

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

Citizen Participation

2. Emily Thomason, 1405 W 9th St S, requested that the city move the Maytag Park Trunk or Treat to a different night other than beggar's night in order to support neighborhood trick or treating and strengthen community connections.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Ervin, seconded by Mullan to approve consent agenda items 3-16. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

3. October 20, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
4. Approve Liquor Licenses for the following: Brew #96, 1325 1st Ave W and Brew #101, 1806 S 12th Ave W, Class B Retail Alcohol License, pending staff review
5. Approve the FY25 Annual Financial Report
6. Approve the FY25 Street Finance Report
7. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 25-15)
Resolution 2025-403 adopted.
8. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 25-16)
Resolution 2025-404 adopted.
9. Resolution Approving the Annual Urban Renewal Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025
Resolution 2025-405 adopted.
10. 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 2025-406 adopted.
11. Resolution approving a Telecommunications Licensing Agreement with Unite Private Networks – UPN 10237
Resolution 2025-407 adopted.
12. Resolution approving change order #1 for S 4th Ave Pl E Clearing and Grubbing Project
Resolution 2025-408 adopted.
13. Resolution Amending previously approved low-moderate income housing set-aside grant for 712 West 6th Street South, Newton
Resolution 2025-409 adopted.
14. Resolution Approving the Annual Support Fees for the Fire Department Record Management Software
Resolution 2025-410 adopted.
15. 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 and E 12th Street Drainage Improvements Project
Resolution 2025-411 adopted.
16. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

17. Public Hearing on a Resolution awarding contract for the 2025 City of Newton Camera 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 Ervin to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.

18. Resolution awarding contract for the 2025 City of Newton Camera Project
Moved by Mullan, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-412 adopted.
19. Public Hearing on a resolution to award a contract for the Westwood Golf Course Bridge Replacement and Repairs Project.
Mayor George stated that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing on the above Resolution. There were no written comments. It was confirmed that 100% is covered by FEMA. Moved by Ervin, seconded by Hallam to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
20. Resolution awarding contract for the Westwood Golf Course Bridge Replacement and Repairs Project.
Moved by Mullan, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-413 adopted.
21. Public Hearing on an Ordinance amending City of Newton Code of Ordinances Title IX: General Regulations, Chapter 94: Public Nuisances and Title XV, Land Usage, Chapter 158: Zoning pertaining to Urban Chickens & Ducks
Mayor George stated that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing on the above Resolution. There were no written comments. Council discussion ensued. Moved by Ervin, seconded by Hallam to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
22. First Consideration of an Ordinance amending City of Newton Code of Ordinances Title XV, Chapter 94 and Chapter 158 pertaining to Urban Chickens
Moved by Dalton, seconded by Mills to approve the first consideration of the Ordinance. Erica Paterson, 1421 N 8th Ave E, spoke in favor of the ordinance and allowing for urban chickens. It was moved by Simbro, seconded by Hallam, to amend the ordinance to include the reporting of Avian Influenza. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The motion to amend was approved. AYES: Two. NAYS: Hallam, Simbro, Ervin, Mullan. First Consideration of the Ordinance failed.

Ordinance

23. Second Consideration of an Ordinance Terminating the Southwest Newton Economic Development Urban Renewal area Plan and Ending the Southwest Newton Economic Development Urban Renewal Area
Moved by Mullan, seconded by Hallam to approve the second consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Second Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.
24. Second consideration of an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, IA, 2025, Title VII, Chapter 71, "Traffic Regulations" to add Section 70.13 "Engine Braking"
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Mullan to approve the second consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Five. NAYS: Ervin. Second 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 100-300 Block of North Second Avenue East.
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.

Resolution

26. Resolution Amending the Low-Mod Income Housing Set Aside Funds Policy to allow for Council to consider awarding grants to completed water or sewer service line projects that are deemed as an emergency
Moved by Dalton, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-414 adopted.
27. Resolution approving a Low-Moderate Income Housing Set-Aside Grant for 619 East 7th Street South, Newton
Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-415 adopted.
28. Resolution approving a Low-Moderate Income Housing Set-Aside Grant for 719 North 10th Avenue East, Newton
Moved by Mullan, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-416 adopted.

29. Resolution approving a Low-Moderate Income Housing Set-Aside Grant for 805 East 9th Street South, Newton.
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Ervin to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-417 adopted.
30. Resolution approving a Low-Moderate Income Housing Set-Aside Grant for 428 East 10th Street South, Newton.
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-418 adopted.
31. Resolution approving a Low-Moderate Income Housing Set-Aside Grant for 612 South 5th Avenue West, Newton.
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mullan to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-419 adopted.
32. Resolution naming 224 West 3rd Street North Harmony Park and officially designating the property as part of the City Parks system
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Mullan to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-420 adopted.
33. Resolution Updating the Fee Schedule for Westwood Golf Course
Moved by Dalton, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-421 adopted.
34. Resolution approving the Maytag Park Slate Roof Repair Project
Moved by Mullan, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-422 adopted.
35. Resolution accepting completion of the Newton Municipal Airport Rehabilitate Runway 14/32 Project AIP Project #3-19-0065-022-2024
Moved by Ervin, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-423 adopted.
36. Resolution approving an Engineering Services Agreement for Arbor Estates 3rd Addition
Moved by Ervin, seconded by Mullan to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-424 adopted.
37. Resolution authorizing the Public Works Civil Engineer Technician (CET) II at Range 7, Step 12 on the City of Newton salary schedule matrix
Moved by Mills, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-425 adopted.

Mayor/Council Comments

38. Mayor and Council Comments
Hallam complimented United Way of Jasper County on their conference card. Also, the OPEN organization is having a fundraiser on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. for humanitarian relief in Ukraine. Mullan informed everyone that the museum is busy putting up all the trees for their event. Mills reminded everyone to go out and vote.

Closed Session

39. 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 7:39 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

40. Return to Open Session
Council returned to open session at 8:02 P.M. with all members present.

Closed Session

41. 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 8:04 P.M., it was moved by Hallam, 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.

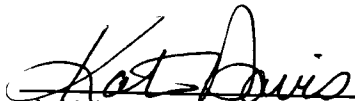
Return to Open Session

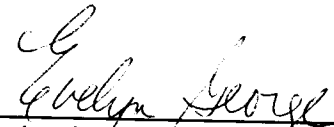
42. Return to Open Session

Council returned to open session at 8:25 P.M. with all members present.

Adjourn

Moved by Mullan, seconded by Mills to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.


Katrina Davis, City Clerk


Evelyn George, Mayor

