

NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 7, 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 (via telephone), Dalton, Hallam, Simbro, Ervin. Absent: None.

Proclamation

2. National Library Week April 6-12, 2025

Mayor George proclaimed April 6th-12th as National Library Week.

3. Fair Housing Month, April 2025

Mayor George proclaimed April as Fair Housing Month.

Presentation

4. Annual Residential Rental Report - Bethany Hovda, Permit Technician

Hovda provided an update on the rental inspection program. Today, 98% of all properties have been inspected. There are 2274 units and 716 properties. In a few weeks, Legacy Plaza will be added to these numbers.

Citizen Participation

5. There was no citizen participation.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Ervin, seconded by Mills to approve consent agenda items 6-27. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

6. March 17, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

7. Approve Liquor Licenses for the following: Casey's #3954 - LE0003849, 4343 S 15th Ave E, Class E Retail Alcohol License renewal; Gezellig Brewing Company, LLC - BW0099095, 403 W 4th St N, Special Class C Retail Alcohol License, Outdoor Service renewal, pending dramshop review; Git-N-Go Convenience Store #14 - LG0000558, 801 1st Ave W, Class B Retail Alcohol License renewal; Love's Travel Stop #361 - LG0000961, 4400 S 22nd Ave E, Special Class C Retail Alcohol License renewal, pending dramshop review; Lucky Wife Wine Slushies, 303 W 4th St N - Farmers Markets on June 17th, July 15th, and August 19th, and 3030 N 4th Ave E, Fall Fest on October 11th, Special Class C Retail Alcohol License, Outdoor Service

8. Resolution appointing Wade Sheeler to the Downtown Grant Review Board
Resolution 2025-104 adopted.

9. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 25-04)
Resolution 2025-105 adopted.

10. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 25-03)
Resolution 2025-106 adopted.

11. Resolution approving the Midwest Automatic Fire Sprinkler limit liability letter
Resolution 2025-107 adopted.

12. Resolution Adjusting the Fee Schedule for the Newton Fire Department Ambulance Service
Resolution 2025-108 adopted.

13. Resolution approving the purchase and up-fit services for three police patrol vehicles
Resolution 2025-109 adopted.

14. Resolution approving the purchase of mobile radios from Electronic Engineering Co.
Resolution 2025-110 adopted.

15. Resolution approving contract for the 2025 City of Newton Mowing Contract No. 1
Resolution 2025-111 adopted.

16. Resolution approving contract for the 2025 City of Newton Mowing Contract No. 2
Resolution 2025-112 adopted.

17. Resolution approving contract for the 2025 City of Newton Mowing Contract No. 3
Resolution 2025-113 adopted.
18. Resolution approving change order #1 for the 2024-01 Demo Project
Resolution 2025-114 adopted.
19. Resolution approving change order #1 for Demo 2025-01 Project
Resolution 2025-115 adopted.
20. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the GG 115 LLC Property Located at
208 S 2nd Ave W Within the North Central Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2025-116 adopted.
21. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Ex Nihilo Property Located at 107
1st Ave W Within the North Central Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2025-117 adopted.
22. Resolution Setting a Public Hearing Date to Approve the 2025-26 Operating Budget for
the City of Newton
Resolution 2025-118 adopted.
23. Resolution Setting a Date of Meeting in which it is Proposed to Approve an Amended
Development Agreement with Hotel Maytag Investors, LLC, Including Annual
Appropriation Tax increment Payments
Resolution 2025-119 adopted.
24. Resolution setting a public hearing for the sale of city-owned property at 1017 West 4th
Street South, 902 1st Avenue West, 917 1st Avenue West, 717 West 6th Street South,
625 East 5th Street South, and 1219 South 4th Avenue East, Newton, Jasper County,
Iowa
Resolution 2025-120 adopted.
25. Resolution setting a public hearing for the sale of city-owned property at 509 West 2nd
Street South, 514 South 2nd Avenue West, 315 East 4th Street South, and 616 West 4th
Street South, Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Resolution 2025-121 adopted.
26. 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 2025
Aurora Park Tennis Courts
Resolution 2025-122 adopted.

27. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

28. Public Hearing on Resolution Approving the First Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year
2024-2025
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 Mills, seconded by Dalton to
close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
29. Resolution Approving the First Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2024-2025
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mills to adopt the
Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-123 adopted.

Ordinance

30. Third consideration of Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton,
Iowa, 2025, Title V, Chapter 52: Sewers
Moved by Mullan, seconded by Ervin to approve the third consideration of the
Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Third Consideration of the Ordinance was
approved. Moved by Hallam, seconded by Simbro, to adopt the Ordinance.
AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2463 was adopted.
31. Third 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 Hallam, seconded by Dalton to approve the third consideration of the
Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Third Consideration of the Ordinance was
approved. Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mills, to adopt the Ordinance.
AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2464 was adopted.
32. Third 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 Dalton, seconded by Hallam to approve the third consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Third Consideration of the Ordinance was approved. Moved by Hallam, seconded by Simbro, to adopt the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2465 was adopted.

33. Second Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2025, Title IX: General Regulations, Chapter 95: Cemeteries

Moved by Ervin, seconded by Simbro to approve the second consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Second Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.

Resolution

34. Resolution approving a Newton Hotel-Motel Tourism Grant Program Application for \$2,500 from Fierce Faith Music Festival

Moved by Dalton, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-124 adopted.

35. Resolution approving a performance contract with Damon Dotson for the Newton Fest concert on June 14, 2025

Moved by Ervin, seconded by Mullan to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-125 adopted.

36. Resolution approving reduced prices on Maytag Pool single-day admissions for June 14, 2025

Moved by Hallam, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-126 adopted.

37. Resolution approving a two-month website launch marketing campaign to drive traffic to the new Get to Know Newton website

Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-127 adopted.

38. Resolution awarding contract for the 1st Ave (Highway 6) signal improvement project

Moved by Mullan, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-128 adopted.

39. Resolution Awarding Contract for the 2025 Westwood Sidwalk/Cart Path PCC Project

Moved by Mills, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-129 adopted.

40. Resolution approving professional services agreement with Bolton/Menk for hydraulic modeling services of the water distribution system

Moved by Simbro, seconded by Ervin to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-130 adopted.

41. Resolution approving a low-moderate income housing set-aside grant for 607 North 2nd Avenue East, Newton

Moved by Mullan, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-131 adopted.

42. Resolution approving a low-moderate income housing set-aside grant for 423 East Second Street South, Newton

Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-132 adopted.

43. Resolution amending Resolution 2025-058 Approving the City-wide City Signage Replacement Project

Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Abstained: Ervin. Resolution 2025-133 adopted.

44. Resolution Approving a Bond Purchase Agreement for the sale of General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2025A

Moved by Mills, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-134 adopted.

45. Resolution approving the granting of Downtown Improvement Grant funds for 211 1st Avenue West, Newton, Iowa in the Paint Program Area

Moved by Ervin, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-135 adopted.

46. Resolution approving the Award of Downtown Improvement grants for the building at 207 1st Avenue West

Moved by Mullan, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-136 adopted.

Staff Report

47. SRP & Library Services - Phyllis Peter, Youth Services Librarian & Becca Klein, Public Services Librarian
Peter and Klein presented on all the various projects hosted by the library.

Mayor/Council Comments

48. Mayor and Council Comments
Mayor George, Ervin, and Mills attended the Downtown Dreams event hosted by Main Street. It was a great event where they discussed a strategic plan for downtown. They are seeking feedback from citizens by completing a survey on the Main Street site. The Newton Arboretum is hosting a fundraising event where you can meet Bing the famous dog. Mills touted the high school play, The Wizard of Oz. It was very impressive. He is thrilled about the growth that is coming in the next couple of years. Ervin is excited to see all the stuff coming, such as all the houses being built and the rail park.

Closed Session

49. Closed Session under Iowa Code Section 21.5.1.j, to discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for that property. The minutes and the audio recording of a session closed under this paragraph shall be available for public examination when the transaction discussed is completed
At 7:32 P.M., it was moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam 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

50. Return to Open Session
Council returned to open session at 8:22 P.M. with all members present.

Closed Session

51. 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 2025
At 8:25 P.M., it was moved by Dalton, seconded by Mills 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

52. Return to Open Session
Council returned to open session at 8:54 P.M. with all members present.

Closed Session

53. To Evaluate The Professional Competency Of Individuals Whose Appointment, Hiring, Performance Or Discharge Is Being Considered When Necessary To Prevent Needless And Irreparable Injury To That Individual's Reputation And That Individual Request A Closed Session. Pursuant To The Provisions Of Section 21.5(1)(i), Code of Iowa 2025
At 8:55 P.M., it was moved by Mills, seconded by Dalton 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.

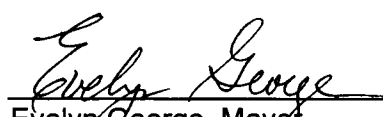
Return to Open Session

54. Return to Open Session
Council returned to open session at 9:44 P.M. with all members present.

Adjourn

Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.


Katrina Davis, City Clerk


Evelyn George, Mayor

