

NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2025, 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.

Presentation

2. Iowa Speedway Update - Iowa Speedway President Eric Peterson

Peterson spoke about how impactful the Iowa Speedway has been. The first NASCAR Cup Series was hosted here in June 2024. This was the most watched race on NBC or any other NASCAR broadcast since 2023. Average viewership was close to 3 million. The Xfinity series was the number 2 sporting event. They were able to sell out all three days. 59% were first-time NASCAR attendees and 73% traveled more than 50 miles. They appreciate all the support from the state and the city. The plan is to host an event at least once a month when it is not winterized. An upcoming event is the WHO tractor ride.

Citizen Participation

3. There was no citizen participation.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Dalton, seconded by Mullan to approve consent agenda items 4-16. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

4. February 17, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

5. Approve Liquor Licenses for the following: Fore Seasons, 600 N 2nd Ave W, Special Class C Retail Alcohol License for Special Event April 23-27, 2025

6. Resolution appointing Kayla Johnson to the Newton Downtown Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District Board for a term ending JUNE 30, 2027
Resolution 2025-060 adopted.

7. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 25-02)
Resolution 2025-061 adopted.

8. Resolution approving lime sludge removal contract 1-year extension with Jon Taylor
Resolution 2025-062 adopted.

9. Resolution Authorizing a Fund Transfer from the North Central Urban Renewal Fund to the Park Bond Fund in the Amount of \$35,000 for the Dog Park
Resolution 2025-063 adopted.

10. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Newton Senior Residence, LLC Property Located Within the North Central Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2025-064 adopted.

11. Resolution awarding contract for the 2025-01 subdrain collector line project
Resolution 2025-065 adopted.

12. Resolution approving a roof repair project for the water treatment plant
Resolution 2025-066 adopted.

13. Resolution approving the Newton Sanitary Landfill fee schedule
Resolution 2025-067 adopted.

14. 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 1st Ave E (Hwy 6) Traffic Signal Upgrades Project
Resolution 2025-068 adopted.

15. Resolution Setting a Date For a Public Hearing on the Proposed Property Tax Levy for Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
Resolution 2025-069 adopted.

16. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

17. Public Hearing on Proposal to Enter Into an Essential Purpose Loan Agreement
Mayor George stated that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing to enter into an essential purpose loan agreement. There was one written comment from Carole Doane that was distributed to the council. Finance Officer, Lisa Frasier, addressed the questions. She assured council that the city does not intend to increase the levy at all in order to pay for the bond. This bond does not impact the general fund and would only be paid for with debt service funds, TIF funds, or enterprise funds. We are borrowing in this bond for police and fire equipment that continually needs replacement due to use, wear, and tear. Also, the golf clubhouse is for phase 3. It is important to have a vibrant downtown. The grants provided would only be paid for by TIF funds and not taxpayer money. Although the animal control facility has a higher upfront cost, there would be a savings of more than an estimated \$60,000 per year versus paying Parkview around \$90,000 per year. It is important to keep up with the maintenance of our pool to keep it in good working order. Moved by Hallam, seconded by Ervin to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
18. Public Hearing on Proposal to Enter Into a Parks and Recreation Loan Agreement
Mayor George stated that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing to enter into a parks and recreation loan agreement. The one written comment from Carole Doane was addressed in the previous public hearing. Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mills to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
19. Public Hearing on Proposal to Enter Into a Public Facilities Loan Agreement
Mayor George stated that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing to enter into a public facilities loan agreement. The one written comment from Carole Doane was addressed in the first public hearing. Moved by Mills, seconded by Dalton to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
20. Public Hearing on Proposal to Enter Into a Urban Renewal Loan Agreement
Mayor George stated that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing to enter into an urban renewal loan agreement. The one written comment from Carole Doane was addressed in the first public hearing. Moved by Ervin, seconded by Mills to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
21. Resolution taking additional action on proposal to enter into General Obligation Loan Agreements and combining Loan Agreements in connection therewith
Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-070 adopted.

Ordinance

22. Second Consideration of an Ordinance amending the code of ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2025, Title V, Chapter 54, Waterworks Section 54.02 – 54.19 by adding or deleting language
Moved by Ervin, seconded by Dalton to approve the second consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Second Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.
23. First consideration of Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2025, Title V, Chapter 52: Sewers
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Mills to approve the first consideration of the Ordinance. Jerry Chandler, owner of 539 W 10th St N, spoke about backwater valves and a request to get sewers fixed. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. First Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.
24. First consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2025, Title VII, Chapter 70, Section 70.15, "Traffic and Parking Schedules Adopted by Reference", to make changes to street parking in the 800 block of East Fourteenth Street North
Moved by Mullan, seconded by Hallam to approve the first consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. First Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.
25. First consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2025, Title VII, Chapter 70, Section 70.15, "Traffic and Parking Schedules Adopted by Reference", to make changes to street parking in the 1400-1500 Block of North Ninth Avenue Place 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

26. Resolution authorizing entering into an agreement for residential solid waste and recycling collection and disposal
A motion was made by Mills, seconded by Ervin to open up for public comment on this resolution. Various residents spoke on behalf of using a local business. Each of the haulers was given 5 minutes to present. Moved by Ervin, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-071 adopted.
27. Resolution approving a three-year contract for removal of wastewater biosolids
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-072 adopted.

Staff Report

28. Police Department Annual Report - Chief Rob Burdess
This is regarding the calendar year 2024. The PD has 33 full-time, 1 part-time and 3 seasonal employees. There will be a large batch of retirements coming up in 4 years. The total calls for service was 14,512, down a little from last year. FBI Part I crimes, which are violent and property crimes, have continually decreased since 2019. Part II crimes, which are minor crimes such as criminal mischief, vandalism, drunkenness and fighting, have continually decreased since 2022. Juvenile crime has exploded since Covid. In the second year of having K9 Lobo, he has had 32 deployments, 20 arrests and 54 criminal charges. He apprehended an escaped inmate and his work has led to multiple search warrants. Just under 1000 parking tickets were issued. There were 898 grass complaints and 382 property nuisance reported and 240 abatements completed. 857 animal complaints were reported. 168 strays were taken to Parkview. 95 owners reclaimed their pets. 34 dogs were deemed problematic or dangerous. 28 dog bites were reported. The ALPR cameras were used in 26 cases that led to 16 arrests, including the multijurisdictional skimmer case throughout Iowa and Missouri. Officers were involved in Safety Fest, Cops & Bobbers, Safety city, RV TV, National Night Out, Trick or Treat, and Shop with a Cop. Upcoming projects include the animal control facility, a radio upgrade, rifle shield installs, accreditation, and the joint public safety building.

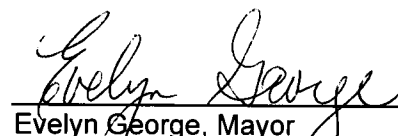
Mayor/Council Comments

29. Mayor and Council Comments
Mayor George spoke about some fundraising events, including the Main Street Downtown Dreams event on April 3rd and the MercyOne Gala on April 26th. There is also a free presentation at the Alta House on March 22nd where historical figures are brought to life, "With Malice Toward None". Ervin spoke about various positive things going on in Newton such as Rail Park, Fast Pitch, and the Iowa Speedway events. This will bring people to our community to spend money. He also announced that we have 8 to 10 new builders in our community now. It is cool to see that growth. He referenced other communities that have annexed land in order to grow business and homes. We need to think about the future and how we are going to grow.

Adjourn

Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.


Katrina Davis, City Clerk


Evelyn George, Mayor

