



Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 9, 2026 - 3:00 PM

City Offices (Building 18, Legacy Plaza) - Large Conference Room
303 W 4th St N, Suite 501
Newton, IA 50208

- I. Roll Call
- II. Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting: 4.6.2026
- III. Items from City Staff
 1. Signage for Downtown Historic District
- IV. Items from Commissioners
 1. Gray Moon nomination for Preservation at its Best Award
- V. Adjourn

ADA Compliance: 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 in being able to participate in the meeting. Please contact the Community Development Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by calling 641-792-6622 to arrange for accommodations to be provided.

Chair: Larry Hurto; **Members:** Wes Ranard, Rita Reinheimer, Toni Peska, Kelly Bennett

Meeting Minutes

NEWTON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Community Development/Community Services/Public Works
Large Conference Room
303 West 4th Street North, Suite 501
Newton, IA 50208

Date: April 01, 2026

Time: 3:02 pm

Meeting called to order by: Chair Hurto

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Hurto, Reinheimer, Ranard

Board Members Absent: Bennett, Peska

Staff and Others Present: Varsha Borde – Sr. City Planner
Nicholas Alexander – City Planner
Mark Hallam – Council member
Erin Yeager, Executive Director Main Street

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Chair Larry Hurto questioned if there was anyone present that may require special assistance in being able to participate in this public meeting. There was no response.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Ranard to approve minutes; **Seconded by** Reinheimer. **Approved** by VV (3-0)

CERTIFICATION OF IOWA OPEN MEETINGS LAW

Borde confirms.

ITEMS FROM CITY STAFF

- Sr. City Planner Varsha Borde shared two designs for the Downtown Historic District. The board had discussion on the designs and voted for the final design.

Motion by Reinheimer, **Seconded by** Ranard to approve the Street marker option 4 design for both the street signage and the overhead street signage. (Picture attached). **Roll call vote – (3-0)**

- City Planner Nick Alexander shared that Plant 1 Lofts Phase 1 (formerly Maytag) by Christensen Development has been awarded the 2026 Historic Preservation project of the year award for Adaptive Reuse category. This award is given by the Des Moines Heritage.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Ranard – None
- Reinheimer – None
- Hurto – Larry’s HPC Report – April 6, 2026
 - 1. On March 17, Newton News published a story by Christopher Braunschweig titled “100 Years of Learning” about the forthcoming closing of Woodrow Wilson Elementary School at the end of the present school year. Chris interviewed me about the circumstances surrounding the building of the school a century ago.
 - 2. In the same issue I had a Letter to the Editor re: the Newton Public Library’s being awarded a \$10,000 grant for the Library in honor of our nation’s semiquincentennial (“A little more history of the Newton Public Library”). It detailed how the City got the same amount from Andrew Carnegie to build the old Library building at 400 1st Ave. W. (non-extant) in 1902. I was a volunteer with the Carnegie Libraries in Iowa Project from 2020 to 2025.
 - 3. My article, “The Salvation Army in downtown Newton,” appeared in the Spring 2026 issue of Jasper County Living magazine.
 - 4. Mayor Ervin asked if I’d be available to meet with him to discuss the effects of the 1938 Maytag Strike and the impact Maytag and Local 1116 of the UE Union had on the city with a student from Johnston High School for a National History Day Zoom Interview. We met with Nikodimos Meshesha, who’s originally from Ethiopia, by Zoom conferencing in the Mayor’s Office on April 1. We also talked at length about Newton’s path forward since Maytag left here almost 20 years ago now.

ITEMS FROM CITIZENS –

- Yeager said the downtown easter egg hunt was a success with 56 businesses involved, all stores in the Maytag building are occupied and also mentioned the Main Street awards this year.
- Council member Mark Hallam mentioned that he attended the TWIC East event and that it was well attended.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE AND/OR DEPT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

Was emailed prior to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Bennett, **Seconded by** Reinheimer, **Approved** 3-0 by VV. Adjourned at 4:01 pm.



Company: City of Newton
Layout Date: 03/03/2026
Designed By: Joshua Dvorak
Substrate: .080 Aluminum
Punch Spec: ST-04
Fonts Used: Multiple
Colors Used: White, Brown, Black
Sheeting: HIP
Special Notes: None

Width: 24"
Height: 9-5/8"
Border Width: 3/8"
Border Inset: None
Two-Sided: **False**
Fab: **EFI**
Price:

Note: Colors are not exactly representative of the final product. Computer monitors do not match colors exactly from one to the other.

STREET MARKER OPTION 4

DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

1st Ave

*Signs are manufactured to meet the reflectivity and substrate that each customer is billed for. Occasionally, and especially on smaller sizes, signs will meet or exceed what the customer has ordered in either sheeting or substrate, at no additional cost to the customer. This is done to utilize material in an effort to keep customer costs as low as possible.

Layout Fees may be Applicable.
Property of Iowa Prison Industries
Sign Division, Anamosa, IA.
FOR CUSTOMER REVIEW ONLY
Not to be duplicated or shared without
written permission from the Plant Manager



Company: City of Newton
Layout Date: 03/03/2026
Designed By: Joshua Dvorak
Substrate: .080 Aluminum
Punch Spec: MAST ARM
Fonts Used: Multiple
Colors Used: White, Brown
Sheeting: HIP
Special Notes: None

Width: 42"
Height: 18"
Border Width: 1/2"
Border Inset: None
Two-Sided: **False**
Fab: **EFI**
Price: **107.10 each**

Note: Colors are not exactly representative of the final product. Computer monitors do not match colors exactly from one to the other.

OVER HEAD STREET MARKER OPTION 1



*Signs are manufactured to meet the reflectivity and substrate that each customer is billed for. Occasionally, and especially on smaller sizes, signs will meet or exceed what the customer has ordered in either sheeting or substrate, at no additional cost to the customer. This is done to utilize material in an effort to keep customer costs as low as possible.

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