

January 14, 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. Diglio, Mr. Ricciardo, Mr. Storm, Mayor Unhoch and Town Manager, Eileen Kithcart. Mr. Elvidge arrived at 8:00 p.m.

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 29, 2006”.

CABLE FRANCHISING (Mark Hontz)

Mr. Mark Hontz, Esq., appeared before the Council and addressed the cable television franchise renewal process. Mr. Hontz advised that the notification phase has been completed and a letter was sent on October 1, 2007. Mr. Hontz outlined the ascertainment phase as well as the municipal phase.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Hontz will assist in gathering information for the different phases and periodically throughout 2008 attend the work session meetings for a brief overview and update of the cable renewal process.

GNCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS BALLOT

The Governing Body discussed the ballot nominations for the Greater Newton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and came to a consensus on their nomination, which allows for one vote per company.

SIDEWALK CAFÉ' ORDINANCE – LORRAINE READ

Mrs. Lorraine Read, Municipal Clerk, reviewed the draft sidewalk café ordinance with the governing body. Mrs. Read outlined the procedure as well as the rules and regulations surrounding the “Sidewalk Café’s”.

After a brief discussion, the ordinance will be introduced at the next regular

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Council meeting on Monday, January 28, 2008.

MAIN STREET DESIGNATION CEREMONY

Ms. Kithcart advised of the Main Street Designation Ceremony to take place on Wednesday, January 23, 2008 to be held at 4:00 p.m. at the Springboard Retail Shops building (formerly Abigail's), with a reception following at JC's Grillhouse. Ms. Kithcart advised that the Town will donate five hundred dollars (\$500.) toward the ceremony.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ZONE – Deb Millikin

Mrs. Millikin outlined the process of obtaining a designation in order for the Town to become a Business Improvement Zone (BIZ).

After a brief discussion, the Council decided to get the Main Street Program off the ground and then pursue the business improvement zone with the merchants in the business district, who will need to be involved with this process.

WATERLINE UPDATE

Mrs. Millikin updated Council on the progress of the waterline project on Mill Street.

REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Ms. Kithcart advised the Council that the Office of Smart Growth has approved the areas in need of redevelopment as designated in Resolution #225-2007. Ms. Kithcart also advised that the Office of Smart Growth can provide technical assistance to the Town as Newton takes the next step towards the redevelopment process.

Ms. Kithcart updated the Governing Body regarding her meeting with Mike Holenstein and John Eskilson relative to the County parking study. Ms. Kithcart advised that although the current concept was of “grandiose scope” and “unrealistic”, she will be resurrecting a parking structure

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proposal from four or five years ago that is within Newton's redevelopment plan.

Mayor Unhoch requested that a proclamation be prepared for the Newton First Aid Squad and the Newton Fire Department to present at their upcoming annual dinner celebrations. It was also suggested that a Proclamation be prepared for Chris Bond, DPW Director, for his upcoming retirement celebration.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of Mr. Ricciardo, seconded by Mr. Storm and carried, the Town Council went into executive session at 8:50 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 personnel issues and 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.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Kithcart updated Council on several personnel issues.

Upon motion of Mr. Ricciardo, seconded Mr. Storm and carried, the

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Town Council left executive session at 9:23 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 Mr. Diglio and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine A. Read, RMC
Municipal Clerk