

**NEWVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 9, 2017 AT 6:00PM**

A Special Meeting of the Newville Borough Council Public Safety Committee was held on May 9, 2017 at 6:00PM in the Newville Borough Office, 4 West Street, Newville, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Chairman Joey Diehl, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. On roll call, the following members were present: Becky Barrick and Joey Diehl. Glenn Harry was absent. Also present were: Robert F. Over, Robert S. Over, Donald Bowers, Sam Rickrode, Robert Barrick, Fire Chief Brad Stouffer, Police Chief Todd Koser, Clarence Fry, Edward Sinkovitz and Dale Jumper.

Old Business: Mrs. Diehl asked the police chief and fire chief to summarize their positions regarding the need for a burn ordinance. Chief Koser commented that the police department is simply requesting enforceable guidelines that will apply to open and contained burning in the borough. The Chief stated that the department occasionally responds to nuisance calls regarding burning. The police officers lack written guidelines to deal with these types of complaints.

Fire Chief Stouffer presented the view of the fire company, citing public safety as their primary objective. The Chief recounted an incident in an outlying township, where open burning contributed to significant fire and property damage. He cautioned that Newville is even more densely populated than a rural township. There is a greater likelihood of a fire spreading to adjoining structures, resulting in significant loss and damage.

Citizen comments and suggested changes:

1. Robert F. Over advocated for an ordinance that would be more resident friendly, and in better keeping with the character of Newville. Mr. Over detailed a history of Newville's most significant fires from the early 1900's to date. None were attributed to open burning.

2. Robert S. Over suggested the ordinance contain two main points of enforcement: (1) the property must contain 500 s.f. of open space for contained burning, (2) a contained burning device must be within a fixed distance of a structure. Mr. Over suggested 5 feet to 10 feet.

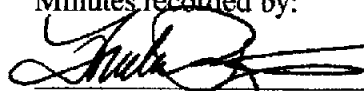
3. Robert Barrick provided a comprehensive revision of proposed Ordinance 2017-01. His comments are attached to the minutes. Mr. Barrick revised the ordinance, providing a definition of Contained Burning, eliminated several existing sections, amended several sections. Mr. Barrick's revisions outlined open burning and contained burning regulations.

All in attendance agreed to a revised penalty section to provide for a written warning and reduced fines.

A revised ordinance, based upon the comments of the evening is attached to these minutes. Mrs. Diehl suggested the revised ordinance should be posted, informally on the Borough Website, and at the Lets Revitalize Newville Page. Council will act on the ordinance at the June 27, 2017 meeting. This will allow additional time for review and comment. Mrs. Diehl thanked all who attended, and provided input. Mr. Robert F. Over commented that the meeting resulted in a much better ordinance, and urged that Council should consider a public workshop before considering the adoption of ordinances in the future.

Adjournment: With no further business to come before the Newville Borough Council Public Safety Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50PM.

Minutes recorded by:



Fred A. Potzer, Borough Manager/Secretary