

NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 21, 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. Open Arms Foundation of Jasper County - Nick Pietrack

Open Arms is committed to the health and safety of every child. They are advocating bringing a Safe Haven Baby Box to Jasper county to provide a last-resort option for mothers in crisis, ensuring that no child is ever left in danger.

Citizen Participation

3. John Holdsworth, 615 W 68th St S, has a rental property that has a shared water line with 1010 N 5th Ave E. That property is getting an LMI grant, and he is forced to replace his rental property's line at full cost. They are asking council to amend the policy to include rental property owners in the grant program.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Ervin, seconded by Mills to approve consent agenda items 4-22. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

4. July 7, 2025 Special City Council Workshop Minutes

5. July 7, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

6. Approve 2025-2026 Cigarette/Tobacco/Nicotine/Vapor License & Class E Retail Alcohol License for Pit Stop Liquors (under new ownership), 1324 1st Ave E pending staff review

7. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 25-08)
Resolution 2025-287 adopted.

8. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 25-09)
Resolution 2025-288 adopted.

9. Resolution Approving Payment to Axon, LLC for Police Video Equipment and Service
Resolution 2025-289 adopted.

10. Resolution Approving the FY24 Audit for the City of Newton
Resolution 2025-290 adopted.

11. Resolution Approving Disposal of Records in the Finance Area of the Administration Department According to the Iowa League of Cities Recommended Retention Schedule
Resolution 2025-291 adopted.

12. Resolution approving a quote for the completion of the 2024 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project through a performance bond
Resolution 2025-292 adopted.

13. Resolution Amending the Total Downtown Grant Amount for Silverado Boutique at 105 West 2nd Street North, Newton
Resolution 2025-293 adopted.

14. Resolution approving change order #1 for Aurora Tennis Court Project
Resolution 2025-294 adopted.

15. Resolution approving a Telecommunications Licensing Agreement with Unite Private Networks – UPN 9973
Resolution 2025-295 adopted.

16. Resolution approving change order #1 for Landfill Concrete Crushing Project
Resolution 2025-296 adopted.

17. Resolution awarding contract for the Scale House Electrical Generator Installation Project
Resolution 2025-297 adopted.

18. Resolution Approving the letter of support for Newton Main Street's Challenge Grant Application
Resolution 2025-298 adopted.
19. Resolution approving the private sale and assignment of development agreement for 900 and 1106 South 5th Avenue East
Resolution 2025-299 adopted.
20. Resolution authorizing the submission of an application for Iowa Traffic Safety Improvement Program funding
Resolution 2025-300 adopted.
21. Resolution Renewing the Aviation Ground Operations Liability Insurance Package For the Newton Airport with Global Aerospace Inc.
Resolution 2025-301 adopted.
22. Resolution ordering bids, approving plans, specifications and form of contract and notice to bidders, and ordering city clerk to publish notice and fixing a date for receiving same, and for a public hearing on plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of costs for the 2025 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project
Resolution 2025-302 adopted.

23. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

24. Public Hearing on a Proposed Amendment to the North Central Urban Renewal Area
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: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
25. Resolution to Approve Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the North Central Urban Renewal Area
Moved by Dalton, seconded by Mullan to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-303 adopted.
26. Public Hearing on Proposed Amendment to the 1st Avenue East Urban Renewal Area
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 Ervin to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
27. Resolution to Approve Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the 1st Avenue East Urban Renewal Area
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-304 adopted.
28. Public Hearing on a Proposed Amendment to the East-Mart Economic Development Urban Renewal Area
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 Ervin to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
29. Resolution to Approve Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the East-Mart Economic Development Urban Renewal Area
Moved by Ervin, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-305 adopted.
30. Public Hearing on an Ordinance adding 1601 North 15th Avenue East to the listing of Industrial Property Tax Abatements
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 Simbro to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
31. First Consideration of an Ordinance adding 1601 North 15th Avenue East to the listing of Industrial Property Tax Abatements
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.

Ordinance

32. Second Consideration of an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 152: Swimming Pools
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Ervin to approve the second consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Second Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.

33. First Consideration of an Ordinance Amending The Code of Ordinances, City Of Newton, Iowa, 2025, Title XI, Chapter 111 Peddlers, Solicitors, Transient Merchants, And Mobile Food Units, Section 111.07 Mobile Food Unit Standards
Moved by Ervin, seconded by Dalton to approve the first consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Four. NAYS: Mills, Simbro. First Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.

Resolution

34. Resolution approving Contract for Professional Community and Economic Development Services by and between the City of Newton, Iowa and Newton Housing Development Corporation
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Ervin to adopt the Resolution. Moved by Simbro, seconded by Mills to postpone in order to include more details in the contract. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution was postponed.
35. Resolution approving Contract for Commercial and Industrial Economic Development Services with Newton Development Corporation
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Ervin to adopt the Resolution. Moved by Simbro, seconded by Dalton to postpone in order to include more details in the contract. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution was postponed.
36. Resolution approving the granting of Downtown Improvement Grant funds for 109-111 W 3rd Street North, Newton, Iowa in the Facade and Paint Program Area
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-306 adopted.
37. Resolution approving a low-moderate income housing set-aside grant for 525 North 2nd Avenue East, Newton
Moved by Ervin, seconded by Mullan to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-307 adopted.
38. Resolution approving a low-moderate income housing set-aside grant for 1010 North 5th Avenue East, Newton
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. Owner Jeff Murphy indicated that due to the shared waterline he can only run 1 facet at a time. This if the reason he is replacing the line at this time. It will require that the other property on the shared line be replaced as well. Utilities Director Jody Rhone indicated that the EPA will eventually require that all lead and galvanized lines be replaced. This grant only applies to owner occupied properties and not rental properties. Council discussed options and the effect the EPA order will have on the community. Moved by Dalton, seconded by Ervin to postpone in order to gather additional information on the situation and for the owner of the other property on the shared line. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution was postponed.
39. Resolution approving a low-moderate income housing set-aside grant for 309 East 20th Street North, Newton
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Ervin to adopt the Resolution. Moved by Hallam, seconded by Dalton to postpone to August 4th. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution was postponed.
40. Resolution approving part-time cook positions at Westwood Golf Course
Moved by Mills, seconded by Ervin to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-308 adopted.
41. Resolution awarding the purchase of a Zoll ZVent Ventilator from Zoll Medical Corporation
Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-309 adopted.

Staff Report

42. Water Source & Treatment Projects - Jody Rhone, Utilities Director
Newton's water supply consists of 18 Alluvial and 1 Jordan Well. The Jordan well was constructed in 2000. Was in need of maintenance and rehabilitation to restore yield by over 31%, remove mineral scaling, and evaluate the condition. Other maintenance projects in FY25 have been done on the Alluvial wells. They range from 20–70 years old and some will need to be replaced due to end of life. The treatment facility was also in need of maintenance, including new roofs, upgrades to the controls and telemetry, filter room upgrades, new central tower valve actuators, and polyphosphate tank and pump upgrades.

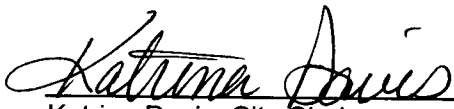
Mayor/Council Comments

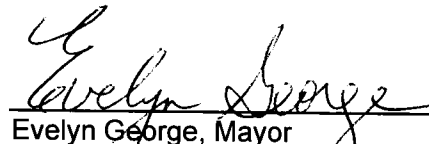
43. Mayor and Council Comments

Hallam indicated that he would be at the Farmers Market on Tuesday handing out swag. Simbro articulated the benefits of having the farmers' market in the green space at Legacy Plaza and taking the opportunity to tour the new apartments. Ervin announced the open house from 11-1 pm on Tuesday for the new houses on N 8th Ave. Mayor George stated that her future plans will involve a lot more traveling and that she has decided not to run again for Mayor. She encourages those that are interested in running to get in touch with staff to learn about the process and other aspects of the position.

Adjourn

Moved by Dalton, seconded by Mullan to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.


Katrina Davis, City Clerk


Evelyn George, Mayor

