

The February 8, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Newtown Village Council was called to order at 7:30 PM by Mayor John Hammon, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:	Hueber	Collins	Evans
	Fiscal Officer Everett	Solicitor Miller	McCarthy
	Police Chief Zornes	Police Lt. Synan	Thomas
	Street Commissioner Charlie Siegel		

Councilman Gary Collins

Mr. Collins: I've asked to go first because circumstances have brought me to this moment. In just a few minutes I'm going to resign from Council. First I'd like to thank the citizens of Newtown for electing me. Hopefully, I have served them with honor, integrity and character. I would like to thank the employees of the Village. I would like to thank the Mayor. We have stood shoulder to shoulder sometimes, and sometimes we haven't. I'd also like to thank Mr. Miller. There's a couple of things I would like to say before I go. Budgets are being slashed everywhere and I think there are going to be shortcomings in the future and I think we have to be fiscally responsible for the way we handle the monies we have. The last thing I would like to say is I believe in the horizon there is going to be a school levy coming up. My opinion on that is to watch it because I believe this Village is taxed enough.

Mr. Thomas: Thank you Gary for the time and effort you have put into the Village.

Mayor Hammon: I wish you the best both personally and professionally.

Mr. Evans made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hueber to suspend the rules. All aye, motion carried.

Mr. Evans made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hueber to accept Ordinance 4-2005 to amend temporary appropriations and reconcile the budget for the year 2005 and to declare emergency. All aye, motion carried.

Mr. Collins: At this time I would like to resign.

Mr. Miller: Gary, thank you.

Mrs. McCarthy: Thank you, Gary.

Citizen Input

None.

Police Chief Daryl Zornes

Chief Zornes: Council has their monthly packet.

Police Lieutenant Tom Synan

No report.

Street Commissioner Charlie Siegel

Mr. Siegel: The pavilion at Newtown, about 1 ½ years ago, we lost some shingles up there and we patched it. However, it looks horrible and since we just did the residency up there, we should do the pavilion as well. I went and got a couple of prices. One of them was from Brandstetter roofing who did the house.

Mr. Phillips: How old is that roof?

Mr. Siegel: 8-10 years. The shingle is really thin. Also, in that ice storm we had right before Christmas we received some damage on the service building. The front gutter was damaged and needs to be replaced. I've got an estimate from the builder. The only other thing I'd like to say is that with manpower and salt I think we're about over the hill now. So far this year we've purchased 474 tons of salt. Last year was 418. We've had a couple of decent storms this year. Man-hours 184 ½ this year and last year was 164 ½ at this time.

Mayor Hammon

Mayor Hammon: A worksheet from the planning meeting held after the last Council meeting was passed out. I talked to Bruce Brandstetter, just for your information. He said paving contracts are 15%-20% higher this year. These are the projects listed out. Paving may be more expensive this year. One of the things we need to do with the projects, somebody has to take the initiative of, is sit down with Keri and talk about dollars and programs for the new projects we've got. We need to sit down and prioritize them and then come back and see what kind of dollars and programs we've got. You've got a copy of a letter addressed to me from Mike Cornette talking about the parcel of land and trying to bring closure to that subject. We are still trying to search the records to see what was awarded.

Ms. Hueber made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve a contract with Hamilton County Board of Elections for use of Town Hall for a special election on May 2nd and general election on November 8. The building shall be available the evening before at 7:00 PM.

Fiscal Officer Keri Everett

No report.

Councilmember Tracey Hueber

Ms. Hueber: Did you talk to them about the fire hydrant?

Mr. Miller: Yes. I talked to the Chief and I also investigated the Southwest Fire Code. Chief said it is totally unnecessary, they can reach everything there. They did not feel that the fire hydrant was necessary, however, the Southwest Fire Code says in areas or properties where public water mains for fire protection have been installed in a residential area they must be at a distance no greater than 500 ft. apart.

Mr. Thomas: Is that a new installation or existing?

Mr. Miller: It just says where they have been installed.

Ms. Hueber: So, do we know the exact footage?

Mr. Miller: No, he said he thought it was around 640 ft. between the two without that fire hydrant.

Ms. Hueber: We have to go by the Fire Code.

Mr. Thomas: Well, that's probably existing.

Ms. Hueber: This is existing.

Mr. Miller: I checked with another Fire Chief and he kind of backed up the Chief and said as long as you have enough hose it really doesn't matter.

Ms. Hueber: But, that paper works says . . . And I really don't care as long as the safety of that neighborhood is not compromised. I trust the Fire Chief because that is his job but if it comes down to brass nails and that says something else then we're liable.

Mayor Hammon: Let's table this until we get it measured.

Mr. Miller: The Fire Chief said he did think there was a provision in there that gives him permission to waive those kind of rules.

Ms. Everett: Yeah, but it also says the Fire Chief and the District are not responsible for anything.

Ms. Hueber: Okay, so now we're back to this is a legal issue. Doug, what should we do if we find out it's over 500 ft?

Mr. Miller: If we can't determine that there is any kind of waiver process I guess my response would be that you have to have it within 500 ft.

Ms. Hueber: Right, because if something comes of this, no matter what we are responsible.

Mr. Miller: One other thing you might want to do is contact your insurance carrier and see what they are going to say.

Ms. Hueber: I just have to have it measured.

Mr. Miller: You need to measure all three in a line.

Ms. Hueber: From hydrant to hydrant.

Mr. Miller: Again, that's residential. If it's not residential it has to be 300 ft.

Ms. Hueber: Next, if anyone wants to venture over there they have re-done that whole kitchen and everything is ready for the fish fries. They have new appliances and everything and it looks really nice. So, anybody is welcome or you can wait until the fish fry. Windows Plus has donated a really nice glass window and it is a really nice upgrade. The upstairs and downstairs are done and it looks really nice.

Councilman Doug Evans

Mr. Evans: Has everyone had a chance to go over the checklist? I've got a couple of quick questions. The \$6,000 for the Newtown United Methodist Church?

Ms. Everett: Contract done before you got here. It's annual.

Mr. Evans: Okay, when there is a wedding there and when they park over here. .

Ms. Hueber: We have three spots.

Mr. Miller: It's not my church, I attend Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church next to McNicholas High School and there's a things that they kind of trade off and no money changes hands.

Mr. Thomas: It used to be that way but . . .

Mr. Evans: Okay we're paying \$6,000 a year?

Ms. Hueber: We're paying \$6,000 a year and what happened is we have been in violation of our own parking code since existence, I guess. So, we've got maybe three parking spots. That's another reason why we're trying to get a new town hall. So, we pay \$6,000 to them as a lease agreement because that church kind of dwindled they needed money and it was to maintain the lot. They are now responsible for snow removal, lining, paving, everything.

Mr. Evans made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hueber to accept the checklist dated February 8, 2005. All aye, motion carried.

Mr. Evans: One other quick thing, since Gary kind of brought it up, I've had a few phone calls myself, about the school levy taxes. It's a really hard thing to think about. They're starting to tax people out that live around here. It's the only education I ever got was up there and I think they did a good job, but, we need to look for creative ways besides raising taxes for these people that have fixed incomes. It's hard all the way around and everybody always feels bad for the schools but they need to make cuts too. As long as I'm on Council, I'm going to take a stand against raising taxes whether it's schools or governments, even though my neighbors up there are on the school board, I agree with Gary and say when at all possible we need to work together to do whatever possible before we raise taxes on property or anything.

Councilman Greg Thomas

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve \$1.410 to repair the gutter at the Service Department Building.

The motion was put on hold for a second bid. The park shelter roof and gutter repair was also put on hold to obtain a second bid.

Councilwoman Debbie McCarthy

Mrs. McCarthy: Anderson Township Little League would like permission to hang a sign on the fence thanking their sponsors during their games.

Mayor Hammon: You need to talk to Mike Cornette.

Mr. Miller: Well, that Village property so even if Mike says "fine, it's a temporary sign" we need to get permission from Council.

Mayor Hammon: Talk to Mike about it and then bring it back.

Mrs. McCarthy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hueber to go into a contract with Anderson Township Little League Baseball for \$500 March 7, 2005 to July 31, 2005. All aye, motion carried.

Solicitor Doug Miller

No report.

Mayor Hammon: Tomorrow night there will be a Public Hearing for information on the Drake Street Development at 7:00 pm at Town Hall.

Ms. Hueber: We're going to get this newsletter together and I have a letter from Daryl to the residents, does Council want to do one before I meet with the gentleman to put this together? What do we want to do as Council?

Mayor Hammon: We can talk about this outside of Council. I'll do one.

Ms. Hueber: The other thing, with Gary not being the Chair of his committee, does somebody need to do something?

Mayor Hammon: There's nothing pending over the next two weeks that we need to take action on. They traded, but, as I said the first of the year, she stays on the whole year. We're not going to bounce from committee to committee all year.

Ms. Hueber: I just wanted to make sure we don't drop the ball.

Mrs. Joan Waits, Monongahela Drive: In other communities they send out a quarterly newspaper and it lists all of the new ordinances.

Ms. Hueber: It's on the website, a lot of the stuff. We're doing an introduction, it's like three pages. It's going to be an informative newsletter. Input from residents can also be there.

Mrs. Waits: I was thinking ordinances about cleaning up yards.

Ms. Hueber: We can do features, Joan. There's a lot of people that don't use computers and this is one way we can get it out to them.

Mrs. Waits: Very good.

Ms. Hueber: I would like to get it out by March.

Mrs. Waits: Well, Spring is coming and what better time?

Ms. Hueber: Exactly.

Ms. Hueber made a motion, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.