

The March 22, 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:	Tracy Hueber	Ken Pulskamp	Doug Evans
	Solicitor Doug Miller	Greg Thomas	Debbie McCarthy
	Police Lt. Tom Synan	Fiscal Officer Keri Everett	

Mayor Hammon introduced Mr. Greg Cathman, Hamilton County Development Company to speak about a program to help revitalize neighborhoods offered through the State of Ohio called the Community Reinvestment Area program. The program offers an abatement on reevaluation of property through the county auditor's office for a period of up to 15 years. It's a great tool to give people incentive to improve their property. A lengthy discussion was held with Mr. Cathman reviewing the rules of the program and benefits for the Village of Newtown and it's residents.

Citizen Input

Mr. Tom Busse, Ragland Road, reported that there is a water leak at the Moundview Park house. It's leaking down from the second story to the first and collecting on the kitchen counter top and running down into the carpet and dripping down on the microwave. Mr. Thomas will have Mr. Siegel take a look at it.

Police Lieutenant Tom Synan

No report.

Street Superintendent Charlie Siegel

Not present.

Mayor Hammon informed Council that when the improvement was completed on Valley Avenue the Village was responsible for moving the sign at the Water Works Car Wash. Mayor Hammon asked Council for an amount up to \$7,000 to reimburse the car wash to move the sign for the Village.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$7,000 to allow negotiations to move the sign at the corner of Valley Avenue and Roundbottom Road. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Mr. Evans said he will call Ray Dietrich, the owner of the car wash and discuss the cost with him. He will report his findings at the next meeting.

Fiscal Officer Keri Everett

Ms. Everett notified Council the Moundview Park tenants are moving and she has received a couple of phone calls inquiring about the apartment. She has told people to send a letter of interest for her to keep on file. She doesn't think it will be necessary to put a notice in the paper since there is already people interested. Charlie will have to do an inspection and then they will get their deposit back. They have to receive their deposit back within thirty days of vacating the property.

A lengthy discussion was held to review the appropriations ordinance for 2005.

Ms. Everett presented, and Council discussed, a third draft of the proposed salary information. Lt. Synan spoke with Council about an option of the Police Department foregoing raises this year in order to have the appropriations available to hire one more full-time police officer and have a part-time officer available so there are two officers on duty on all shifts. Mayor Hammon pointed out this is a Police Department matter and nothing should be decided without the Police Chief being present. Mr. Thomas stated we really need to watch the budget. Mr. Pulskamp said they were putting the cart before the horse; they need to figure out what money is available and then make plans. Mayor Hammon reiterated that Chief Zornes is the Police Chief and this needs to be done through him. He then suggested a committee meeting should be called and this all could be discussed there. Council went through the levels listed in the ordinance and discussed how they should be set up. Mrs. Hueber established they would appropriate the money so if they go back to the department and they decide they do need one full time officer and two people covering all shifts they will be covered for the whole year. They will meet with the department to see exactly what is needed.

Mr. Pulskamp suggested, and Council agreed, taking \$15,000 out of the General Fund Contingency line, \$15,000 out of the Capital Improvement Miscellaneous Contracted Services line, \$15,000 out of Parks, and \$20,000 out of Property Purchase, to cover the cost of the full time officer.

Mrs. McCarthy asked what is being done about the Court Clerk/Secretary position; is it a full-time or part-time position? Mr. Pulskamp said we need to go back and plug the information in the ordinance as well as information for the Fiscal Officer.

Mr. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pulskamp to suspend the rules.

Mr. Evans made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hueber to adopt Ordinance NO. 5-2005 An Ordinance Adopting The Village Appropriations For 2005, And Declaring An Emergency. Motion carried.

Mrs. Becky Fairly, Ragland Road, asked when the information will be plugged in for the Fiscal Officer and Court Clerk. Mr. Pulskamp stated they will hopefully be ready for the next meeting. Mrs. Fairly asked if the Court Clerk we have now is permanent. Mayor Hammon and Mr. Pulskamp stated no. Mrs. Fairly asked how long she has been with the Village. Mayor Hammon said he did not know. Mrs. Caryl Clark, Court Clerk, stated she has been with the Village 2 ½ years. Mrs. Fairly asked how long it will take to get that settled. Mayor Hammon said first of all, it's not a position he can hire into with the current salary ordinance. When the salary ordinance is passed they can go back and visit the interviews and the process they went through.

Councilmember Debbie McCarthy

Mrs. McCarthy suggested putting up signs in the parking lot to identify the handicap parking. If someone comes in at night, it's very hard to see those are handicap spots. Mr. Pulskamp pointed out it is not the Village's lot. The Village rents it, but, it belongs to the Methodist Church. Mrs. McCarthy will contact the Methodist Church to see if signs can be erected.

Mrs. McCarthy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Evans to accept the contract with Mr. Chip Kupferberg, Assistant Director, SCSA Select Soccer, for the use of the field at Short Park. Motion carried.

Mrs. McCarthy brought up the subject of having multiple committees. She stated she would like to keep Planning Committee and will sit on Finance and Parks. With Mr. Phillips resigning, she would like to take over the website. Mayor Hammon said it is inappropriate to divide the position up at this point in time. It would be better to wait until that position is filled. Ms. Everett asked who is updating the website. Mr. Pulskamp volunteered to fill the position of Chairperson for Human Resources. He added it is his strongest point and where his experience is. Mr. Evans and Ms. Hueber suggested letting Mrs. McCarthy help Human Resources with the website. Mr. Pulskamp said he would love to have Mrs. McCarthy help him with it and he is interested in changing the host.

Councilmember Greg Thomas

Mr. Thomas made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hueber to suspend the rules. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Thomas made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hueber to accept Ordinance No. 6-2005 An Ordinance Establishing Fees For Burials In The Flag Spring Cemetery In The Village of Newtown, Dispensing With The Second And Third Readings, And Declaring Emergency. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Thomas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Evans to suspend the rules. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Thomas made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hueber to accept Ordinance No. 7-2005 An Ordinance Designating No Parking On Debolt Street In The Village Of Newtown And Dispensing With The Second And Third Reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Debbie McCarthy

Mrs. McCarthy notified Council she has been contacted by Anderson Township Little League about the donation and installation of a sprinkler system at Moundview Park. Ms. Hueber volunteered to take over this area until we have another Councilmember to take over this committee. She will contact ATLL and discuss the specifics of this issue.

Councilmember Tracey Hueber

JRONG

Ms. Hueber notified Council she will be using a local company, Addressed for Success to extract the addresses and mailing of the newsletter to all the addresses in Newtown. She will need a check added to the checklist in the amount of \$462.20 to cover these expenses.

Newsletter →

Councilmember Doug Evans

Mr. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pulkamp to move the Village checking accounts from US Bank to 5/3 Bank. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pulkamp to accept the checklist with the addition of a check in the amount of \$462.20 to Addressed for Success. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pulkamp to advance \$17,331.81 from the General Fund to the Fire Fund to cover fire coverage expenses this month. Motion carried.

Mr. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pulkamp to suspend the rules. Motion carried.

Mr. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pulkamp to adopt Ordinance No. 8-2005 An Ordinance Amending The Village Budget For 2005, Dispensing With The Second And Third Readings And Declaring An Emergency. Motion carried.

Councilmember Ken Pulkamp

Mr. Pulkamp made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thomas to suspend the rules. Motion carried.

Mr. Pulkamp made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thomas to adopt Ordinance No. 9-2005 An Ordinance Appropriating Funds From The Collection Of Tipping Fees From A Construction And Demolition Debris Landfills, Dispensing With The Second And Third Reading And Declaring An Emergency. Motion carried.

Councilmember Tracy Hueber

Ms. Hueber received a follow-up letter from Chief Driggers regarding his opinion on whether a hydrant is needed on Debolt Road. Also, the fish fries are over now and they were very successful. The Fire District's festival will be in Fairfax this year, the second week in August. The District has also started collaborative bargaining with the union and she will keep Council updated.

Newsletter →
Ms. Hueber made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pulkamp for an amount not to exceed \$2,010 to cover the production of the newsletter. Motion carried.

Mr. Thomas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pulkamp to suspend the rules. Motion carried.

Mr. Thomas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pulskamp to adopt Resolution No. 1-05 Authorizing the Transfer of Village Funds, Dispensing with the Second and Third Readings and Declaring An Emergency. Motion carried.

Mayor Hammon

Mayor Hammon asked Council to visit the location in front of Meridian Diagnostics at Roundbottom and Route 32 to determine if they see a need to reinstall the guardrails. Also, he has asked Mr. Siegel to ask his employee, Andrew Bradford, to draw up plans for the landscaping at Town Hall and bring them back to Council. Mr. Bradford has a background in this area.

Ms. Hueber made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pulskamp to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.