

West Newton Borough

Regular Meeting

February 12th, 2024

The regular monthly voting meeting of West Newton Borough Council was held on Monday, February 12th, 2024 in Council Chambers, 112 South Water Street. Council President Jason Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members Jason Cooper, Dan Palfey, Rany Shincovich, Gary Johnson, Tony Berarducci, and Terri Eckels were called present during roll call. Mayor, Mary Popovich, Solicitor Sam Dalfonso, Engineer Dalton Mack and Secretary/Treasurer Ashley Pergola were also present. Council member Dan Roebuck.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Delegates:

Robin Harrison presented to Council in 2020 she was in an accident and JK Towing towed her car charging her \$1,000. Ms. Harrison stated her vehicle was totaled and questioned if JK Towing is still on the rotating list. Mayor Popovich and Councilman Berarducci stated an officer is not to suggest or tell who is to tow the vehicle, this is up to the vehicle owner if they do not know of anyone then an officer can state they have a list and then ask if the owner would prefer someone from this list. Ms. Harrison questioned what happens to Mike? Solicitor Dalfonso, stated we will not talk about personnel at this time.

Jason Capenos was present and presented via paperwork most of his public comment. Mr. Capenos stated Council never reached out him about this concern. If council would have any questions, they are more than welcome to contact him at any time. Mr. Berarducci questioned if it was true, he charged Ms. Harrison \$1,000. Mr. Capenos stated he would have to pull this invoice to know exactly. Mr. Berarducci asked how he determines the rates. Mr. Capenos stated all their rates are done by the hour and are posted publicly in their office that can only be viewed there. Mayor Popovich clarified the arbitrary actions against JK Towing.

Joyce Pawlik was present to inform council of upcoming events: Easter Bunny, Color Run and Touch a Truck event. Flyers were given to Council to post in office, Savvy Citizen and on mywestnewton.com. The Color run will be May 18th, taking place from vine street to Broadway and include all numerical streets in between back to Vine Street park, letters will be going out to residents for awareness of the event by CROWN. Easter Bunny egg hunt will take place at the Lion's Field March 16th. Touch a Truck event will be April 20th at the Elementary.

Motion 02-01 made by Councilman Palfey to accept the previous minutes. Second by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Engineers report

Engineer Mack presented the Engineers report

Motion 02-02 made by Councilman Berarducci to authorize LSSE prepare bid package for CCTV grant. Second by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Motion 02-03 made by Councilman Berarducci to authorize LSSE to reexamine the not match grant of \$500,000 to bid this grant beginning 2025. Second by Shincovich. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Supervisors Report – Supervisor Friedeman presented Supervisors report with two open issues that will be rectified in Spring, including Waypoint building and Bloom Brew.

Solicitors Report – Solicitor Dalfonso requested executive session for litigation and personnel. Solicitor Dalfonso would like to sit down with the Public Safety committee and Police Chief to further update the Police policies and procedures handbook.

Code Enforcement/Zoning Report – Nothing to report at this time. Jason Humenik will start back up with code enforcement in April.

Mayors Report/Police Report – Mayor Popovich presented the Mayors/Police Report. Mayor reported on a cyber security grant that will be filled out. Letter from EMS will be sent out to all of Council via email. Mayor Popovich will draft a letter to VFW requesting a donation of an AR for the police. Signage will be made for “No dogs” at 2nd street park. Mayor Popovich wanted to make Council aware of a citation issue where no one is printing paper citations, most departments are moving to electronic. Chief Indof will be looking in to this. Meters are getting full and will need to be emptied.

Emergency Management: Paul Williams was present to give a current weather report and reported on upcoming events from EMA.

Bills – Motion 02- 04 was made by Councilman Johnson to pay all unpaid bill. Second by Palfey. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Treasurers Report – presented by Secretary/Treasurer.

Tax Collectors Report – No report at this time, will present next month’s meeting.

Committee Reports:

✚ **Finance & Budget:** Nothing to report

✚ **Streets:** Snowflakes and garland was taken down by Barbera with the help of the Borough. Councilman Shincovich is looking into used bucket trucks. **Motion 02-05** made by Councilman Palfey to hire Chad Shincovich for Street Supervisors position. Second made by Berarducci. Roll call was taken, vote failed 3 to 2:

- Johnson – No
- Berarducci – Yes
- Cooper – No
- Eckels – No
- Palfey – Yes
- Shincovich – abstained
- Roebuch – not present

✚ **Sewage:** Covered in Engineers report.

✚ **Recreation:** Nothing to report

✚ **Insurance:** Nothing to report

✚ **Personnel:** **Motion 02-06** made by Councilman Cooper to appoint 5 new planning commission members under **Resolution 2024-1** as follows: - second by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous votes.

- Brenda Maleski – 4 year term (expires 12/31/2027)
- Joanne Hall – 4 year term (expires 12/31/2027)
- John Manon – 3 year term (expires 12/31/2026)
- Mary Popovich – 3 year term (expires 12/31/2026)
- Brandon Bell – 1 year term (expires 12/31/2025)

Motion 02-07 made by Councilman Berarducci to advertise Ordinance 2024-2 for a Fire and Police tax beginning 2025. Second by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

✚ **Public Safety:** **Motion 02-08** made by Councilman Palfey to approve Police policies and handbook. Second made by Berarducci. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

✚ **Properties & Code Enforcement:** Nothing to report.

✚ **Sanitation:** A letter will be sent out to all businesses by Solicitor for Fayette Waste.

✚ **Bridge River & Trail:** **Motion 02-09** made by Councilwoman Eckels to submit a letter of support to be drafted and sent out supporting the grant for the bridge. Second made by Johnson. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Communications:

Motion 02-10 made by Councilman Palfey to pay for ¼ page advertisement in the Westmoreland County Boroughs Association annual program booklet. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Councilman Requests:

Engineer Mack informed Council of a possible grant to update sewage plant due to new guidelines. Councilman Johnson to adjourn the regular meeting in to executive session. Second made by Eckels.

Adjournment

Motion 02-11 made by Councilman Johnson to adjourn the regular meeting in to executive session. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

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West Newton Borough
Special Meeting
February 19th, 2024

The Special meeting of West Newton Borough Council was held on Monday, February 19th, 2024 in Council Chambers, 112 South Water Street. Council President Jason Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council members Gary Johnson, Dan Palfey, Terri Eckels and Jason Cooper were called present during roll call. Secretary/Treasurer Ashley Pergola and Council members Tony Berarducci, Randy Shincovich, and Dan Roebuck were not present. The purpose of this special meeting is to hire the Street Supervisor and advertise for hiring a grass cutter.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion 02-01 made by Councilman Palfey to hire Chad Shincovich as Street Supervisor. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Motion 02-02 made by Councilman Eckels to advertise to hire a grass cutter. Second made by Palfey. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Motion 02-03 made by councilman Johnson to adjourn this special meeting. Second made by Palfey. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Ashley Pergola
Secretary/Treasurer