

NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 2, 2026, 6:00 PM

Pledge

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Ervin 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 4<sup>th</sup> Street South. Mayor Ervin presided. Present Council Members: Mills, Roth, Dalton, Hallam, Simbro, Holschuh. Absent: None.

Presentation

2. Jasper County Emergency Management Update - Jamey Robinson, Director  
Jamey provided an update on activities over the past year and on upcoming projects. They are currently working on updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan. They continue to push out the Jasper Ready App and encourage citizens to sign up.

Citizen Participation

3. Ericka Patterson, 1421 N 8th Ave E, and Lisa Houghton, 715 E 8th St S, spoke in favor of the Urban Chicken Ordinance.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mills to approve consent agenda items 4-17. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

4. February 16, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
5. February 16, 2026 Budget Workshop Minutes
6. February 24, 2026 Special City Council Meeting Minutes
7. Approve Liquor Licenses for the following: American Legion Post 111 - LC0018906, 1101 W 4th St S, Class C Retail Alcohol License, Catering, and Outdoor Service renewal
8. Approve March 2, 2026 - June 30, 2026 Device Permit for Newton Market (VIHAAN LLC), 321 1st Ave W
9. Approve waiver of administrative fee for emergency liquor license for Newton Athletic Booster Club Trivia Night event for Saturday, February 28, 2026
10. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 26-04)  
Resolution 2026-071 adopted.
11. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 26-05)  
Resolution 2026-072 adopted.
12. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Hopkins Properties LLC Property Located Within the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East Urban Renewal Area  
Resolution 2026-073 adopted.
13. Resolution approving the purchase of three engraved monoliths and two benches for the Veteran's Section 3 monument at Newton Union Cemetery using donation funds  
Resolution 2026-074 adopted.
14. Resolution approving a non-standard use agreement with the property owner of 112 1st Ave E  
Resolution 2026-075 adopted.
15. Resolution approving the revised not to exceed purchase amount of the pre-fabricated restroom for Harmony Park  
Resolution 2026-076 adopted.
16. 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 1<sup>st</sup> St N 8" Watermain Project  
Resolution 2026-077 adopted.
17. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

18. Public Hearing on the First 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  
Mayor Ervin 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 Hallam to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
19. First 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  
Moved by Roth, seconded by Mills to approve the first consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Five. NAYS: Simbro. First Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.

#### Ordinance

20. 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 Code Reference" by adding stop signs on North Second Avenue at the intersection of West Fourth Street for east and westbound traffic.  
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Simbro to approve the first consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. First Consideration of the Ordinance was approved. 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. Moved by Mills, seconded by Dalton to suspend the rules and waive the second and third consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Motion passed. Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam, to adopt the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2482 was adopted.
21. 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 100-200 Block of East Twenty-First Street South.  
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Holschuh to approve the first consideration of the Ordinance. Nathan McCumber, 225 1/2 1st Ave W spoke about detouring around and putting all traffic to the light. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. First Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.

#### Resolution

22. Resolution amending the fee schedule for various Planning & Zoning Applications and Peddler Permit  
Moved by Holschuh, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-078 adopted.
23. Resolution Approving Bond Purchase Agreement for the Sale of General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2026A  
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-079 adopted at 6:48 p.m.
24. Resolution Approving Pool Floor Repair Project by Sande Construction  
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Roth to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-080 adopted.
25. Resolution Setting a Public Hearing on March 16, 2026 on Proposed Adoption of an Ordinance Granting to Interstate Power and Light Company (Alliant Energy) a 25-Year Non-Exclusive Electric Franchise  
Moved by Mills, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. Mike Wagner, Community Development Director for Alliant Energy, spoke about the franchise fee process. Moved by Dalton, seconded by Hallam to amend the fee spread to 2%, 4%, and 5% instead of the proposed 3%, 4%, and 5%. AYES: Five. NAYS: Mills. Motion to amend passed. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-081 adopted.
26. Resolution Setting a Date for a Public Hearing on March 16, 2026 on an Ordinance Establishing a Franchise Fee on Energy Providers Operating in the City of Newton, Iowa  
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Holschuh to adopt the Resolution. Moved by Dalton, seconded by Hallam to amend the fee spread to 2%, 4%, and 5% instead of the proposed 3%, 4%, and 5%. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Motion to amend passed. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-082 adopted.

#### Mayor/Council Comments

27. Mayor and Council Comments  
Simbro feels that the Jake Brake Ordinance has helped. Mayor Ervin hosted two chats with the Mayor events. They were well received. He would like to see more attendees

who bring questions and comments. Stated that there were some announcements made that caused him to get various derogatory emails and calls. He appreciates the people of Newton who understand the process. We have a wonderful police department and staff, and we have positive things coming to this town. The best thing this city can do is grow. Be thankful that we live in Newton, Iowa, with a great community and people.

Adjourn

Moved by Mills, seconded by Dalton to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

  
Katrina Davis, City Clerk

  
Randy J. Ervin, Mayor

