted with a lot of our changes. Rose had taken a full-time job working as a social worker and worked 70-100 hours per week, working 10 days straight there and then came here. She would go two or three weeks straight without any off-time. There were some family issues that came up and obviously, family is the most important thing. We will miss her deeply.

Part-time Officer Positions

John, Ken, Tracy and I have discussed the part-time process. We're going to come up with an information packet to let people know what is expected of them. We're going to include our values, along with a physical fitness program and then take their applications based off of that. We're looking at six for now; John recommended going with six part-time people. Based off of John's idea, I'd like to go ahead with three new-hires so we can get the training done. Mr. Miller has a sheet that is going to hold everyone to training within 90 days and also reimbursement if they leave within a year. I'd like to keep a list and the next three would come from that list; once we get done with the first three the next three would move up and then we would train them. We have a couple of extra auxiliary which should also help.

We're also going to contact the police academy. I know the direct very well and he has offered to invite us down there for fifteen minutes to recruit people.

County Commissioner Letter – Sales Tax

A few weeks ago I talked to you guys about the sales tax; if it goes through they pick up 70% of our communications cost, which will save the village over \$8,000 on the police end and \$4,000 on the fire end.

Mr. Evans asked Chief Synan his opinion of the new jail. Chief Synan said he supports the jail. For example, here in Newtown we have a prostitute that is a heroin addict and has been wanted for three years now. We recite her time and time again and finally the magistrate said to lock her up. We picked her up and took her to jail and they called and said they couldn't take her. I told them to let her go home and we would keep the warrant active and I would wait two weeks and come pick her up. They said they had a three-month waiting list and she probably wouldn't get in for a year. There is no space and you are putting a lot of people in who are getting right back out. It's sad when I stop a car for crack-cocaine, which is a felony and the person hands me the crack; I know I can't take them to jail. I write them a ticket to Mayor's Court on a misdemeanor instead of a felony because there is no room in jail. We are in desperate need of a jail in Hamilton County. I support the plan because they have put programs in to help people. They're trying to get people before they go in. They have a psychologist on board who has helped design programs to get people who are non-violent offenders into a system other than jail to help the problem. The communication cost is huge. I have always had a problem with the village or other communities picking up a huge portion of this communication cost when it is run by the county. I am very happy that they are willing to pick up 70% and it is part of the Homeland Security. I know it seems like a lot; it is a sales tax and not a property tax. It is \$0.005 (1/2 cent) for eight years and then drops to a \$0.0025 (1/4 cent) seven years after that. I am in support of it and I've given my vote for the Hamilton County Chief's Association to support it and it is much more than just a jail.

Fiscal Officer Keri Everett

2008 Budget: The 2008 Budget is due in July. I have begun working on it so you will receive it as soon as it is completed.

Health Insurance: Our employee's health insurance is up August 1, 2007. United Healthcare has sent a quote; they want a 70% increase. Fran Patterson with the Center for Local Government came out last week with several quotes. We're going to narrow it down to two plans. The employees have to fill out the questionnaires and we'll send them to the two companies and then they'll get us a real quote.

Fax Machine: Our current fax machine's feeder is wearing down and we seem to use it much more than before. Cincinnati Bell came out last week to discuss running the fax line to the copier. The quote also includes adding phones to the police department. We need a motion not to exceed \$2,000 for Cincinnati Bell; that includes the four phones, installation and programming, running the wires, etc.

Councilmember Debbie McCarthy

Mrs. McCarthy made a motion to approve May 8, 2007 Council Minutes. Mr. Cosby seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Board Members for CRA

Mrs. McCarthy asked Mayor Hammon where the board members for the CRA stood. Mayor Hammon said he and Catherine Fitzgerald have been trying to get together to sit and talk to have the board come together. The board needs to choose people; we're still rounding up candidates. We're trying to get the board to meet to name their two.

Councilmember Curt Cosby

Moundview Porch:

Mike Cornette is doing the professional services for the Moundview porch repair and new porch. Solicitor Doug Miller asked if Mr. Cornette is doing this under the office of Building Commissioner and we're just increasing his salary. Mayor Hammon said it was outside work. Solicitor Miller said it is in interest in a public contract and he is not sure Mr. Cornette can do that; he's a village employee. Ms. Everett said Mr. Cornette did the documents for the roof and gutters at Moundview. Solicitor Miller said it's okay to go ahead and make a motion, but before we enter into anything he needs to make sure this is okay.

Mr. Cosby made a motion to enter into a contract with Cornette-Violetta Architects for the construction drawings for the new porch and to repair the existing porch, not to exceed \$8,000. This is subject to solicitor's approval. Mrs. McCarthy seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Moundview Road Surface & Drainage

Mr. Cosby stated we received a quote from Brandstetter Carroll for their engineering fees; the quote also includes the engineering for the mill and replacement of the Ivy Hills Blvd. at Little Dry Run. The fees are not to exceed \$7,800. Solicitor Miller said to get it started with a motion and he will prepare a resolution for next council meeting.

Mr. Cosby made a motion to enter into contract with Brandstetter Carroll for engineering fees for Moundview Park and Ivy Hills Blvd., not to exceed \$7,800. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Mayor Hammon asked about Sea Brook. Ms. Everett said he did not include it in the price. Mayor Hammon said Mr. Brandstetter said the resurfacing is not a big deal and they are not charging for that. This is truly for Moundview and he's throwing the rest in. Mr. Cosby said he thought that Mr. Brandstetter's thought was that if they were doing both jobs at the time that it increased our chances of a better deal. Mayor Hammon asked since the discussion, it is his understanding that the village is going ahead with the project when we bid it out – council agreed yes it is a true statement to go ahead.

All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Councilmember Mark Kobasuk

Initiative Petition for Parking Issue in Crull Subdivision

Mr. Kobasuk offered council a draft-copy of the petition he prepared for the residents of the Crull subdivision regarding the no parking issue. Ninety-three signatures are required for the petition; they will need to rely on some of the people from the subdivision to get out and get the signatures. I'm just trying to help out, but volunteers are needed so please let me know if anyone can help. Members are needed to form a committee; there is space on the committee. The committee does need to be on the form. Solicitor Miller suggested getting the committee formed; if any changes are to be made it is better to have the committee formed.

Councilmember Doug Evans

Mr. Evans made a motion to accept Checklist dated 6/12/2007 in the amount of \$58,906.60. Mr. Pulskamp seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Mr. Evans made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Pulskamp seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Mr. Evans made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION 14-2007 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE HAMILTON COUNTY NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Pulskamp seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Mr. Cosby asked Solicitor Miller to explain. Solicitor Miller explained the plan was on the CD they provided. Solicitor Miller said this is the plan the county adopted and each community has to then adopt also or they won't be eligible for any federal funding in the event there is a disaster. This is already in effect; Hamilton County did make some changes and that's why they came back to the communities and asked them to pass it. Mr. Kobasuk asked if he knew of anything that caused concern for the Village of Newtown. Mr. Miller said no, but he has not read page per page.

Roll Call: Mrs. McCarthy-Yes, Mr. Cosby-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Mr. Evans stated for the record that he is for the jail tax for Hamilton County.

Councilmember Ken Pulskamp:

Ad for Police Officers

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$1,500 to the Cincinnati Enquirer for an ad for police officers. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Phone Equipment

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$2,000 for Cincinnati Bell for additional equipment, wiring and installation for the phone system at Town Hall. Mrs. McCarthy seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Supplemental Appropriations

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION 15-2007 A RESOLUTION APPROVING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND RECONCILING THE BUDGET AND AMENDING APPROPRIATIONS, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Ms. McCarthy-Yes, Mr. Cosby-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Weed Cutting – 3810 Church Street (Request of Mr. Weber)

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE 10-2007 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AND AUTHORIZING WEED CUTTING, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. Ms. McCarthy-Yes, Mr. Cosby-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

River Hills

Work has begun on Rio Grande and Olentangy. We need to pass the same no-parking ordinance for the construction period, as we did for the last streets recently done in River Hills.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE 11-2007 AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING NO PARKING ON OLENTANGY DRIVE AND RIO GRANDE LANE DURING PERIODS OF CONSTRUCTION, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion

Mr. Cosby asked how long do we anticipate the project to last and Mr. Pulskamp thought no more than sixty (60) days. Mayor Hammon thinks more like a month. He said they will do half of the curb one week and the other half another week and then come back and build the catch basins. Mr. Pulskamp said they will do one side of the street at a time.

Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Mrs. McCarthy-Yes, Mr. Cosby-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Personnel Practices – Third Reading

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to have a Third Reading of an ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL. Mr. Evans seconded the motion.

Discussion

Solicitor Miller said there have been two changes requested by council: 1) to put the five (5) vacation days one can carry over. In talking with John the other change is 2) we require if someone is out more than three (3) days they need to have a doctor's note saying it is okay to come back to work and he wanted to add in there that it would also apply if there is a hospitalization.

Roll Call: Mrs. McCarthy-Yes, Mr. Cosby-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Mayor Hammon

Chief Synan's schedule is Tuesday through Saturday. The Memorial Day holiday for employees was Monday, May 28, which is Chief Synan's regularly scheduled day off. With him being salary, I gave him another day off that week, in lieu of additional funds.

Executive Session

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:25 p.m. to discuss property acquisition. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.

Council meeting reconvened at 8:37 p.m.; no action to be taken as a result of executive session.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to adjourn council meeting. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-absent) Motion Carried.