



Newton City Council Agenda

March 16, 2026 - 6:00 PM

View the City Council Meeting:

In Person

City Hall - Council Chambers
101 W 4th St S, Newton, IA 50208

Television

Mediacom Channel
12/85/121.12

Online

newtongov.org/cablecast

Pledge

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order

1. Roll Call

Presentation

2. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program - Kevin Schnoebelen, CASA Program Coordinator, Division of Compliance and Administration, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
3. Eagle Scout 5K Course Project Presentation - Noah Tremel

Citizen Participation

4. This is the time of the meeting that a citizen may address the Council. After being recognized by the presiding officer, each person will be given three (3) minutes to speak. Elected officials will take comments into consideration; however, this time is not intended for a discussion or entering into a dialogue. Elected officials and City staff will not answer questions or debate a citizen during the *Citizen Participation* portion of the meeting

Consent Agenda

5. March 2, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
6. Certify Assistant Fire Chief candidate list
7. Approve Liquor Licenses for the following: 2nd Ave Social at DMACC Newton Campus, 600 N 2nd Ave W, for Special Event on March 28, 2026, Class C Retail Alcohol License; Elite Mart, LLC (formerly Shop n Save), 404 S 11th Ave W, new ownership, Class E Retail Alcohol License pending state and local approval
8. Approve 2026-2027 Cigarette/Tobacco/Nicotine/Vapor License for the following: Elite Mart, LLC, 404 S 11th Ave W; Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh, 1421 1st Ave E; and Hy-Vee Food Store, 1501 1st Ave E
9. Resolution Adopting 2026 S21 Supplement to the "Code of Ordinances of the City of Newton, Iowa, 2025," and Approving Distribution of the Same to Code Subscribers
10. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 26-05)
11. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 26-06)

12. Resolution approving a Five (5) year agreement and One (1) year supplemental agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation for City maintenance of U.S. Highway 6
13. Resolution accepting completion of the 2025 Landfill Concrete Crushing Project
14. Resolution authorizing the submittal of the USDOT Standard Title VI/Non-Discrimination Assurances document and Iowa DOT Title VI Non-Discrimination Agreement
15. Resolution Approving Payment to S&P Global Ratings for Services Related to the 2026 Bonding
16. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Ex Nihilo Property Located at 107 1st Ave W Within the North Central Urban Renewal Area
17. Resolution accepting the ISE Grant awarded for the emergency replacement of the airport beacon
18. Resolution approving change order #1 for 1st Ave E and E 12th St Drainage Improvements Project
19. Resolution Setting a Public Hearing for the Sale of 1219 South 4th Avenue East, Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
20. Resolution Setting a Date For a Public Hearing on the Proposed Property Tax Levy for Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
21. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

22. Public Hearing on Proposed Adoption of an Ordinance Granting to Interstate Power and Light Company (Alliant Energy) a 25-Year Non-Exclusive Electric Franchise
 - The public hearing is a time of discussion on the potential to adopt a franchise fee on Alliant Energy bills at 2% in the initial year, 4% in the second year and 5% in the third year.
 - The attached ordinance is pending legal review and is subject to change.
23. First Consideration of an Ordinance Granting to Interstate Power and Light Company (Alliant Energy) a 25-year Non-Exclusive Electric Franchise
24. Public Hearing on Proposed Adoption of an Ordinance Establishing a Franchise Fee on Energy Providers Operating in the City of Newton, Iowa
 - This public hearing is for discussion on adoption of an ordinance implementing a franchise fee on Black Hills Energy bills at 2% in the initial year, 4% in the second year and 5% in the third year.

Ordinance

26. 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 100-200 Block of East Twenty-First Street South

- With the expansion of the tennis courts at Aurora Park and the loss of a parking area, the Traffic Safety Committee was asked to reevaluate the current parking in the 100–200 block of E 21st St S.
- The TSC recommends restricting parking on the east side and allowing parking on the west side of E 21st St S due to safety concerns related to tennis court users having to walk across the street.

27. Second Consideration 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

- Citizens have requested code changes that would allow for an expanded allowance of chickens/ducks on residential properties in Newton.
- The Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed and discussed the matter of urban chickens/ducks.
- On October 21st, the Planning and Zoning Commission had a vote of 3-1 on the ordinance.

Resolution

28. Resolution approving Eagle Scout Project at Maytag Park

- Noah Tremel proposes to trail blaze a 5K course at Maytag Park for his Eagle Scout Project
- At their meeting on February 9, 2026, the Park Board reviewed the proposed project and recommends approval.

29. Resolution updating the Cemetery Rules and Regulations for Union Cemetery and Memorial Park Cemetery and Fee Schedule

- In order to ensure that burials occur during daylight hours to maintain a safe working environment, it is desirable to amend the interment hours at the cemeteries.
- Additionally, removing Sundays and City Holidays from eligible interment days will result in a cost savings to the City by reducing staff overtime hours.
- Finally, this resolution adjusts fees related to late arrivals and weekend/holidays and addresses the spreading of ashes on cemetery grounds.

30. Resolution approving the Newton Sanitary Landfill fee schedule

- Thirteen governmental entities own the Newton Sanitary Landfill under a 28-E agreement, with the City of Newton as the Landfill Operator.
- During the Landfill Budget Workshop held on February 11, 2026, staff proposed increasing the minimum board price to dispose of refuse by \$2.00 per cash sale, from \$10.00 to \$12.00.
- The increase was voted on and received support from all 28-E landfill associates.

31. Resolution awarding contract for the Aurora Park Parking Improvements Project

- The existing Aurora Park parking lot in the northwest corner of the park was found to encroach on the neighboring property and was removed.
- Additional parking was needed for park visitors, and this project will increase parking to approximately 38 spaces.
- The addition of ADA-compliant ramps and sidewalks will provide safe, accessible access to tennis and pickleball courts.

32. Resolution approving the purchase of musical play equipment for Harmony Park using funds donated for the purpose

- Newton Main Street has secured funds for the purpose of purchasing interactive musical instrument equipment at Harmony Park. This resolution authorizes the purchase and installation of the musical instrument equipment at Harmony Park using donated funds.

33. Resolution Authorizing and Approving a Loan Agreement, Providing for the Issuance of \$5,455,000 General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2026A and Providing for the Levy of Taxes to Pay the Same

- City Council held Public Hearings on December 2, 2025 regarding the issuance of the 2026A General Obligation Corporate Purpose bonds. The final step in the bonding process is issuance of the bonds.
- The total amount of bond proceeds for equipment and projects is \$5,622,000, which includes a new ladder truck, inclusive playground features, public safety equipment, and stormwater improvements.

34. Resolution Approving Pay Plan Adjustment for the Finance Officer position and Eliminating the Sr Financial Analyst Position in the Administration Department

- The Finance Officer will be retiring on April 6, 2026. The current Sr Financial Analyst has been training to fill this opening for several years.

- This resolution changes the pay plan range for the Finance Officer beginning April 7, 2026 to a Range 7 from Range 10 and also includes a plan for goals and benchmarks.
- The resolution also removes the Sr Financial Analyst position from the City's pay plan. All changes have been budgeted in the FY26 and FY27 budgets.

Staff Report

35. Staffing at Westwood Clubhouse - Brad Sponseller, Westwood Operations Manager

Mayor/Council Comments

36. Mayor and Council Comments

Closed Session

37. 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

Return to Open Session

38. Return to Open Session

Adjourn

The City of Newton is pleased to provide reasonable accommodations, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, for those individuals or groups who require assistance to be able to participate in the public meeting. Should special accommodations be required, please contact the City Clerk's Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting, at 641-792-2787 to arrange for accommodations to be provided.

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