

September 27, 2016

A Special Joint meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Newton and the Newton Board of Education was held on the above date at 6:00 pm. Present were Deputy Mayor Levante, Mr. Elvidge, Mr. Flynn, Mrs. Le Frois and Mayor Diglio, Thomas S. Russo, Jr., Town Manager, Dawn Babcock, CFO and Lorraine A. Read, Municipal Clerk.

Present for the Newton Board of Education were Stella Dunn, President, Jessica Egner, Vice-President, Ed Caffrey, Michael Fancher, Ray Morris (arrived @6:25 pm), Joan Faye, Guilene Ham, John Jackson, Tina Larsen, Donna Snyder, Business Administrator and Dr. Ken Greene, Superintendent. Ann Marie Cooke and Charles Fantasia were absent.

Mayor Diglio made the following declaration that “in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this special meeting was given to the two newspapers of record and posted on the official bulletin board on September 15, 2016.”

Mr. Russo gave opening comments and thanked the Newton Board of Education for meeting with the Town Council.

Mr. Russo outlined some of the key projects going on in Newton and provided a brief synopsis of each one.

Administration

1. AHS/NMC Agreement
2. Marketing Videos - Phase I
3. Parking Rates
4. Tax Abatement Program Extension
5. Website Redesign - v. 5

Emergency Services and Court

1. Firehouse 2 Construction
2. New Ambulances
3. New Fire Truck (Pumper Rescue Truck) and Chief's Vehicle Ford Expedition

Public Works and Engineering

1. Fox Hollow Watermain Repairs
2. Madison Sidewalks bid
3. Morris Lake Forestry Plan
4. Rail Trail
5. UPSEU Contract
6. Water Allocation Increase
7. Water/Sewer Connection Fees
8. Water/Sewer Rate Analysis

Planning & Zoning

1. Abandoned Properties Registration Ordinance
2. Armory Redevelopment
3. Camp Iliff Construction
4. Deli @ MSG's
5. Digital Sign Ordinance Change
6. Dunkin' Donuts (Sparta Avenue)
7. G&H
8. Hicks Redevelopment
9. Krogh's Newton Location @ Paterson Avenue
10. McGuire's Redevelopment
11. NJ Future Green Infrastructure Project
12. RPM Project - Newton Town Centre
13. SCCC Annexation

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- 14. Style Shop Renovation
- 15. Thorlabs Expansion

Dr. Greene, Superintendent, briefly outlined some of the goals being addressed by the Newton School District. He also disseminated the data summary sheet on the Newton Public School (Merriam Ave; Halsted MS; Newton HS).

Dr. Greene briefly outlined the student enrollment; student demographics; academic achievement; academic growth; college and career readiness; graduation/dropout/college attendance rates; post-secondary enrollment rates; public high school rankings; student to staff ratios; budgetary per pupil costs; school funding; and local tax levy. Dr. Greene and the Board were proud of the recent rankings by New Jersey Monthly magazine which rated Newton High School 99 of 337 in 2016. It was noted in 2014 Newton High School was ranked 168.

After a brief discussion, Dr. Greene thanked the Town for their continued support of the Newton School District and noted that an annual joint meeting of the Newton Town Council and the Newton Board of Education is a helpful tool with the continued dialogue among both boards.

Mayor Diglio opened the meeting to the public.

There being no one from the public to be heard, upon motion of Mrs. Le Frois, seconded by Mr. Flynn and carried, the Council adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lorraine A. Read, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk