

NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 2, 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: Mullan, Dalton, Hallam, Simbro, Ervin. Absent: Mills.

Presentation

2. Holmes Murphy, Benefits Broker - Joe Langel

The average claims and admin cost is \$987.11, which is 67.0% of the accrual rate. For the renewal, the total maximum annual cost increase would be 3.11% in admin cost. Two years ago, the city went to self-funded. The first year there was a \$709,425 savings compared to fully funded. So far this second year we are at a \$643,000 savings.

Citizen Participation

3. Bill Peters, on behalf of the Newton Cardinals, wanted to let everyone know about everything that will be going on for Newton Fest and the Alumni Weekend. The All-Class Reunion at Legacy Plaza is June 13th. On Saturday morning there will be the Cardinal breakfast and the Hall of Fame presentation. As well as a golf tournament that raises money for scholarships. Saturday night are the individual class reunions. Bruce Schowalter, NHDC announced an open house in Arbor Estate on Thursday to tour the new houses. Sierra White, 602 E 2nd St S, with the Backyard chicken friends, spoke in favor of allowing urban chickens. John Moore, wanted to bring attention to the fact that AccuJet was supposed to cover the cost of a sewer backup in his basement due to a warranty issue in the service lining project, but they have failed to follow through yet.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Dalton, seconded by Hallam to approve consent agenda items 4-23. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

4. May 19, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

5. Approve Liquor Licenses for the following: Wal-Mart Supercenter #748 - LE0000974, 300 Iowa Speedway Dr, Class E Retail Alcohol License renewal

6. Approve 2025-2026 Cigarette/Tobacco/Nicotine/Vapor License for the following: Dollar General Store #3032, 1803 1st Ave E; Kwik Star 1001, 1910 1st Ave E; Newton 66 #963, 1806 S 12th Ave W; Pit Stop Liquors, 1324 1st Ave E; Tobacco Vape & E-Cig, 1126 1st Ave E; Walgreens #05942, 1204 1st Ave E; West End #961, 1325 1st Ave W

7. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 25-06)
Resolution 2025-208 adopted.

8. Resolution accepting change order #1 and completion of the Outdoor Warning Sirens Retro project.
Resolution 2025-209 adopted.

9. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Hopkins Properties LLC Property Located Within the 1st Avenue East Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2025-210 adopted.

10. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Hotel Maytag Investors, LLC Property Located Within the North Central Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2025-211 adopted.

11. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Nehring Auto Property Located at 1800 1st Ave E Within the 1st Avenue East Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2025-212 adopted.

12. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Jasper Point Plaza, LLC Property Located Within the 1st Avenue East Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2025-213 adopted.

13. Resolution authorizing the City of Newton Fire Department to enter into the Jasper County EMS Affiliation Agreement
Resolution 2025-214 adopted.
14. Resolution authorizing the purchase of a ½ Ton 4WD Crew Cab pickup for Water Pollution Control
Resolution 2025-215 adopted.
15. Resolution awarding contract for the 2025 – Landfill Concrete Rubble Crushing Project
Resolution 2025-216 adopted.
16. Resolution approving change order #1 for the 1st Ave (Highway 6) Signal Improvement Project
Resolution 2025-217 adopted.
17. Resolution approving a Telecommunications Licensing Agreement with Mahaska Communication Group (MCG) – 2025-01
Resolution 2025-218 adopted.
18. Resolution approving the revised quote for purchasing a vacuum street sweeper for the Public Works Department
Resolution 2025-219 adopted.
19. Resolution approving a renewal of a 3-year Professional Services Agreement with Schneider Geospatial for the City of Newton's GIS needs
Resolution 2025-220 adopted.
20. Resolution consenting to Ahlers & Cooney, P.C.'s representation of Jasper County with respect to the Jasper County Rail Park Development Project
Resolution 2025-221 adopted.
21. Resolution approving the private sale and transfer of ownership of 615 South Fourth Avenue East, a property formerly owned by the City of Newton through the Dangerous and Dilapidated program
Resolution 2025-222 adopted.
22. Resolution directing the Planning and Zoning Commission to review the zoning ordinance with regards to the matter of urban chickens
Resolution 2025-223 adopted.

23. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

24. Public Hearing on a Resolution awarding contract for the 2025 Aurora Park Tennis Courts Lighting Project
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 Hallam to close the public hearing. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
25. Resolution awarding contract for the 2025 Aurora Park Tennis Courts Lighting Project
Moved by Ervin, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-224 adopted.
26. Public Hearing on a Resolution awarding contract for the 2025 Aurora Park Tennis Courts Project
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 Hallam, seconded by Mullan to close the public hearing. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
27. Resolution awarding contract for the 2025 Aurora Park Tennis Courts Project
Moved by Dalton, seconded by Ervin to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-225 adopted.
28. Public Hearing on a resolution adopting the FY26 through FY30 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 Hallam, seconded by Simbro to close the public hearing. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
29. Resolution adopting the FY26 through FY30 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Ervin to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-226 adopted.

Ordinance

30. Third Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2025, Title III: Administration, Chapter 30: Mayor and Council
Moved by Ervin, seconded by Hallam to approve the third consideration of the

Ordinance. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Third Consideration of the Ordinance was approved. Moved by Ervin, seconded by Mullan, to adopt the Ordinance. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2467 was adopted.

31. Third Consideration of an Ordinance Establishing Partial Tax Exemption for Industrial Property
Moved by Dalton, seconded by Hallam to approve the third consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Third Consideration of the Ordinance was approved. Moved by Mullan, seconded by Ervin, to adopt the Ordinance. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2468 was adopted.
32. Second Reading Ordinance repealing Ordinance #2443 and amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2025, Title V, Chapter 54 Waterworks, Section 54.19 Fee Schedule by Adding or Deleting
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Dalton to approve the second consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Second Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.

Resolution

33. Resolution approving the Westwood Clubhouse Facility Rental Policy and Adding Westwood Clubhouse Facility Rental Fee to the City of Newton Comprehensive Fee Schedule
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mullan to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-227 adopted.
34. Resolution approving the granting of Downtown Improvement Grant funds for 104 1st St N, Newton, Iowa in the Signage and Awning Program Areas
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-228 adopted.
35. Resolution adopting the 2025 Newton City Council Rules of Procedure
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Ervin to adopt the Resolution. Moved by Dalton, seconded by Ervin to postpone the resolution until all council members are present. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. the amendment to postpone passed.
36. Resolution approving a low-moderate income housing set-aside grant for 312 North 8th Avenue East, Newton
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Ervin to adopt the Resolution. Doris Cude, 312 N 8th Ave E, spoke about the issues in her basement and appreciated the program. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-229 adopted.
37. Resolution approving a low-moderate income housing set-aside grant for 1133 Monroe Drive, Newton
Moved by Ervin, seconded by Mullan to adopt the Resolution. Gina Robenson, owner, spoke about the restoration she has done on this historic AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-230 adopted.
38. Resolution supporting the submission of an Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) Application to the Workforce Housing Tax Credit Program by Front Porch Development, Inc.
Moved by Mullan, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. The Front Porch developer spoke regarding two houses they are working on and will present a larger project for next year. These two houses will be 2 bedrooms with a full basement that could accommodate 2 additional bedrooms. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-231 adopted.

Staff Report

39. Joe Grife, Public Works Staffing Report
Introduced a proposal to add one additional full-time employee to Public Works. This would be an entry-level Street Laborer position without the need for a CDL. This would allow them to train and work their way up. The current part-time employee that does this work would be offered the position and move from 30 hours per week to 40 hours per week to be paid from road use tax.
40. Katrina Davis, Administrative Services Manager
Davis presented FY24-25 projects, including various changes and updates that resulted in substantial savings. The Administration Department is also recruiting for an IT Support Specialist.

Mayor/Council Comments

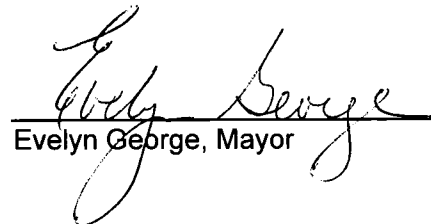
41. Mayor and Council Comments
Hallam attended My Fair Lady at the Newton Community Theatre and it was fantastic. Newton Fest and the Alumni Weekend. There will be four members inducted into the

Hall of Fame. Mullan attended the Employee Recognition Committee. Mayor George indicated that the Library has kicked off the summer reading program; The Farmers Market will take place tomorrow night, and Yoga at Maytag on Tuesday evening, Wednesday Senior Walks, Arbor Estates Open House on Thursday and then Music at the Bowl, and a Splash Pad ribbon cutting on Friday at noon.

Adjourn

Moved by Mullan, seconded by Hallam to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.


Katrina Davis, City Clerk


Evelyn George, Mayor

