

NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 20, 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.

Citizen Participation

2. Due to the weather, Fire Chief Wellik announced weather-related safety information in case citizens in the chamber would need to seek shelter during the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to approve consent agenda items 3-13. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

3. July 6, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

4. Approve Liquor Licenses for the following: 2nd Ave Social (DMACC Newton Campus), 600 N 2nd Ave W, Class C Retail Alcohol License for Special Event Sept 3-7, 2026; PB Pub - LC0045655, 113 1st Ave E, Class C Retail Alcohol License renewal

5. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 26-11)
Resolution 2026-270 adopted.

6. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 26-12)
Resolution 2026-271 adopted.

7. Resolution accepting completion of the 2025 HMA Alley Overlay Project
Resolution 2026-272 adopted.

8. Resolution accepting completion of the 2025 Aurora Park Tennis Courts Project
Resolution 2026-273 adopted.

9. Resolution accepting completion of the 2025 W 3rd & 4th St Traffic Signal Install Project
Resolution 2026-274 adopted.

10. Resolution approving easements for the 1st Ave and 12th St Drainage Improvements project no. 2403428
Resolution 2026-275 adopted.

11. Resolution Approving Payment to Axon, LLC for Police Video Equipment and Service
Resolution 2026-276 adopted.

12. Resolution approving Service Agreement with Nationwide Office Cleaning for the clubhouse at Westwood Golf Course
Resolution 2026-277 adopted.

13. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

14. Public Hearing on the Proposed 2026 Amendment to the North Central Urban Renewal Area

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 Holschuh, seconded by Roth to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.

15. Resolution to Approve Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the North Central Urban Renewal Area

Moved by Hallam, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-278 adopted.

16. Public Hearing on the Proposed 2026 Amendment to the Fairmeadows North Housing Urban Renewal Area

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 Dalton, seconded by Roth to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.

17. Resolution to Approve Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the Fairmeadows North Housing Urban Renewal Area
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-279 adopted.
18. Public Hearing on the Proposed 2026 Amendment to the 1st Avenue East Urban Renewal Area
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 Dalton, seconded by Roth to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
19. Resolution to Approve Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for 1st Avenue East Urban Renewal Area
Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-280 adopted.
20. Public Hearing on a Resolution approving the purchase agreement for real property at 510 West 3rd Street North Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Mayor Ervin stated that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing on the above Resolution. There were no written comments. Jeff Davis with Jeffery Paul Homes and CTL Homes spoke regarding the commitment to 6 homes. The price range would be approximately \$275 - \$300 thousand. Moved by Mills, seconded by Roth to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
21. Resolution approving the purchase agreement for real property at 510 West 3rd Street North Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Moved by Roth, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-281 adopted.
22. Public Hearing on a resolution approving the purchase agreements for real property at 115 East 4th Street North, 124 East 4th Street North, and 411 North 2nd Avenue East, Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Mayor Ervin stated that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing on the above Resolution. There were no written comments. Jeff Davis with Jeffery Paul Homes and CTL Homes clarified that they would build a commercial building on 115 E 4th St S and one residential home on each of the other two properties. Robin Stevens asked that they think about the design of the new homes so they do not all look the same. Susan Scott, 718 S 3rd Ave W, spoke about the bid amount. Moved by Dalton, seconded by Roth to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
23. Resolution approving the purchase agreement for real property at 115 East 4th Street North, 124 East 4th Street North, and 411 North 2nd Avenue East, Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-282 adopted.

Ordinance

24. Second Consideration of an Ordinance Granting to Interstate Power and Light Company (Alliant Energy) a 25-Year Non-Exclusive Electric Franchise
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Mills to approve the second consideration of the Ordinance. Various citizens and business owners spoke on the matter. AYES: Five. NAYS: Hallam. Second Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.
25. Second Consideration of an Ordinance Establishing a Franchise Fee on Energy Providers Operating in the City of Newton, Iowa
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Mills to approve the second consideration of the Ordinance. Various citizens and business owners spoke on the matter. AYES: Five. NAYS: Hallam. Second Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.
26. Second 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"
Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to approve the second consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Second Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.

Resolution

27. Resolution expressing the City Council's intent to review the necessity of electric and natural gas franchise fees three years following the initial receipt of franchise fee revenue

Moved by Roth, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-283 adopted.

28. Resolution to approve contract with Indian Hills Community College for the 2026-2027 Newton Paramedic Training Program

Moved by Simbro, seconded by Roth to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-284 adopted.

29. Resolution accepting Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant Awards and approving the grant agreements

Moved by Holschuh, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-285 adopted.

30. Resolution awarding a Contract For Application and Administration of Community Development Block Grant Upper Story Rehabilitation Program for 104 1st Avenue East

Moved by Holschuh, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-286 adopted.

Staff Report

31. Hydraulic Model Overview — Jody Rhone, Utilities Director

Utilities developed a hydraulic model using Bentley WaterGEMS to assist in evaluating water distribution system performance. They were able to assess pressures and fire flow, identify operational and infrastructure deficiencies which help in capital improvement planning, operational decision-making and assist with project prioritization.

Mayor/Council Comments

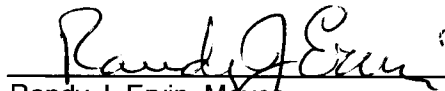
32. Mayor and Council Comments

Mills indicated that budget workshops would be happening soon and invited citizens to come and understand more about the budget process. Roth spoke about the Youth Camp event for Sudanese students. Ervin encouraged citizens to take a look at the new dock at Cardinal Pond.

Adjourn

Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.


Katrina Davis, City Clerk


Randy J. Ervin, Mayor

