

August 4, 2008

The regular work session meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Newton was held on the above date at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mr. Elvidge, Mrs. Unhoch, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Le Frois, Mayor Ricciardo and Town Manager, Eileen Kithcart.

Mayor Ricciardo read the following declaration that “in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this work session meeting was given to the two newspapers of record and posted on the official bulletin board on December 26, 2007”.

UPDATE ON BUDGET/FINANCES (WITH CFO AND AUDITOR)

Ms. Dawn Babcock, CFO was in attendance and made a budget presentation to the Governing Body for 2008. Also in attendance was our Town Auditor, Mr. Tom M. Ferry, CPA, RMA of Ferraioli, Wielkotz, Cerullo & Cuva. Ms. Babcock provided a summary of the 2008 Municipal Budget appropriations, as well as, several charts outlining expenses and revenues. Mr. Ferry addressed several questions of the Town Council. Ms. Babcock provided the analysis of the major increases to the 2008 Municipal Budget and advised that the projected increase in amount to be raised by Municipal Tax is \$930,968, which represents eleven (11) tax points.

Ms. Babcock then outlined the Newton Water & Sewer Utility 2008 Budget. The increase to this budget for 2008 is \$15,000.

Mr. Ferry and Ms. Kithcart addressed several questions of the Town Council. Ms. Kithcart advised that there are two “caps” this year in the budget process, which is new regulation by the State.

Ms. Babcock also addressed Council on an issue surrounding the depletion of funds in the public defenders trust account for Municipal Court. After a brief discussion, Ms. Babcock was directed to obtain additional statistics for negotiations use.

August 4, 2008

WORKER'S COMP POLICY SCHOOL CROSSING POST

Ms. Kithcart advised Council that a presentation regarding workman compensation will be made to Council at the Council meeting on August 25, 2008. Mr. Keith Mitchell and a Statewide Representative will be present.

REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Ms. Kithcart advised that the Council has received their draft for the Hicks Avenue Redevelopment Plan and asked that they review the document and make any changes or comments by Thursday, August 7, 2008, so that any changes could be incorporated on Friday. Mr. Ross Sheasley and Jennifer Credidio of A. Nelessen Associates, Inc., will make a presentation on Monday, August 11, 2008 on the Hicks Avenue Redevelopment Plan.

TOWN MANAGER'S ACTIVITY CHECKLIST

Ms. Kithcart submitted a comprehensive activity report to the Governing Body which provides actions which have been addressed by the Town Manager along with a brief description with the current status. This list consist of eight (8) pages. It was noted that the list was also provided to Mr. Russo, incoming Town Manager.

The Council reviewed and discussed several items from the list with Ms. Kithcart. Council commended Ms. Kithcart for her accomplishments related to this action list.

SEPTEMBER WORK SESSION

Council discussed the conflicts with the September work session meeting. After a brief discussion, Council agreed to cancel the September 2, 2008 work session. Mrs. Read will advertise as required by law.

BANNER/RIBBON REQUESTS

August 4, 2008

Ms. Kithcart addressed several requests for permission to hang banners on Spring Street. After a brief discussion, permission was given for “Taste of Newton”, Newton First Aid Squad membership, PSS, seeking approval for Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Domestic Abuse Awareness month. It was noted that PSS and Domestic Abuse Awareness month request would be approved based on their cooperation with each other, due to a conflict with the same week of advertisement.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilwoman Unhoch updated Council on the Old Mine Road Festival which will be held on Spring Street in Newton on October 11, 2008.

Upon motion of Mayor Ricciardo, seconded by Mrs. Le Frois and carried, the Town Council went into executive session at 10:09 p.m.

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Newton (hereinafter referred to as the “Town Council”), convened a meeting in full compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows a public body to enter executive session during a public meeting to discuss certain matters, and

WHEREAS, it has become clear to the Town Council that there is a need to enter executive session to discuss one or more of the exceptions to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, as set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, and

WHEREAS, this work session meeting of the Town Council will not reconvene;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that it will enter executive session to discuss issues related to litigation and personnel;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the discussion conducted in executive session by the Newton Town Council shall be disclosed to the public as follows:

LITIGATION

Ms. Kithcart updated Council on a few pending litigation issues.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Kithcart updated Council on personnel issues.

August 4, 2008

Upon motion of Mr. Ricciardo, seconded Mrs. Becker and carried, the Town Council left executive session at 10:50 p.m.

Mayor Ricciardo declared the meeting opened to the public.

There being no one from the public to be heard, upon motion of Mr. Ricciardo, seconded by Mrs. Le Frois and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine A. Read, RMC
Municipal Clerk