

NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 1, 2024, 6:00 PM

Pledge

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor George asked everyone present to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to Order

1. Roll Call

The City Council of Newton, Iowa met in regular session at 6:00 P.M. on the above date in the Council Chambers at 101 West 4th Street South. Mayor George presided. Present Council Members: Mills, Dalton, Hallam, Simbro, Ervin. Absent: None.

Proclamation

2. Parks and Recreation Month

Mayor George proclaimed July as Parks and Recreation Month

3. Newton Fest Recognition

Mayor George recognized Danielle Rodgers and Victoria Jordan for their dedicated commitment to the event by going above and beyond to make it a success.

Citizen Participation

4. Lisa Osborn owns property at 1221 N 11th Ave E. She spoke about an emergency cleanup of mud that eroded out onto the street from the flooding on May 21st. Jonathan VanHemert, 1316 W 13th St S spoke regarding the progress on the Splash Pad project. Miranda Caldwell, 724 W 12th St S, spoke regarding her wish to be appointed to the vacant Ward 4 seat on the council. Steve Mullan, 1246 S 20th Ave W, spoke regarding his wish to be appointed to the vacant Ward 4 seat on the council.

Resolution

5. Resolution approving appointment to vacant Ward 4 Council Seat

Ballets were issued to the council to vote on which candidate would be appointed to the vacant Ward 4 seat. There were four votes for Mullan, one vote for Caldwell. Moved by Hallam, seconded by Ervin to adopt the Resolution appointing Mullan. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Resolution 2024-224 adopted.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Dalton, seconded by Hallam to approve consent agenda items 6-18. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

6. June 17, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
7. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 24-07)
Resolution 2024-225 adopted.
8. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 24-06)
Resolution 2024-226 adopted.
9. Resolution approving a 28e agreement with the City of Knoxville for law enforcement services at the Iowa Speedway
Resolution 2024-227 adopted.
10. Resolution approving payment to Lexipol, LLC for police policy management and training
Resolution 2024-228 adopted.
11. Resolution accepting completion of the Maytag Park Mini-Pitch PCC Pad Project
Resolution 2024-229 adopted.
12. Resolution authorizing the purchase of a utility vehicle for the Water Treatment Plant
Resolution 2024-230 adopted.
13. Resolution authorizing the purchase of Water Meters and Radio Read End Points
Resolution 2024-231 adopted.
14. Resolution Authorizing Additional Fund Transfers in FY 23/24
Resolution 2024-232 adopted.
15. Resolution approving an extension to the completion date for the downtown improvement grant at 105 West 2nd Street North
Resolution 2024-233 adopted.
16. Resolution approving an extension to the completion date for the Downtown

Improvement Grant at 120 North 2nd Avenue West
Resolution 2024-234 adopted.

17. Resolution approving change order #1 for the Westwood Clubhouse Site Grading Project
Resolution 2024-235 adopted.

18. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

19. Public Hearing on a resolution adopting the FY25 through FY29 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
Mayor George stated that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing on the above Resolution. There were no written comments. Moved by Ervin, seconded by Hallam to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
20. Resolution adopting the FY25 through FY29 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2024-236 adopted.

Ordinance

21. Third Consideration of an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title XV Land Usage by adding Chapter 159 Commercial Business Property Code
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Mills to approve the third consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Third Consideration of the Ordinance was approved. Moved by Dalton, seconded by Mills, to adopt the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2449 was adopted.
22. First Consideration of an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2016, Title V, Chapter 53: Stormwater Utility
Two options were presented to the council. A twenty-five cent rate increase each year for five years, effective July 1, 2025-2029. Alternatively, the Council could recommend a 6% rate increase effective July 1, 2025, followed by a 4% increase in FY26 and FY27, and then a 3% increase in FY28 and FY29 to the ERU for residential and non-residential properties. Moved by Ervin, seconded by Hallam to approve the first consideration of the Ordinance increasing the rate using the alternate option: a 6% rate increase effective July 1, 2025, followed by a 4% increase in FY26 and FY27, and then a 3% increase in FY28 and FY29 to the ERU. AYES: Five. NAYS: Simbro. First Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.

Resolution

23. Resolution approving a hiring incentive for certified police officer candidates
Moved by Dalton, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2024-237 adopted.
24. Resolution approving change orders #1 and #2 for the Downtown Spray Park & Gathering Space Project
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. Public Works Director Grife and Engineer Justin Nickel explained the changes needed. AYES: Five. NAYS: Ervin. Resolution 2024-238 adopted.
25. Resolution to accept proposal and authorize the purchase of two Type III module ambulances.
Moved by Ervin, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2024-239 adopted.
26. Resolution Approving the Addition of 6 Disc Golf Holes to the Woodland Park Disc Golf Course
Moved by Ervin, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2024-240 adopted.

Staff Report

27. Succession Planning in Utility Billing - Katrina Davis, Administrative Services Manager
Administrative Services Manager, Katrina Davis explained the proposal to add a temporary Utility Meter Reader position starting immediately. The current Utility Meter Reader will train this new person. Once training is complete, approximately Oct 1st of 2024, the current Meter Reader would move into a temporary Administrative Assistant position, eliminating the temporary Meter Reader position. Then, in Oct 2025, when the Administrative Assistant retires, another Administrative Assistant will be hired to replace her. In January 2026, after the Utilities Office manager retires, one of the three Admin Assistants will be promoted and will leave the 2 original Admin Assistants and eliminate the temporary position.

28. Police Department Mid-Year Update - Chris Wing, Police Captain
Captain Wing provided the Mid-Year statistics for the Police Department, including crimes against persons, which are 133 compared to 2023 at 170; crimes against property at 132 compared to 2023 at 149 and incidents reported at 698 compared to 2023 at 745. 539 parking tickets have been issued YTD. 90 animals have been taken in, of which 20 were transferred to Central Iowa ARL and 42 were returned to their owners. 58 of the 90 were taken in due to dogs at large resulting in 45 citations. There have been 200 nuisance cases started and 525 grass cases. \$23,719.81 in total abatements have been assessed to the property owners. YTD 3 notices of violations have been issued for fireworks.

Mayor/Council Comments

29. Mayor and Council Comments
The Mayor and Council reminded everyone of the many July 4th activities going on in town and the upcoming Indy race weekend. The council thanked Steve and Miranda for their interest in the Ward 4 seat.

Closed Session

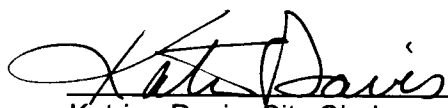
30. To Discuss Strategy with Counsel in Matters that Are Presently in Litigation or Where Litigation is Imminent Where its Disclosure Would be Likely to Prejudice or Disadvantage the Position of the Governmental Body in that Litigation, Which Discussions are Exempt from the Open Meetings Law Pursuant to the Provision of Section 21.5(1)(c), Code of Iowa 2024
At 7:08 P.M., it was moved by Mills, seconded by Ervin to go into closed session. The city attorney advised the council that they had legal authority to do so. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The motion passed. Mayor George announced a five minute recess to clear the chambers.

Return to Open Session

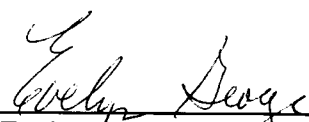
31. Return to Open Session
Council returned to open session at 8:38 P.M. with all members present.

Adjourn

Moved by Dalton, seconded by Mills to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.



Katrina Davis, City Clerk



Evelyn George, Mayor

