

April 7, 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, Mr. Diglio, Mr. Ricciardo, Mr. Storm, Mayor Unhoch and Town Manager, Eileen Kithcart.

Mayor Unhoch 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”.

CAPITAL REQUEST FINALIZATION:

A. Slope Mower Video – K. Jaekel & R. Straway

Mr. Ken Jaekel, DPW Supervisor and Mr. Rick Straway, DPW Foreman, gave a brief video presentation of the slope mower that has been discussed at previous Council meetings. Mr. Jaekel announced that there will be two other slope mower demonstrations on April 22, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the soccer field at Memory Park.

B. Memory Park Bathrooms / Shelter Bldg. – Tom Trudgeon, Sr.

Mr. Tom Trudgeon, Sr. gave a brief presentation regarding the Memory Park bathroom facilities. Mr. Trudgeon advised he has been unable to ascertain a bathroom cleaning service and also advised that fees to rent Porta-Johns will cost \$90 per unit. The town will continue to look for a cleaning service but will provide the Porta-Johns in the meantime.

C. Summit / Pine Street Pond Dredging

Ms. Kithcart updated the Governing Body regarding the dredging of Summit and Pine Street Ponds.

REQUESTS:

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A. DASI – Domestic Abuse Awareness Month.

Ms. Kithcart read a request from DASI to hang ribbons around the Town of Newton during the entire month of October in observance of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

After a brief discussion, the Governing Body had no objection for DASI to hang purple ribbons around prominent locations within the Town of Newton.

B. ABATE – Motorcycle Awareness Month.

Ms. Kithcart read a request from A.B.A.T.E. of the Garden State, American Bikers Advocating Training and Education, asking for support in recognizing May as “Motorcycle Awareness Month.” After a brief discussion, Ms. Kithcart received approval from the Governing Body.

C. Garbage Pickup

The Governing Body addressed the letter submitted by a resident requesting garbage pickup. The Council reviewed this issue a few years ago, which was not approved. Ms. Kithcart will address other municipalities regarding garbage pickup at a later date.

GRANTS:

A. Transportation Enhancement.

Mrs. Millikin made a presentation regarding the Department of Transportation grant available. After a brief discussion, Council agreed to pursue the grant, for North Park Drive, as recommended by Harold Pellow and Associates.

B. Firefighter Assistance.

Mrs. Millikin advised Council that she has applied for a firefighter assistance grant on Friday for the Newton Fire Department. This grant is an “accountability system” for our firemen. It allows for this

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“accountability system” to know where the firemen are in a burning building.

Mrs. Millikin advised that she received a call from DCA regarding a Small Cities Grant application for Liberty Towers. The air conditioner unit at Liberty Towers is not working currently, which may be eligible for funding. Mrs. Millikin will follow-up with Ms. Woodhull, Executive Director of Liberty Towers.

Mrs. Millikin updated on some other various grants.

2008 BUDGET BRIEFING

Ms. Kithcart advised Council of the public hearing on the Municipal Budget to be held on April 14, 2008. Ms. Kithcart advised that amendments will be made to the budget due to various grant changes in funding. On April 28, 2008, the Town plans on adopting the Municipal Budget. The Town Auditor may be recommending postponing the adoption, but will notify the town prior to the adoption.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Kithcart recently had a meeting with the Newton First Aid Squad and requested permission to hang banners at the entrance signs to the town of Newton for volunteers to NFAS. Council gave the squad permission to hang banners by the entrance to Newton signs.

REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Ms. Kithcart provided the Council with a large amount of documents which included all of the funding documents surrounding the Vision Plan/Redevelopment issues. Ms. Kithcart outlined the redevelopment financing and process.

Councilman Elvidge read a lengthy statement which outlined his disappointment due to the “lack of understanding and political stance”

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surrounding the redevelopment process. Councilman Ricciardo outlined Council actions on each and every resolution which has been adopted since 2004 relevant to redevelopment in the Town of Newton. After a lengthy discussion, Ms. Kithcart suggested a Special meeting between the Town Council and the Planning Board in order to recap the need for the redevelopment in the Town. It was noted that a Redevelopment "PLAN" has not been developed yet. This special meeting will be open to the public. A date will be determined after Council and Planning Board approval.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of Mr. Ricciardo, seconded by Mr. Elvidge and carried, the Town Council went into executive session at 9:08 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;

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 pending litigation issues.

Upon motion of Mr. Ricciardo,

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sion at 9:16 p.m.

Mayor Unhoch declared the meeting opened to the public.

There being no one from the public to be heard, upon motion of Mr. Ricciardo, seconded by Mayor Unhoch and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine A. Read, RMC
Municipal Clerk