

West Newton Borough  
Regular Meeting  
January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

The regular monthly voting meeting of West Newton Borough Council was held on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 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, Randy Shincovich, Gary Johnson, Terri Eckels and Jacqueline Pawlik were called present during roll call. Mayor, Mary Popovich, Solicitor Ryan Thomas, Engineer Dalton Mack and Secretary/Treasurer Ashley Pergola were also present. Solicitor Krisha DiMascio was not present. Council member Tony Berarducci joined meeting at 6:35PM.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Motion 01-01** made by Councilman Palfey to amend the agenda to Resolution 2026-2. Second by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

**Motion 01-02** made by Councilman Palfey to amend the agenda to add Resolution 2026-3. Second by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

#### **Delegates:**

Patrick Knepp was present to request from council permission for the street crew to remove the planter at the end of N. First street so he could access his property on N. Second Street. Mr. Knepp agreed himself and the neighbor would maintain this opening to his property. Council agreed the street crew could remove this planter blocking the end of the road way. Mr. Knepp suggested for council to look into an Airbnb ordinance, this would be a three-tiered system for police response. Mr. Knepp will provide examples to council for review and consideration.

Chris Hasbrouck was present to reference the Blackburn garage. Council discussed this is still an on-going case but sees there has been improvement to the garbage.

Justin Lowanse was present to discuss expansion of the Waypoint Outpost building on Collinsburg Road. Mr. Lowanse expressed there will be a wash station available at this site. Mr. Lowanse also stated the curb along Penn Street is falling apart and asked for this to be looked at.

Joann Hall was present to discuss with Council and inform the community the progress of the DCED grant related to the trees at Goehring Park. Ms. Hall also informed Council as well as the community of the DEP meeting related to the Tenaska plant's Title V permit being held February 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM at The Huntingdon Place.

**Motion 01-03** made by Councilman Johnson to accept the previous minutes. Second by Pawlik. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

#### **Engineers report**

Engineer Mack reported the engineers report.

**Supervisors Report** – Supervisor Shincovich presented Supervisors report.

**Solicitors Report** – Solicitor Thomas had nothing to report at this time.

**Code Enforcement/Zoning Report** – Nothing to report at this time.

**Mayors Report/Police Report** – Mayor Popovich presented the Mayors/Police Report.

**Motion 01-04** made by Councilman Johnson to promote Officer Stefko to Sergeant. Second by Palfey. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

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

**Motion 01-05** made by councilman Palfey to pay the remaining balance of \$3.47 for EMA's purchase of Tables and chairs. Second by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous votes.

**Bills – Motion 01- 06** was made by Councilman Johnson to pay all unpaid bill. Second by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

**Treasurers Report** – presented by Secretary/Treasurer.

**Tax Collectors Report** – Secretary/Treasurer reported on behalf of Tax Collector.

**Committee Reports:**

- ✦ **Finance & Budget:** Per President Cooper after consulting with legal counsel, Solicitor DiMascio suggested not to reopen the 2026 Budget.
- ✦ **Streets:** Councilman Palfey requested an executive session for personnel after meeting.
- ✦ **Sewage: Motion 01-07** made by Councilman Berarducci to reimburse Stacy Williams millage in the amount of \$697.00. Second by Johnson. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.
- ✦ **Recreation:** Baseball/Softball signups will begin in person January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 at the Borough Office.
- ✦ **Insurance:** Nothing to report
- ✦ **Personnel:** Nothing to report
- ✦ **Public Safety:** Nothing to report
- ✦ **Properties & Code Enforcement:** Council requests Chief Indof to look into the mattresses on Allison and a vehicle blocking the alley way on Vine Street.
- ✦ **Sanitation:** Nothing to report
- ✦ **Bridge, River & Trail:** Council woman Eckels requested an executive session to discuss PennDOT related questions pertaining to the bridge rehab project maintenance agreements. Eckels updated the public the public meeting with PennDOT has been moved to Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 5PM at the Senior Center for Active Adults
- ✦ **Economic Development:** Nothing to report

**Communications:**

**Motion 01-08** was made by Councilman Shincovich to accept the proposed sale and transfer of ownership of the West Newton Borough Sewage Treatment Plant and related assets to the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC). Second made by Johnson. A roll call vote was taken: Berarducci – aye, Johnson – aye, Shincovich – aye, Palfey – aye, Cooper – aye, Eckels – aye, Pawlike – aye. Motion was unanimous.

**Motion 01-09** was made by Councilman Johnson to adopt **Resolution 2026-1**, formal support letter for commitment to Phase 5 of the Bull Run Park Improvement Plan. Second made by Palfey. Motion adopted unanimous votes.

**Motion 01-10** was made by Councilman Palfey to adopt **Resolution 2026-2**, approve the sale of the West Newton Borough Sewage System to the Municipal Authority of Westmorland County (MAWC). Second by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

**Motion 01-11** was made by Council woman Eckels to adopt **Resolution 2026-3**, authorizing the Borough Secretary to attest signatures in accordance with the Pennsylvania Borough code for PennDOT bridge rehabilitation and agreements. Second by Johnson. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

**Councilman Requests:**

Paul Williams updated council and the public on the next time capsule meeting – February 4<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is still interested in participating, please reach out to Mr. Williams.

**Adjournment**

**Motion 01-12** made by Councilman Johnson to adjourn the regular meeting in to executive session. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.