

NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 15, 2026, 6:00 PM

Pledge

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Pro Tem 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 Pro Tem Dalton presided. Present Council Members: Mills, Roth, Dalton, Hallam, Simbro, Holschuh. Absent: Mayor Ervin.

Mayor Pro Tem Dalton made a motion to remove agenda item #42 from the agenda. Seconded by Holschuh. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Motion was approved.

Presentation

2. Greater Newton Area Chamber of Commerce Update - Ella White, Executive Director
White reviewed several events and activities that the Newton Chamber of Commerce has completed and have planned for the future. Kadance Ahn is the new Marketing & Communications Coordinator. Highlights included a very successful Golf Outing featuring 26 teams and 22 sponsors and reviving the Young Professionals and Ambassadors program. Future events include several Ribbon Cuttings, Coffee & Commerce meetings, the 4th of July Parade with food and vendor tables, and a Fall event. The Chamber is excited to work alongside City staff and community members.

3. Citizen Participation

Jamie Grout, 1406 N 4th Ave W, inquired whether the City has hired an advertising agency, noting that Newton offers many amenities and opportunities that could be promoted beyond the city limits. Grout saw limited external promotion of Newton Fest and encouraged the City to pursue opportunities for positive publicity in the future.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mills to approve consent agenda items 4-30. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

4. June 1, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
5. Approve Liquor Licenses for the following: Lucky Wife Wine Slushies (Triple K Sips, LLC), 303 W 4th St N, Special Class "C" Retail Alcohol License with outdoor service for July 28 and Sept 1, 2026 Farmers Markets; Newton Quickstop (formerly World To Go), 403 1st Ave E, Class E Retail Alcohol License, pending state and local approval; Walmart Supercenter #748 - LE0000974, 300 Iowa Speedway Dr, Class E Retail Alcohol License renewal
6. Approve 2026-2027 Cigarette/Tobacco/Nicotine/Vapor Licenses for the following: Elite Mart, LLC, 404 S 11th Ave W; Love's Travel Stop #361, 4400 S 22nd Ave E; Newton Quickstop (formerly World To Go), 403 1st Ave E
7. Resolution Reappointing Robert O'Brien & Samantha Forbes Winchell to the Newton Downtown Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District Board for a Term Ending June 30, 2028
Resolution 2026-214 adopted.
8. Resolution Reappointing Rita Baker to serve on the Library Board of Trustees for a term ending June 30th, 2032
Resolution 2026-215 adopted.
9. Resolution Reappointing Darcy Soule to the Library Board of Trustees for a term ending June 30th, 2032
Resolution 2026-216 adopted.
10. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 26-09)
Resolution 2026-217 adopted.
11. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule 26-10)
Resolution 2026-218 adopted.

12. Resolution Authorizing Fund Transfers in FY 26/27
Resolution 2026-219 adopted.
13. Resolution Approving Allocation of Local Option Sales and Service Taxes for Fiscal Year 2026-2027
Resolution 2026-220 adopted.
14. Resolution Approving a Funding and Partnership Agreement with Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency for Fiscal Year 2027
Resolution 2026-221 adopted.
15. Resolution Approving a Funding and Partnership Agreement with the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Jasper County for Fiscal Year 2027
Resolution 2026-222 adopted.
16. Resolution Approving a Funding and Partnership Agreement with the United Way of Jasper County for Fiscal Year 2027
Resolution 2026-223 adopted.
17. Resolution renewing the insurance package with Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP)
Resolution 2026-224 adopted.
18. Resolution Approving the Fixed Base Operator salary for the Newton Municipal Airport in accordance with the previously approved Airport Management Contract
Resolution 2026-225 adopted.
19. Resolution approving amendment #1 to the professional services agreement for the E 12th St and 1st Ave E Stormwater Improvements Project
Resolution 2026-226 adopted.
20. Resolution Approving Payment for Temporary Demolition Easement at #4 Bungalow Court
Resolution 2026-227 adopted.
21. Resolution Approving the Acquisition of Right-of-Way for the Extension of North 9th Avenue East from Newton Housing Development Corporation
Resolution 2026-228 adopted.
22. Resolution approving a 28E agreement with Jasper County for the S 24th Ave W Bridge Replacement Project
Resolution 2026-229 adopted.
23. Resolution amending resolution 2025-258 N.E. Pump Station Improvements
Resolution 2026-230 adopted.
24. Resolution Approving Agreement for Credit Card Services Program
Resolution 2026-231 adopted.
25. Resolution Setting Date for Public Hearing on Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the 1st Avenue East Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2026-232 adopted.
26. Resolution Setting Date for Public Hearing on Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the North Central Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2026-233 adopted.
27. Resolution Setting Date for Public Hearing on Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the Fairmeadows North Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2026-234 adopted.
28. Resolution setting a public hearing for the sale of City owned property at 115 East 4th Street North, 124 East 4th Street North, and 411 North 2nd Avenue East, Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Resolution 2026-235 adopted.
29. Resolution setting public hearing for the sale of City owned property at 510 West 3rd Street North, Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Resolution 2026-236 adopted.

30. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

31. Public Hearing on a resolution adopting the FY27 through FY31 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
Mayor Pro Tem Dalton 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 Roth to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
32. Resolution adopting the FY27 through FY31 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-237 adopted.

33. Public Hearing on an Ordinance amending City of Newton Code of Ordinances Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 158: Zoning to add Group Living Facility to the C-CBD: Central Business District List of Permitted Uses.
Mayor Pro Tem Dalton stated that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing on the above Ordinance. There were no written comments. Council discussion followed. Moved by Mills, seconded by Roth to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
34. First Consideration on an Ordinance amending City of Newton Code of Ordinances Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 158: Zoning to add Group Living Facility to the C-CBD: Central Business District List of Permitted Uses.
Moved by Mills, failed to receive a second to approve the first consideration of the Ordinance. First Consideration of the Ordinance failed.
35. Public Hearing on a resolution approving the 80-20 Voluntary Annexation into the City of Newton of property located in Section 23, Township 80 North, Range 19 West of the 5th P.M., Jasper County, Iowa.
Mayor Pro Tem Dalton stated that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing on the above Resolution. There were no written comments. Simbro stated that the Robert and Rebecca Braafhart residence sits within the annexation area and will be supported by City services. A setback and other protections would be in place. Moved by Hallam, seconded by Holschuh to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
36. Resolution approving the 80-20 Voluntary Annexation into the City of Newton of property located in Section 23, Township 80 North, Range 19 West of the 5th P.M., Jasper County, Iowa.
Moved by Mills, seconded by Holschuh to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-238 adopted.

Ordinance

37. Second 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 Hallam to approve the second consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Second Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.
38. First 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 approve the first consideration of the Ordinance. Mills stated that it is rare for Council to waive second and third readings, but in this instance, it is simply procedural since the Ordinance was previously presented to Council. Simbro expressed concerns with waiving the readings due to public input. The changes made were strictly due to clarification of wording, with no financial implications. AYES: Six NAYS: None. Second Consideration of the Ordinance was approved. Motioned by Holschuh, seconded by Roth to waive the second and third consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Five. NAYS: Simbro. Motion to waive second and third consideration passed. Moved by Mills, seconded by Roth to publish and adopt the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2487 was adopted.

Resolution

39. Resolution Approving Land Purchase to Meet Setback Requirements for the Construction of Four New Alluvial Wells
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Five. NAYS: Mills. Resolution 2026-239 adopted.
40. Resolution authorizing the Public Works Civil Engineer Technician I at Range 4, Entry, or Public Works Civil Engineer Technician II at Range 6, Entry, depending on qualifications, on the City of Newton Salary Schedule Matrix
Moved by Holschuh, seconded by Roth to adopt the Resolution. Holschuh expressed concern over the discontinuation of certain educational programs that prepare students for high-demand and essential vocational trades. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-240 adopted.
41. Resolution Approving a D&D 2.0 Grant for 1030 East 7th Street North, Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. Mills stated that the project is a good example of the Dangerous & Dilapidated (D&D) Program's purpose of improving and beautifying the City. Holschuh expressed concern about the lack of information regarding the property's future use. Simbro reiterated that the property will be an industrial purpose due to zoning. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-241 adopted.

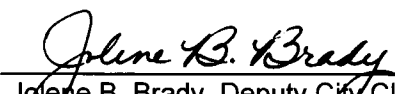
42. Resolution approving a rate increase for City Attorney prosecution services
Resolution postponed.
43. Resolution updating the Cemetery Rules and Regulations for Union Cemetery and Memorial Park Cemetery and Fee Schedule
Moved by Roth, seconded by Holschuh to adopt the Resolution. Roth shared information provided by Community Development Administrative Assistant Lisa Bernal. To maintain a safe working environment and reduce overtime, interments will be conducted during daylight hours. Additionally, the prohibition on spreading ashes is a state requirement and must be followed. Mayor Pro Tem Dalton clarified that Sunday and holiday burials will be at the discretion of the Community Development Director and will generally be approved unless staffing is unavailable. Roth also noted that the term "internment" was mistakenly used in place of "interment." The error will be corrected. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-242 adopted.
44. Resolution approving the Purchase of 507 North 2nd Avenue West for the Dangerous and Dilapidated Program
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Holschuh to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-243 adopted.
45. Resolution approving change order # 1 for the 2026 City Wide HMA project
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Roth to adopt the Resolution. Mills indicated that he is employed by Manatt's and will abstain. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. ABSTAINED: Mills. Resolution 2026-244 adopted.
46. Resolution awarding the purchase of fire equipment for the new ladder truck
Moved by Mills, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-245 adopted.
47. Resolution awarding the purchase of radio equipment for the new ladder truck
Moved by Mills, seconded by Roth to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-246 adopted.
48. Resolution awarding the purchase of thermal imaging equipment for the new ladder truck
Moved by Mills, seconded by Roth to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-247 adopted.

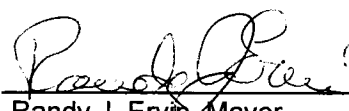
Mayor/Council Comments

49. Mayor and Council Comments
Mills thanked City staff for their efforts in implementing the D&D Program and work on the CIP. He also noted future opportunities for FOCUSS Inc. within the community and encouraged connecting with local individuals and organizations that can help advance its mission of supporting area children and youth. Roth shared that TECA-USA's Twic East Community Association, a nonprofit serving Twic East South Sudanese families in Newton, is partnering with eight local churches to host summer camps for middle school students July 6-10 and high school students July 13-17. Approximately 75 volunteers are needed. Roth also announced that the June 16 Farmers Market will feature "Rising Roots," a showcase of youth entrepreneurs from 4:00-7:00 P.M., including her grandson, Maddox Bartlett of Maxed Out Fishing, who will be selling handmade fishing lures. Hallam reported that despite challenging weather during Newton Fest weekend, Friday's Alumni event was well attended by Newton alumni and community supporters. The evening included recognition of Hall of Fame inductees. Hallam noted that the strong Alumni organization and Newton Fest continue to enhance Newton's reputation as a destination community. Simbro highlighted the Aurora Park tennis court and lighting improvements and reported that the Harmony Park Splash Pad has seen strong usage. He expressed appreciation to the Parks and Recreation and Public Works department staff for their involvement with these projects.

Adjourn

Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.


Jolene B. Brady, Deputy City Clerk


Randy J. Ervin, Mayor

