

NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 17, 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 (via telephone), Ervin. Absent: None.

Citizen Participation

2. Ina Heidemann, Newton Arboretum & Botanical Gardens Board Vice President, thanked council for a successful 30th anniversary and Fall Festival and helping to get the street closed for safety. Our Iowa Magazine Tours came through 4 times. There were people from all over. About 130 people came through and Newton is on the tour again for next year.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mullan to approve consent agenda items 3-20. Moved by Ervin, seconded by Mills to pull agenda item 15 for discussion. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Motion to pull item 15 carries. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda items 3-14 and 16-20 were adopted. Moved by Mills, seconded by Ervin to adopt item 15, a Resolution awarding contract for the 2025 City of Newton Tree Removal Project No. 3. Moved by Ervin, seconded by Mills to amend the resolution funding source from General Fund to FY25 Bonds dedicated to tree removal. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Motion to amend was approved. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Item 15 was adopted as amended.

3. November 3, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
4. November 3, 2025 Budget Workshop Minutes
5. Resolution appointing Wesley Breckenridge to fill an unexpired term to the Newton Planning and Zoning Commission ending December 31, 2028
Resolution 2025-426 adopted.
6. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 25-16)
Resolution 2025-427 adopted.
7. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 25-17)
Resolution 2025-428 adopted.
8. Resolution approving suspension of Civil Service hiring practices for entrance positions as authorized by Iowa Code Section 400.12A for the period November 18, 2025 through November 18, 2026
Resolution 2025-429 adopted.
9. Resolution approving CO #1 and accepting completion of 2025 Nuisance Sidewalk Project
Resolution 2025-430 adopted.
10. Resolution Authorizing Urban Renewal Area activities to be Certified and Decertified as TIF Indebtedness
Resolution 2025-431 adopted.
11. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Best Midwest Properties LLC Property Located at 109 1st Ave W Within the North Central Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2025-432 adopted.
12. Resolution Authorizing the Private Sale of 602 East 13th Street North and Releasing the Purchase and Redevelopment Agreement
Resolution 2025-433 adopted.
13. Resolution Accepting Donation from Curtis Jackson Estate and Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Donation Agreement
Resolution 2025-434 adopted.
14. Resolution approving lease agreement for the cropland lease for the 2026-2028 growing seasons at the Newton Sanitary Landfill
Resolution 2025-435 adopted.

15. Resolution awarding contract for the 2025 City of Newton Tree Removal Project No. 3
Resolution 2025-436 adopted.
16. Resolution Claiming Less than the Maximum Allowable Revenue from the East Mart Tax
Increment Financing District for Fiscal Year 2026-2027
Resolution 2025-437 adopted.
17. Resolution Claiming Less than the Maximum Allowable Revenue from the 1st Avenue
East Tax Increment Financing District for Fiscal Year 2026-2027
Resolution 2025-438 adopted.
18. Resolution Claiming Less than the Maximum Allowable Revenue from the
Speedway/Prairie Fire Tax Increment Financing District for Fiscal Year 2026-2027
Resolution 2025-439 adopted.
19. Resolution setting the date for a public hearing on proposal to enter into General
Obligation Loan Agreements and to borrow money thereunder
Resolution 2025-440 adopted.

20. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

21. Public Hearing on a Resolution Approving the Sale of City-owned Property at 214 East
4th Street North, 411 North 3rd Avenue East, 421 North 3rd Avenue East, 427 North 3rd
Avenue East, and 215 East 5th Street North in Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
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 Mills to
close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
22. Resolution Approving the Sale of City-owned Property at 214 East 4th Street North, 411
North 3rd Avenue East, 421 North 3rd Avenue East, 427 North 3rd Avenue East, and 215
East 5th Street North in Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Moved by Ervin, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None.
Resolution 2025-441 adopted.

Ordinance

23. Third 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 Dalton to approve the third consideration of the
Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Third Consideration of the Ordinance was
approved. Moved by Mullan, seconded by Mills, to adopt the Ordinance.
AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2477 was adopted.
24. Third 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 Mills to approve the third consideration of the Ordinance.
Ervin opposed, asking to take more time to look at this before
approving. AYES: Five. NAYS: Ervin. Third Consideration of the Ordinance was
approved. Moved by Mills, seconded by Mullan, to adopt the Ordinance.
AYES: Five. NAYS: Ervin. Ordinance 2478 was adopted.
25. Second 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 Hallam, seconded by Simbro to approve the second consideration of the
Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Second Consideration of the Ordinance was
approved.

Resolution

26. Resolution Terminating the Southwest Newton Economic Development Urban Renewal
Area Plan and Ending the Southwest Newton Economic Development Urban Renewal
Area
Moved by Dalton, seconded by Mullan to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS:
None. Resolution 2025-442 adopted.
27. Resolution adopting the 2025 Newton City Council Rules of Procedure
Moved by Dalton, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS:
None. Resolution 2025-443 adopted.

28. Resolution establishing the fine amount for violations of the engine brake ordinance
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-444 adopted.
29. Resolution authorizing the utilities department to enter into an installation agreement with ROI Energy for the water treatment LED lighting upgrade project
Moved by Ervin, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2025-445 adopted.

Mayor/Council Comments

30. Mayor and Council Comments
Mills clarified that on item 8 that the Civil Service oversees the hiring practices of just police and fire. No other departments. Mullan confirmed that the alleys look great. Simbro had a report that motorized wheelchairs are still driving up 12th Street South. He feels that council should consider building a sidewalk for safety purposes. Mayor George stated, "It's starting to look a lot like Christmas throughout town." They are busy decorating around the square, and in the parks. It is Pink Friday this weekend, and then Black Friday, and the Lighted Holiday Parade is coming up. Ervin reminded everyone about the Jasper County Historical Museum's Tree-mendous Christmas Experience in December. George mentioned that the Gray Moon would be opening right after Thanksgiving.

Closed Session

31. 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 6:37 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.

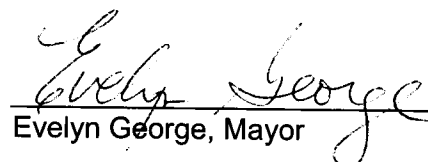
Return to Open Session

32. Return to Open Session
Council returned to open session at 7:00 P.M. with all members present.

Adjourn

Moved by Simbro, seconded by Ervin to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.


Katriha Davis, City Clerk


Evelyn George, Mayor

