

NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16, 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, Mullan, Dalton, Hallam, Simbro, Ervin. Absent: None.

Proclamation

2. September 2024 Library Card Sign-Up Month

Mayor George encourages everyone to visit the Newton Public Library and take advantage of the wonderful resources available.

Presentation

3. Newton Municipal Airport Update, Ethan Nasalroad, President, Johnson Aviation

Ethan provided a recap of the race season at the airport. It was a big year for NASCAR, Newton, and Iowa. Newton has a great facility that can handle the traffic. We have the fuel capacity and the ability to tow large aircraft. NASCAR weekend brought in 47 aircraft with 55 operations; 32 were jets. IndyCar weekend brought in 54 aircraft with 61 operations; 40 were jet/Turbo-prop aircraft.

Citizen Participation

4. Thad Nearmyer, Jasper County Supervisor Candidate, introduced himself and spoke about the county and city working together to make things happen.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Dalton, seconded by Hallam to pull out consent agenda items 6 and 17 to consider separately and to approve consent agenda items 5, 7-16, 18-19. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

5. September 9, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

6. September 9, 2024 Goal Setting Workshop Minutes

Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to amend the minutes regarding council goals to strike council chose, and replace the wording with mayor and council chose. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Minutes were approved.

7. Approve Liquor Licenses for the following: ALDI Inc #146, 375 Iowa Speedway Drive, Class B Retail Alcohol License, pending staff approval; Thunderdome, 1611 1st Ave W, Special Class C Retail License for Special Event on October 4, 2024, pending dramshop approval

8. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 24-11)
Resolution 2024-303 adopted.

9. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 24-12)
Resolution 2024-304 adopted.

10. Resolution approving the Newton Community School District 2024 Homecoming Parade Special Events Application
Resolution 2024-305 adopted.

11. Resolution approving the Diamond Vogel Paint Pro Show Special Events Application
Resolution 2024-306 adopted.

12. Resolution approving the purchase of a Utility Cart
Resolution 2024-307 adopted.

13. Resolution awarding contract for the City of Newton Parks Fence Repairs Project
Resolution 2024-308 adopted.

14. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Nehring Auto Property Located at 1800 1st Ave East Within the 1st Avenue East Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2024-309 adopted.

15. Resolution accepting completion of the W 6th St S (800-1000 Block) Widening and Overlay Project

Resolution 2024-310 adopted.

16. Resolution setting a public hearing for the sale of city-owned property at 319 East 12th Street North in Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Resolution 2024-311 adopted.

17. Resolution approving the city-wide City Signage Project
Dalton recommended looking at a rebranding effort prior to replacing the signs. The council discussed that some of the signs are in very bad shape and should not wait until rebranding is complete. Moved by Dalton, seconded by Mills to table the resolution until the next meeting in order to get information on which signs are in critical need of replacement now and which could wait. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution tabled.

18. Resolution ordering bids, approving plans, specifications, form of contract, notice to bidders, ordering clerk to publish notice, fixing a date for receiving same, for a public hearing on plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of costs for the Westwood Golf Course Clubhouse Phase 2 Interior Project
Resolution 2024-312 adopted.

19. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

20. Public Hearing on a Resolution Approving the Final Plat for Arbor Estates, Second Addition in the City of Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
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 Dalton to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.

21. Resolution Approving the Final Plat for Arbor Estates, Second Addition in the City of Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Ervin to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2024-313 adopted.

22. Public Hearing on a Proposal to Enter Into a Water Revenue Loan Agreement and to Borrow Money Thereunder in a Principal Amount not to Exceed \$2,900,000
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 Mullan, seconded by Dalton to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.

23. Resolution Approving a Proposal to Enter into a Water Revenue Loan Agreement and to Borrow Money Thereunder in a Principal Amount not to Exceed \$2,900,000

Moved by Hallam, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2024-314 adopted.

24. Public Hearing on an Ordinance Amending and Updating the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, Title XV: Land Usage, Ch. 158: Zoning
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 Dalton, seconded by Simbro to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.

25. First Consideration of an Ordinance Amending and Updating the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, Title XV: Land Usage, Ch. 158: Zoning
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Ervin to approve the first consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. First Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.

Ordinance

26. First consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2016, Title VII, Chapter 70, Section 70.15, "Traffic and Parking Schedules Adopted by Reference", to make changes to street parking in the 300-700 block of East Tenth Street South.

Moved by Ervin, seconded by Mullan to approve the first consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. First Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.

27. First consideration of an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2016, Title VII, Chapter 70, Section 70.15, "Traffic and Parking Offenses Adopted by Code Reference" by adding a stop sign on West Fourth Street North at the intersection of North Fourth Avenue West for north and southbound traffic.

Moved by Ervin, seconded by Hallam to approve the first consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. First Consideration of the Ordinance was approved. Ervin felt that this ordinance is important and should be implemented as soon

as possible. Moved by Ervin, seconded by Dalton to suspend the rules and waive the second and third consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Motion passed. Moved by Hallam, seconded by Ervin, to adopt the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2452 was adopted.

28. First consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2016, Title VII, Chapter 70, Section 70.15, "Traffic and Parking Schedules Adopted by Reference", to make changes to street parking in the 4300 block of South Fifteenth Avenue East.

Moved by Hallam, seconded by Dalton to approve the first consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. First Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.

Resolution

29. Resolution approving the purchase of 509 East 9th Street North, Newton, using the City's Low-Moderate Income Set-Aside Funds

Moved by Mullan, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2024-315 adopted.

30. Resolution adopting fee schedule for Building Trades Permit Fees

Moved by Dalton, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2024-316 adopted.

31. Resolution adopting fee schedule for Westwood Golf Course for 2025

Moved by Dalton, seconded by Mullan to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2024-317 adopted.

32. Resolution for Awarding the Bid and Contracting for the Purchase of Stryker Powered Stair Chairs

Moved by Ervin, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2024-318 adopted.

33. Resolution awarding the purchase of firefighter's personal protective equipment

Moved by Hallam, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2024-319 adopted.

34. Resolution to approve creating a temporary Firefighter/EMT position in the Fire Department

Moved by Hallam, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2024-320 adopted.

35. Resolution approving a D&D 2.0 Demolition Grant for 315 East 12th Street North, Newton, Jasper County, Iowa

Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. Lonnie Appleby, asked about funding for the D&D 2.0. Erin Chambers, Community Development Director, explained that the program is to assist in removing blight and slum from the community by providing grants to property owners who are willing to purchase these properties and demolish the structures privately. The benefit is that the city doesn't own the property, doesn't have to maintain the property, it stays on the tax base, and increases the tax valuation with new construction. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2024-321 adopted.

Staff Report

36. Snow Removal - Joe Grife, Public Works Director

The snow removal policy was adopted in 2012 to establish uniform procedures and expectations. There are 4 street priorities. Arterial streets with high traffic, emergency routes, high business streets, and higher speed streets are Priority #1. Collector streets and the ones with some businesses or near schools is Priority #2. Residential streets are Priority #3. Dead-ends, cul-de-sacs, and gravel are Priority #4. Grife explained the policy on downtown snow hauling and the parking restrictions.

Mayor/Council Comments

37. Mayor and Council Comments

Mayor George spoke about the benefits of the Iowa Housing Conference that she attended with Bruce Showalter, NHDC Director, and Craig Armstrong, Development Specialist. Ervin spoke about the downtown restroom and council discussion ensued.

Closed Session

38. 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 7:57 P.M., it was moved by Mills, seconded by Mullan 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.

Return to Open Session

39. Return to Open Session

Council returned to open session at 8:15 P.M. with all members present.

Closed Session

40. 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 8:16 P.M., it was moved by Hallam, seconded by Mullan 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.

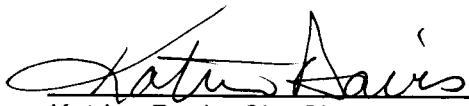
Return to Open Session

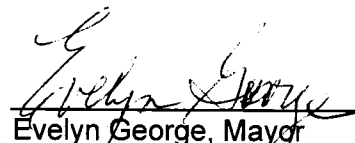
41. Return to Open Session

Council returned to open session at 9:21 P.M. with all members present.

Adjourn

Moved by Dalton, seconded by Mullan to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.


Katrina Davis, City Clerk


Evelyn George, Mayor

