



Newton City Council Agenda

August 3, 2026 - 6:00 PM

View the City Council Meeting:

In Person

City Hall - Council Chambers
101 W 4th St S, Newton, IA 50208

Television

Mediacom Channel
12/85/121.12

Online

newtongov.org/cablecast

Pledge

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order

1. Roll Call

Presentation

2. Nascar Update — Eric Peterson, Iowa Speedway President

Citizen Participation

3. This is the time of the meeting that a citizen may address the Council. After being recognized by the presiding officer, each person will be given three (3) minutes to speak. Elected officials will take comments into consideration; however, this time is not intended for a discussion or entering into a dialogue. Elected officials and City staff will not answer questions or debate a citizen during the *Citizen Participation* portion of the meeting.

Consent Agenda

4. July 20, 2026 Special City Council Meeting Minutes
5. July 20, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
6. July 20, 2026 City Council Workshop Minutes
7. July 24, 2026 Special City Council Meeting Minutes
8. Approve Liquor Licenses for the following: PB Pub - LC0045655, 113 1st Ave E, Outdoor service renewal; 2nd Ave Social LLC Special Event, 600 N 2nd Ave W, September 5, 2026
9. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 26-12)
10. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 26-13)
11. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Best Midwest Properties LLC Property Located at 109 1st Ave W Within the North Central Urban Renewal Area
12. Resolution accepting completion of the Demolition Project 2026-01
13. Resolution approving quote for the purchase of Gridsmart Traffic Signal Control Boards located at W 2nd St, E 3rd St & E 4th St

14. Resolution approving the purchase and up-fit services for one police patrol vehicle
15. Resolution approving rescinding the application for an 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.
16. Resolution approving the purchase of bleachers for the Aurora Park Tennis Courts
17. Resolution Approving the Annual Support Fees for the Fire Department Record Management Software
18. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

19. Public Hearing on Resolution approving grant application and funding commitment of a Community Development Block Grant
 - Community Development Block Grants require the City of Newton to be the applicant.
 - The City of Newton will be applying for Upper Story Housing program on behalf of the property owners of the second-story apartments at 104 1st Avenue East.
 - The requested grant amount for 4 units is \$400,000.
 - This resolution authorizes the submittal of the grant application.

20. Resolution approving grant application and funding commitment of a Community Development Block Grant

Ordinance

21. Third Consideration of an Ordinance Granting to Interstate Power and Light Company (Alliant Energy) a 25-Year Non-Exclusive Electric Franchise
 - 270 other cities in the State of Iowa have already adopted franchise fees. These fees are only now necessary in the City of Newton due to the recent passage of HF 718 and SF 2472 by the Iowa State Legislature, which limit the amount of property taxes the City can collect and use to provide services that Newton residents want in our community.
 - When fully implemented in FY29, franchise fees would add \$6 to the average monthly Alliant Energy bill, which is less than the \$16 per month that the average resident will save on their property taxes, due to just the new property tax exemption portion of SF 2472.
 - Newton is an extremely lean organization. Any reductions to the City budget will necessarily translate to reductions in services to our residents. Newton has a lot of positive momentum right now, and we need to keep heading in the right direction.
 - Franchise fees would allow the City to continue providing the same level of services that we are currently providing in the areas of Police, Fire, Parks & Rec, and the Newton Public Library, and will also allow the City to utilize general funds to purchase some

capital equipment, which would reduce City bonding for that equipment.

22. Third Consideration of an Ordinance Establishing a Franchise Fee on Energy Providers Operating in the City of Newton, Iowa

- 270 other cities in the State of Iowa have already adopted franchise fees. These fees are only now necessary in the City of Newton due to the recent passage of HF 718 and SF 2472 by the Iowa State Legislature, which limit the amount of property taxes the City can collect and use to provide services that Newton residents want in our community.
- When fully implemented in FY29, franchise fees would add \$1.50 to the average monthly Black Hills Energy bill, which is less than the \$16 per month that the average resident will save on their property taxes, due to just the new property tax exemption portion of SF 2472.
- Newton is an extremely lean organization. Any reductions to the City budget will necessarily translate to reductions in services to our residents. Newton has a lot of positive momentum right now, and we need to keep heading in the right direction.
- Franchise fees would allow the City to continue providing the same level of services that we are currently providing in the areas of Police, Fire, Parks & Rec, and the Newton Public Library, and will also allow the City to utilize general funds to purchase some capital equipment, which would reduce City bonding for that equipment.

23. Third Consideration of an Ordinance amending the code of ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2025, Title III, Chapter 30, Section 30.036, "Powers & Duties"; Title III, Chapter 35, Section 35.11, "Change Orders & Contracts"; and Title III, Chapter 35, Section 35.12, "Emergency Purchases"

- The proposed amendments update provisions related to contract execution authority, change orders, and emergency purchases.
- Increasing administrative authority could reduce delays, allow staff to respond more quickly to project needs, and help keep projects moving while remaining within approved budgets and established parameters.

Resolution

24. Resolution approving the granting of Downtown Improvement Grant funds for 108 1st Avenue East, Newton, Iowa in the Restaurant Improvements Program Area

- At their meeting on July 22, 2026, the Downtown Grant Review Board recommended approval of grants for restaurant renovations for 108 1st Ave E for Young's Bakery
- Maximum grant amount \$3,511.54, provided 1:1 match is met.

25. Resolution Amending Eligible Activities of Downtown Improvement Grant funds in the restaurant improvements program area
- It is desirable to amend the program instructions for the Downtown Improvement Grants to limit restaurant improvements to only items that are permanent to the building.
 - Eligible restaurant improvements include semi-permanent equipment such as hood and ventilation systems, fire suppression, and grease interceptors.
 - Equipment such as refrigerators, coolers and other such equipment that can be moved easily will not be eligible for the grant.
26. Resolution Approving and Authorizing Submittal of Documents for the City's Community Development Block Grant submission to the Iowa Economic Development Authority
- As part of the CDBG grant submittal process, it is necessary for council to review several documents to be included in the application.
 - These documents include a Community Development & Housing Needs Assessment, Federal Assurances Signature Page, and a Disclosure/Update Report.

Mayor/Council Comments

27. Mayor and Council Comments

Adjourn

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 to be able to participate in the public meeting. Should special accommodations be required, please contact the City Clerk's Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting, at 641-792-2787 to arrange for accommodations to be provided.

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