

NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 1, 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 4th Street South. Mayor Ervin presided. Present Council Members: Mills, Roth, Dalton, Hallam, Simbro, Holschuh. Absent: None.

Presentation

2. Holmes Murphy Employee Benefits Update — Jeff Clayton, Attorney - VP, EB/Shareholder & Joe Langel, VP, EB/Shareholder

Clayton and Langel reviewed employee benefits that affect budget decisions and plan enhancements. The City's self-funded health insurance data supports the exciting news that we have finished the year under budget. The City has done a good job of managing plan costs. Employees will not see any changes for the upcoming plan year. Holmes Murphy recently hosted open enrollment.

Citizen Participation

3. There was no citizen participation.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to approve consent agenda items 4-21. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

4. May 18, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

5. Approve Liquor Licenses for the following: LEVY Premium Food Service, LLC (Iowa Speedway) - LC0058247, 3333 Rusty Wallace Dr, Temporary Outdoor Service through 09/30/2026; Lucky Wife Wine Slushies (Triple K Sips, LLC), 303 W 4th St N, Special Class "C" Retail Alcohol License for June 16, 2026 Farmers Market

6. Approve 2026-2027 Cigarette/Tobacco/Nicotine/Vapor Licenses for the following: Casey's #1911, 1018 1st Ave E; Casey's #2341, 3104 1st Ave E; Casey's #2417, 1200 W 1st Ave W; Casey's #3954, 4343 S 15th Ave E; Newton Market (Vihaan), 321 1st Ave W; Newton Tobacco & Vape, 309 Iowa Speedway Dr; and Tobacco Vape & E-Cig, 1126 1st Ave E (plus device permit renewal)

7. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule 26-09)
Resolution 2026-195 adopted.

8. Resolution Approving the FY25 Audit for the City of Newton
Resolution 2026-196 adopted.

9. Resolution Extending the Maturity Date of the City's Water Revenue Loan and Disbursement Agreement Anticipation Project Note
Resolution 2026-197 adopted.

10. Resolution Approving an Agreement with the Newton YMCA for Fiscal Year 2027
Resolution 2026-198 adopted.

11. Resolution authorizing the purchase of a front-end loader snow plow blade for the Public Works Department
Resolution 2026-199 adopted.

12. Resolution approving the purchase of three multi-stage pumps and two motors for the Newton Sanitary Landfill
Resolution 2026-200 adopted.

13. Resolution awarding a contract for the Landfill Lower Shop Insulation Project
Resolution 2026-201 adopted.

14. Resolution approving change order #1 and accepting completion of the Aurora Park parking improvement Project
Resolution 2026-202 adopted.

15. Resolution amending resolution 2026-145 accepting completion of the Scale house Electrical Generator Installation Project
Resolution 2026-203 adopted.
16. Resolution approving change order #3 for Westwood Golf Course Bridge Replacement and Repairs Project
Resolution 2026-204 adopted.
17. Resolution authorizing the purchase of a 24' Tilt Deck Trailer for the Public Works Department
Resolution 2026-205 adopted.
18. Resolution Setting a Date for a Public Hearing on the FY27-FY31 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
Resolution 2026-206 adopted.
19. Resolution Approving an Agreement with JP Party Rentals LLC for Fourth of July Celebration 2026
Resolution 2026-207 adopted.
20. Resolution approving a PSA for Arbor Estates Wetlands design
Resolution 2026-208 adopted.
21. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

22. Public Hearing on an Ordinance amending the City of Newton official zoning map for property located at 1017 West 4th St. S. Parcel number 0833479017, from R-2: One-and-Two Family Residential District to C-N: Neighborhood Commercial
Mayor Ervin stated that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing on the above Resolution. There were no written comments. Public Works Director Joe Grife clarified that the majority of these funds are coming from the North Central TIF funds leftover from the previous N. 2nd Ave. E. Streetscape Project that came in under budget, with the rest of the funds coming from the Road Use Tax fund., not the General Fund. Funding has already been allocated for this. Moved by Mills, seconded by Dalton to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
23. First Consideration of an Ordinance amending the City of Newton official zoning map for property located at 1017 West 4th St. S. Parcel number 0833479017, from R-2: One- and Two-Family Residential District to C-N: Neighborhood Commercial
Moved by Roth, seconded by Simbro to approve the first consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. First Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.
24. Public Hearing on a resolution awarding the 2026 Downtown Streetscape Improvements Project
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 Mills, seconded by Hallam to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
25. Resolution awarding the 2026 Downtown Streetscape Improvements Project
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Roth to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-209 adopted.

Ordinance

26. Third consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Various Sections of the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2025, Title IX, Chapter 90, "Animals"
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Third Consideration of the Ordinance. Terri McKinney, Board Treasurer/Secretary of Lucy's Pet Pantry and Neuter is Cuter Coordinator, spoke to explain that cats do not respect property lines and requested that clarification be added to the wording found in § 90.20 COMMUNITY CATS, Section (C) Returning Community Cats to Area. Roth expressed the same concerns with the language in aforementioned Section. Attorney Matt Brick stated options to move forward with passing the Ordinance with the corrected language, or amending the language and start the process over. Moved by Roth, seconded by Mills to amend the language in § 90.20 (C) and place the First Reading of the Ordinance, as amended, on the June 15, 2026 City Council Agenda. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Motion on the amendment passed. No vote taken on the Third Consideration of the Ordinance.

27. Second consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Various Sections of the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2025, Title VII, Chapter 74, "Recreational And Toy Vehicles"
Moved by Mills, seconded by Holschuh to approve the second consideration of the Ordinance. Special visuals will be created by the City to use as an educational tool to inform the community of the new rules. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Second Consideration of the Ordinance was approved. The need for prompt action was stressed given the summer season and the increased presence of children and families outdoors. Motioned by Mills, seconded by Dalton to waive the third consideration of the Ordinance in the interest of public safety. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Motion to waive third consideration passed. Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2486 was adopted.

Resolution

28. Resolution renewing Bing Bang as the agency of record for Marketing & Advertising Agency Services
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-210 adopted.
29. Resolution approving a service agreement with Flock Safety for LPR cameras
Moved by Mills, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-211 adopted.
30. Resolution updating the Comprehensive Fee Schedule, Public Works Fees, Solid Waste and Recycling Collection and Disposal Fee
Moved by Mills, seconded by Roth to adopt the Resolution. Dodd's Trash Hauling was commended for their service to the community. Roth asked whether the City incurred additional costs from the 2020 derecho cleanup and what would happen if a similar disaster occurred again. Utilities Director Jody Rhone explained that City staff—primarily Public Works employees—collected more than \$1 million in yard waste debris, with costs reimbursed through FEMA. Dodd's followed its standard per-resident trash bag limit, but also went above and beyond to assist customers during this time. Rhone noted that FEMA would provide assistance again if a similar natural disaster occurred. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-212 adopted.
31. Resolution Approving Repair of the Ladder Truck
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-213 adopted.

Staff Report

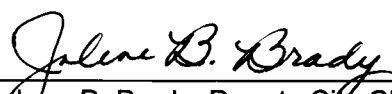
32. How to Apply for Permits Online — Nick Alexander, City Planner
Alexander offered a quick overview of the Community Development permit process that has moved fully online, offering easier tracking for both the applicant and City staff. A fence permit was used as an example.

Mayor/Council Comments

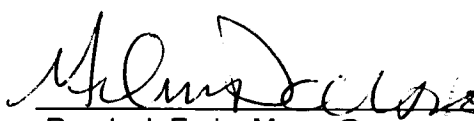
33. Mayor and Council Comments
Hallam reminded everyone that Newton Fest and the Newton Alumni Association's event-filled weekend (found on Newtonfest.org) will be coming up June 12-13, which kicks off with a pool party. Mills thanked everyone for their interest in public safety and support of the evening's actions, including waiving the third reading of the recreational vehicle ordinance. Mayor Ervin emphasized the importance of maintaining the community's momentum. After attending a recent NHDC meeting, he was encouraged by new growth and home construction in older neighborhoods. He noted the need to stay informed on state legislation and franchise fee options. Council and staff will need to navigate future challenges and face difficult decisions while keeping residents' best interests at the forefront. He concluded that the community has much to be excited about as it continues to grow.

Adjourn

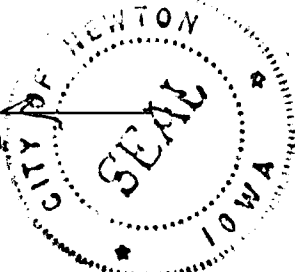
Moved by Dalton, seconded by Mills to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.



Jolene B. Brady, Deputy City Clerk



Randy J. Ervin, Mayor Pro Tem
Melissa Dalton



The seal is circular with a dotted border. The text "CITY OF NEWTON" is written along the top inner edge, and "IOWA" is written along the bottom inner edge. In the center, the word "SEAL" is written in a bold, serif font.