

The March 8, 2011 meeting of the Newtown Village Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Curt Cosby, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Councilmembers: Brian Burns Mark Kobasuk
Doug Evans Curt Tiettmeyer
Joe Harten Daryl Zornes

Solicitor: Doug Miller

Fiscal Officer: Keri Everett

Police Chief: Tom Synan

Citizen Participation

Chuck Short, resident and Vice Commander of the Newtown Veterans Association spoke to Council regarding the Memorial Wall. The Memorial Wall has been redesigned; Mr. Short will present Council with the new design after the Veterans Association's March 14th meeting. Mr. Short assured Council that the first phase of the memorial will be erected at Moundview Park no later than July 4th.

The Gerard Masonic Lodge #428, 3511 Debolt Road, sponsors a breakfast the second Saturday of each month; cost is \$5.00. All proceeds go to the Shriners Burn Hospital. All are welcome!

Newtown History Display

Tom Brown, Tom Brown Creative and Charlie Wallace, Wallace Design collaborated on researching and designing the History Room at the Anderson Township Government Center. Mr. Brown and Mr. Wallace spoke to Council about Newtown's rich history and the possibility of employing their services for future consideration of a Newtown History Room.

Ivy Hills Reserve "No Parking" Signs

Street Commissioner Ron Dickerson discussed placement and cost of the no parking signs. Fifteen signs will be placed on the side of the road where the fire hydrants are located throughout the townhome community. The signs will cost \$550. Mr. Tiettmeyer asked if the village would be expected to add these signs on the streets in the condo community. Mr. Dickerson said no that is privately owned.

Lenten Fish Fry

The Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by the Newtown Civic League will be held at the Newtown Fire House, Fridays, March 11 through April 15 from 5:00pm to 7:30pm. Menu: Fried Haddock (fillet/sandwich), baked tilapia, chicken strips, popcorn shrimp, cheese pizza, baked potato, clam chowder, tossed salad, french fries, onion rings, hush puppies, cole slaw, green beans, mac-n-cheese and apple sauce. Drinks: Regular Cola/Diet and Water. Desserts and coffee are sponsored by the Veterans Association ~ Call 271.6770 to place order.

Checklists

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to approve the Checklist dated 2/22/2011 for a total of \$40,277.36, seconded by Mr. Kobasuk. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to approve the Checklist dated 3/08/2011 for a total of \$60,006.33, seconded by Mr. Kobasuk. Roll Call: Mr. Tiettmeyer-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Evans-Abstain, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Burns-Yes, Mr. Harten-Yes. Motion Carried.

Finance Committee Update

Mr. Tiettmeyer, Chairman of the Finance Committee reported that the committee focused on approving the amended appropriations. The only change was based on the salary recommendations from the Human Resource Committee. These salary recommendations will be discussed in Executive Session.

Ordinance Adopting 2011 Appropriations

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to have a Second Reading of AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE VILLAGE APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2011 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Harten seconded the motion.

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to have the Third Reading at the 3-22-2011 Council meeting. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Council Minutes

Mr. Zornes made a motion to approve the 2-08-2011 Council Minutes, seconded by Mr. Tiettmeyer. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Maintenance Department Update

The Maintenance Department has been prepping the lawn and flower beds throughout the village. The fountain lights have been removed and will be replaced at no cost to the village, per Mr. Dickerson. The 2000 GMC and salt spreader have been repaired at a cost of \$400. The plan is to replace this truck in 2013.

Recycling

The Village of Newtown will provide and deliver our residents with a red recycling bin or a 65-gallon recycling wheeler at no charge. Street Commissioner Ron Dickerson was instrumental in implementing the recycling wheeler program in the village. The wheelers will increase tonnage and also cut down on items littering the streets. Please call (513) 271-2009 with your name and contact information and which recycling receptacle fits your recycling needs. The 65-gallon recycling wheeler **MUST** be used for recyclables **ONLY**. Please visit http://www.newtownohio.gov/?page_id=1068 for more tips on recycling.

Short Park Restroom

Construction will begin soon with April 5th an estimated date of completion for the site prep.

Moundview Community Center

Tom and Lexi Stevenson donated cabinets for the upstairs kitchen at the Community Center. The cabinets are used but in good condition.

Ordinance, Ivy Hills Reserve Parking

Mr. Evans made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Kobasuk. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Evans made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 06-2011 AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING NO PARKING ON CERTAIN STREETS IN THE IVY HILLS RESERVE SUBDIVISION IN THE VILLAGE OF NEWTOWN AND DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Tiettmeyer-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Burns-Yes, Mr. Harten-Yes. Motion Carried.

LMFD Fire Board Update

A few updates from Councilman Kobasuk: 1) Bids came in a bit higher than advertised; \$100,000 adjustments will be made. 2) Fire Board is considering discontinuing services with Allen Freeman, D & S Consulting. To date, 18,000 dollars have been spent on grant seeking with no return. 3) Mr. Kobasuk has the Project Budget Summary if anyone is interested. Items down the road for the Fire Board to consider are: acquiring adjoining land to the Fairfax property or adding a basement. Mayor Cosby said he is asked frequently when the project will be started at the E-Check property. A few members were ill; therefore, the Board was unable to meet in January. At the February meeting, the Board approved five contractors to do the electrical work; the project should begin fairly soon and is estimated to be completed fall 2011.

Mayor's Monthly Statement

Mr. Kobasuk made a motion to approve the Mayor's Monthly Statement to Council for February 2011 receipts. Mr. Burns seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Short Park

OSYSA, Jack Hermans is holding their annual soccer camp at Short Park, June 27 through July 1 from 9:00am until 3:00pm. Mayor Cosby said we need to keep organized teams off of the fields during the spring; the maintenance department is going to seed and fertilize the fields. He asked Chief Synan to have the police department keep an eye out for organized teams that have not gone through the proper channels to use the fields and tell them they are not to be using the fields as organized teams.

Long-Range Planning Committee Update

Members serving this committee are: Mayor Cosby, Councilmen Joe Harten and Curt Tiettmeyer. Mr. Harten gave the following update: The committee met this evening and agreed it is not fiscally

responsible to further explore purchasing the property where the old Post Office was located on Main Street. The committee also determined it would not be fiscally responsible to consider creating a safety services campus centered on the new fire station. The committee did agree it would make more sense to explore uses for the current fire station, which is 5,000 sq ft. John Russell took measurements and said the current fire station could function as a Town Hall. The current Town Hall is 3,000 sq ft., which would allow the police department to utilize and occupy this space. Other potential funding sources are being researched.

Discussion

Mr. Kobasuk said the Fire Board is interested in the possibility of purchasing the property next to the E-Check site, if Council is not interested in this property. Mr. Harten said based on the committee's discussion, it seems there is no interest in the property.

Mr. Burns said he doesn't have a problem of retrofitting some things, but asked Mayor and Council, "at what point is this just beyond the point of continuing to sink money into a building that is not in good shape?" Mr. Harten said the idea is to turn this building into something that could last for a much longer time. Potential costs are being considered; hopefully, grants will also be available.

Mr. Kobasuk asked Chief Synan his thoughts. Chief Synan said it is not the best spot in the world and he somewhat agrees with Mr. Burns. Chief Synan said it's not his first choice. Mayor Cosby said at this point, there has been no design work. The basement definitely needs work. Mayor's Court would be held across the street where administration would be in Council's chambers, said Mayor Cosby. The Municipal Parking Lot would also be convenient for those attending Mayor's Court.

Mr. Burns said from working across the street, that building is going to be a challenge enough and will need tremendous renovation, and to renovate two buildings of the same period. He said it's a lot easier to renovate a house that is twenty years old versus one that is one hundred years of age. Mayor Cosby said Building and Zoning Commissioner Mike Spry has assessed both buildings extensively, along with John Russell who is an architect and they both believe this can be accomplished. Mayor Cosby said we don't have two million dollars to go out and build a new building, but we will explore it as far as our budget allows. He said we do have to look at what we have and make the best of what we have, as long as we're not throwing good money after bad. Mr. Burns said he agrees, but we don't have one million dollars to go after a new building. He said, "At some point, we are going to have to come to some type of way to get money." Mr. Tiettmeyer said, "the point of the exercise is to determine the costs to complete the building across the street (current fire house) and best use of that space and then to come back and look at this building (current Town Hall.)" Mr. Russell is well aware of the condition of the building and there will be recommendations on how we can treat this building, perhaps on an interim basis if we don't have the funding to do both at the same time and satisfy all of the needs, said Mr. Tiettmeyer. Mr. Evans said it is easier to obtain a grant for something that is historical. Mayor Cosby said this report is preliminary; at this point, there are no plans to reconvene the committee until further information is obtained.

Senate Bill 5

Mr. Harten asked Solicitor Miller to speak to Senate Bill 5 and what it may mean to the Village as an employer. Solicitor Miller said SB 5 doesn't have too much to do with Newtown since we don't have any collective bargaining units. SB 5 does affect all government employees in some way, basically two areas: pay or benefits, which both are near and dear to every public employee's heart. Solicitor Miller said they are basically saying there needs to be some type of merit-base pay for any public employee, which sometimes is an anomaly in government service and sometimes difficult to do. The main changes in benefits would cap vacation days at 7.7 hours per bi-weekly period, which is equivalent to 25 days vacation, which is five weeks. Sick leave is currently at 4.6 hours per bi-weekly period, which would change to 3.1 hours per bi-weekly period. The 3.1 is equivalent of ten (10) sick days. The biggest change is any employee would have to pay at least 15% of their healthcare expenses. It would be mandatory that the employer could only pay up to 85%. There would no longer be PERS pickup or Police/Fire pickup, which is a compensation method where an employer is allowed to pay PERS contributions for a certain class of employees. Solicitor Miller said this is a means of giving some employees a raise without it costing so much. Layoffs would no longer be determined strictly by seniority. And it doesn't mean that one with seniority couldn't lose their job in a layoff. One's civil rights cannot be violated in a layoff policy. For Newtown employees, the biggest impact would be the reduction in the sick pay hours and the healthcare costs.

Martin Marietta Mining Issue

A case management conference is scheduled for March 30th, per Solicitor Miller.

Schmidt Case: Motions were argued today for summary judgment, per Solicitor Miller. Trial date is set for April 25th; Mayor Cosby will represent the village. Vice Mayor Zornes will be the alternate.

Executive Session

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:00pm to discuss personnel compensation. Mr. Zornes seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Tiettmeyer-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Burns-Yes, Mr. Harten-Yes. Motion Carried.

Mayor Cosby called the meeting back to order at 8:19pm; no action taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Mr. Zornes made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Burns.

Transcribed by Becky Fairley