



Newton City Council Agenda

July 20, 2026 - 6:00 PM

View the City Council Meeting:

In Person

City Hall - Council Chambers
101 W 4th St S, Newton, IA 50208

Television

Mediacom Channel
12/85/121.12

Online

newtongov.org/cablecast

Pledge

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order

1. Roll Call

Citizen Participation

2. This is the time of the meeting that a citizen may address the Council. After being recognized by the presiding officer, each person will be given three (3) minutes to speak. Elected officials will take comments into consideration; however, this time is not intended for a discussion or entering into a dialogue. Elected officials and City staff will not answer questions or debate a citizen during the *Citizen Participation* portion of the meeting.

Consent Agenda

3. July 6, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
4. Approve Liquor Licenses for the following: 2nd Ave Social (DMACC Newton Campus), 600 N 2nd Ave W, Class C Retail Alcohol License for Special Event Sept 3-7, 2026; PB Pub - LC0045655, 113 1st Ave E, Class C Retail Alcohol License renewal
5. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 26-11)
6. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 26-12)
7. Resolution accepting completion of the 2025 HMA Alley Overlay Project
8. Resolution accepting completion of the 2025 Aurora Park Tennis Courts Project
9. Resolution accepting completion of the 2025 W 3rd & 4th St Traffic Signal Install Project
10. Resolution approving easements for the 1st Ave and 12th St Drainage Improvements project no. 2403428
11. Resolution Approving Payment to Axon, LLC for Police Video Equipment and Service
12. Resolution approving Service Agreement with Nationwide Office Cleaning for the clubhouse at Westwood Golf Course
13. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

14. Public Hearing on the Proposed 2026 Amendment to the North Central Urban Renewal Area
 - Iowa Code Chapter 403 requires that a city amend any existing urban renewal plan to describe all new projects.
 - An amendment to the North Central URA plan has been prepared which consists Downtown Park Improvements and various other urban renewal projects and programs. This resolution approves updates to the current Urban Renewal Plan.
15. Resolution to Approve Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the North Central Urban Renewal Area
16. Public Hearing on the Proposed 2026 Amendment to the Fairmeadows North Housing Urban Renewal Area
 - Iowa Code Chapter 403 requires that a city amend any existing urban renewal plan to describe all new projects.
 - An amendment to the Fairmeadows North Urban Renewal plan has been prepared which consists of Cardinal Pond Improvements and various other urban renewal area projects and programs.
17. Resolution to Approve Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the Fairmeadows North Housing Urban Renewal Area
18. Public Hearing on the Proposed 2026 Amendment to the 1st Avenue East Urban Renewal Area
 - Iowa Code Chapter 403 requires that a city amend any existing urban renewal plan to describe all new projects.
 - An amendment to the plan has been prepared which consists of Stormwater improvements and various other urban renewal area projects and programs.
19. Resolution to Approve Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for 1st Avenue East Urban Renewal Area
20. Public Hearing on a Resolution approving the purchase agreement for real property at 510 West 3rd Street North Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
 - The City owns 510 West 3rd Street North, and has made it available for purchase and redevelopment.
 - A public hearing was set by City Council Resolution #2026-236, and offers were to be received by July 6, 2026.
 - One offer has been received from Jeffrey Paul Homes, LLC, for an amount of \$24,000.00, with a commitment to build residential structures on the property.

21. Resolution approving the purchase agreement for real property at 510 West 3rd Street North Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
22. Public Hearing on a resolution approving the purchase agreement for real property at 115 East 4th Street North, 124 East 4th Street North, and 411 North 2nd Avenue East, Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
 - The City owns 115 East 4th Street North, 124 East 4th Street North, and 411 North 2nd Avenue East, and has made them available for purchase and redevelopment.
 - A public hearing was set by City Council Resolution #2026-235, and offers were to be received by July 6, 2026.
 - One offer has been received from Jeffrey Paul Homes, LLC, for an amount of \$6,000.00, with a commitment to build a commercial office (for Jeffrey Paul Homes LLC) on one lot and at least residential structures on the remaining lots.
23. Resolution approving the purchase agreement for real property at 115 East 4th Street North, 124 East 4th Street North, and 411 North 2nd Avenue East, Newton, Jasper County, Iowa

Ordinance

24. Second Consideration of an Ordinance Granting to Interstate Power and Light Company (Alliant Energy) a 25-Year Non-Exclusive Electric Franchise
 - 270 other cities in the State of Iowa have already adopted franchise fees. These fees are only now necessary in the City of Newton due to the recent passage of HF 718 and SF 2472 by the Iowa State Legislature, which limit the amount of property taxes the City can collect and use to provide services that Newton residents want in our community.
 - When fully implemented in FY29, franchise fees would add \$6 to the average monthly Alliant Energy bill, which is less than the \$16 per month that the average resident will save on their property taxes, due to just the new property tax exemption portion of SF 2472.
 - Newton is an extremely lean organization. Any reductions to the City budget will necessarily translate to reductions in services to our residents. Newton has a lot of positive momentum right now, and we need to keep heading in the right direction.
 - Franchise fees would allow the City to continue providing the same level of services that we are currently providing in the areas of Police, Fire, Parks & Rec, and the Newton Public Library, and will also allow the City to utilize general funds to purchase some capital equipment, which would reduce City bonding for that equipment.
25. Second Consideration of an Ordinance Establishing a Franchise Fee on Energy Providers Operating in the City of Newton, Iowa
 - 270 other cities in the State of Iowa have already adopted franchise fees. These fees are only now necessary in the City of Newton due to the recent passage of HF 718 and SF 2472 by the

Iowa State Legislature, which limit the amount of property taxes the City can collect and use to provide services that Newton residents want in our community.

- When fully implemented in FY29, franchise fees would add \$1.50 to the average monthly Black Hills Energy bill, which is less than the \$16 per month that the average resident will save on their property taxes, due to just the new property tax exemption portion of SF 2472.
- Newton is an extremely lean organization. Any reductions to the City budget will necessarily translate to reductions in services to our residents. Newton has a lot of positive momentum right now, and we need to keep heading in the right direction.
- Franchise fees would allow the City to continue providing the same level of services that we are currently providing in the areas of Police, Fire, Parks & Rec, and the Newton Public Library, and will also allow the City to utilize general funds to purchase some capital equipment, which would reduce City bonding for that equipment.

26. Second Consideration of an Ordinance amending the code of ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2025, Title III, Chapter 30, Section 30.036, "Powers & Duties"; Title III, Chapter 35, Section 35.11, "Change Orders & Contracts"; and Title III, Chapter 35, Section 35.12, "Emergency Purchases"

- The proposed amendments update provisions related to contract execution authority, change orders, and emergency purchases.
- Increasing administrative authority could reduce delays, allow staff to respond more quickly to project needs, and help keep projects moving while remaining within approved budgets and established parameters.

Resolution

27. Resolution expressing the City Council's intent to review the necessity of electric and natural gas franchise fees three years following the initial receipt of franchise fee revenue

- Council recognizes that the proposed franchise fees are intended to help maintain essential municipal services, including public safety, parks and recreation, library services, community development, and other services relied upon by the residents of Newton.
- Council believes it is in the best interest of the community to periodically evaluate whether the franchise fees remain necessary in light of future legislative actions, changes in municipal finances, and the City's long-term fiscal condition.
- Council intends to conduct a comprehensive review of the franchise fees approximately three (3) years following the City's receipt of the first franchise fee payment.

28. Resolution to approve contract with Indian Hills Community College for the 2026-2027 Newton Paramedic Training Program
- The Fire Department has 10 employees in need of completing the paramedic certification program.
 - The Fire Department has an opportunity to sponsor the course locally through Indian Hills Community College for significant cost savings (\$44,300) and time savings (11 month class, instead of 48 months) by putting the group of 10 through in one year.
 - The cost of the program would be funded from the Fire Department budget and the FY27 Equipment Reserve Fund.
29. Resolution accepting Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant Awards and approving the grant agreements
- The Fire Department was awarded a community betterment grant from Prairie Meadows for the purchase of six (6) new portable radios in the amount of \$26,066.25.
 - In addition, the Community Development Department has been awarded a community betterment grant from Prairie Meadows in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the purchase of bleachers at the new tennis courts at Aurora Park.
30. Resolution awarding a Contract For Application and Administration of Community Development Block Grant Upper Story Rehabilitation Program for 104 1st Avenue East
- The City Council of Newton, Iowa approved a Request for Proposals (RFP) to be advertised on behalf of the City for CDBG consulting services through Reso-2026-265.
 - One bid was received on 7/10/2026 from Mid Iowa Planning Alliance, City staff has reviewed the bid received and evaluated the bid using the evaluation criteria as established.
 - The \$20,000 contract fee for the application and administration of the CDBG Grant from Mid Iowa Planning Alliance of West Des Moines, Iowa, is determined to be the lowest responsive bid. The contract fee is only applicable if the CDBG grant is awarded and will be paid for using grant proceeds.

Staff Report

31. Hydraulic Model Overview — Jody Rhone, Utilities Director

Mayor/Council Comments

32. Mayor and Council Comments

Adjourn

The City of Newton is pleased to provide reasonable accommodations, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, for those individuals or groups who require assistance to be able to participate in the public meeting. Should special accommodations be required, please contact the City Clerk's Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting, at 641-792-2787 to arrange for accommodations to be provided.

