



Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Agenda

Monday, July 6, 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: 6.1.2026
- III. Items from City Staff
- IV. Items from Commissioners
- V. Items from Citizens
- VI. **Communication from State Historic Preservation Office And Department of Public Affairs**
- VII. 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

HPC 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: June 01, 2026

Time: 3:00 pm

Meeting called to order by: Chair Hurto

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Hurto, Reinheimer, Ranard, Bennett

Board Members Absent: Peska

Staff and Others Present: Varsha Borde – Sr. City Planner
Nicholas Alexander – City Planner
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 of special meeting; **Seconded by** Bennett. **Approved** by VV (4-0)

CERTIFICATION OF IOWA OPEN MEETINGS LAW

Borde confirms.

ITEMS FROM CITY STAFF

- Borde continued discussion from 5.4.2026 regarding the Design Guidelines for the Historic District.
 - a. Borde shared copies of the existing Design Guidelines for the Historic District with the commissioners to get familiar with the guidelines. There was some discussion regarding the next steps to adopt guidelines-
 - i. Main Street is bigger than the Historic District
 - ii. HPC has jurisdiction over the Historic district.
 - iii. Main Street has a Historic Preservation Component
 - iv. An Ordinance/policy has to be adopted.
 - v. HPC can recommend an area that covers more than the HPC boundaries.
 - b. Next steps:

- i. **Getting letters from other property owners (that are not in the Historic district)**
 - ii. **Making a list of design guidelines that can be adopted for the Historic District and Main Street**
- c. **Erin Yeager will share Main Street Iowa guidelines.**

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Bennett - None
- Ranard – None
- Reinheimer – described that she answered a query on behalf of the Genealogical Society.
- Hurto – Larry’s HPC Report – June 1, 2026

1. On May 14, I met Rev. Paul Millhollin, of Peru, IA, pastor of First Presbyterian Church here, at the Jasper County Museum. He had called me re: indigenous peoples in Jasper County, and I suggested we meet there to peruse what’s on display at the Museum, particularly the B. C. Berg collection of ancient artifacts from the Woodland peoples who lived here from 800 B. C. to A. D. 1000. We also reviewed some of the so-called Indian treaties that essentially were exclusionary acts driving native American peoples such as the Sauk and Fox and loway out of Jasper County for white settlement commencing May 1, 1843. Pastor Millhollin invited me to speak on this subject at his church on May 19, but I had a previous commitment.

2. I delivered the Memorial Day address at Wittemberg Cemetery (est. 1856) on May 25. We had a beautiful day, and I think the program went well. A fine turnout, too, in my view. Many thanks to Linda and George Wormley for their assistance during the services, and I thank them for their installation of the plaque which Linda dedicated in recognition of the naming of the cemetery to the National Park Service’s National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program in 2014. The Color Guard, Honor Guard, the music, Jean Hagedorn’s reading of the list of honored dead, and the laying of flowers on the graves of the veterans made for a most memorable day. Among those in attendance was Bill R. Douglas, of Clutier, author of *The People Are Kind: A Religious History of Iowa* (2024), to which I contributed material.

3. On May 26, Senior Reporter Todd Magel, of KCCI-TV, reported that the Financial Center in downtown Des Moines is reopening as Mezzo on Walnut after an \$80 million renovation that has transformed most of its floors into high-end apartments. In the early 1970s, the Financial Center was a landmark building that changed the Des Moines skyline. In 1971, it was the tallest building in the state. The developer is a Canadian, Mark Buleziuk, CEO of Lawmark Capital. Todd’s report can be found at <https://www.kcci.com/article/mezzo-on-walnut-luxury-apartments-des-moines/71413124>.

4. City Councilman At-Large Joel Mills asked me for information re: Jasper County cemeteries and “ghost towns.” I sent him to the Newton Public Library for the cemetery records published by the Jasper County Genealogical Society. As far as Jasper County “ghost towns” are concerned, probably the best source is Jasper County’s *Yestertowns* (1963), compiled, edited, and published by The Jasper County Writers Inc. Included is a map of locations on pp. 16-17.

ITEMS FROM CITIZENS –

- Erin Yeager shared the following:
 - Farmers market starts June 2nd.
 - The owner of the NDN building is still interested in developing the building.
 - Jewel Building has been sold. It has been vacant since 2021.
 - Mexican grocery store.

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

Was emailed prior to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Reinheimer, **Seconded by** Bennett, **Approved** 4-0 by VV. Adjourned at 3:43 pm.