

August 11, 2008

The regular work session meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Newton was held on the above date at 8:00 p.m. Present were Mr. Elvidge, Mrs. Unhoch, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Le Frois, Mayor Ricciardo and Town Manager, Eileen Kithcart.

Mayor Ricciardo made 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”.

HICKS AVENUE DRAFT REDEVELOPMENT PLAN (with Ross Sheasley)

Mr. Ross Sheasley and Ms. Jennifer Credidio made a presentation to the Governing Body on the Hicks Avenue Redevelopment Plan. Mr. Sheasley presented Council with bound color copies of the Plan. Mr. Sheasley outlined some minor changes made prior to the submission tonight and reviewed the eight (8) contiguous parcels, approximately 12.56 acres, of land outlined in the Plan.

Ms. Credidio advised that after multiple Planning Board meetings, the Planning Board recommended and the Town Council approved the designation of an area in need of redevelopment on Hicks Avenue.

Mr. Sheasley and Ms. Credidio reviewed the Redevelopment Plan in full with the Town Council. The Hicks Avenue Redevelopment Plan seeks to set forth a series of standards, illustrations, and recommendations to ensure the pattern of development is consistent with the overall image of the Town expressed in the Newton Vision Plan. This Plan represents one step in the redevelopment process to achieve the long term vision for the redevelopment and rehabilitation of the Town of Newton.

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PUBLIC URINATION ORDINANCE

Chief Tomasula introduced a sample ordinance prohibiting urinating in public places. After brief discussion, the Governing Body directed Chief Tomasula to prepare an ordinance prohibiting urinating in public and to also look into spitting on public property.

SPRING STREET HANGING BASKETS

Ms. Kithcart addressed the issue of five hanging flower baskets blocking the view of violation signs on Spring Street. After a lengthy discussion, Council agreed to have the baskets taken down and relocated.

UPDATED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Ms. Kithcart advised Council that a copy of Newton's Goals and Objectives during her service as Town Manager from June, 2006 to August, 2008 has been prepared for Council's review.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Governing Body and Ms. Kithcart discussed a request from the Main Street Program, to hang a sign across Spring Street advertising "Second Saturday" event on Spring Street. After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Ricciardo requested more information prior to approval.

The Governing Body requested Ms. Kithcart to send a letter of congratulations to the two new Junior Firefighters, Thomas Fox and Jonathan Kouse.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of Mayor Ricciardo, seconded by Mr. Elvidge and carried, the Town Council went into executive session at 9:00 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

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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 the Governing Body regarding pending litigation.

Upon motion of Mayor Ricciardo, seconded Mrs. Le Frois and carried, the Town Council left executive session at 9:25 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. Unhoch and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine A. Read, RMC
Municipal Clerk