

NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 7, 2023, 6:00 PM

Pledge

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Pro-Tem 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 Pro-Tem Ervin presided. Present Council Members: Hallam, Dalton (via telephone), George, Ervin, Trotter, Wade. Absent: None.

Presentation

2. Jasper County Museum Update - Ann Leonard, Jasper County Historical Museum

Ann Leonard presented on all of the museum collections, not only washer and dryers, but also the Victorian Room, the Rural School, the 1930s Room, Ag Equipment, Advertising history, and the Herman and Neal Deaton Art. She invited everyone to attend the Tree-Mendous Christmas Event in December.

Citizen Participation

3. Logan Shaver, 318 S 6th Ave W, spoke about the great things Newton has that can bring people to town.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Trotter, seconded by Hallam to approve consent agenda items 4-16. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

4. July 24, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

5. July 24, 2023 Workshop Minutes

6. Certify Police Officer Candidates List

7. Certify Fire Marshal Candidate List

8. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 23-07)
Resolution 2023-210 adopted.

9. Resolution authorizing payment to Northway Well Corporation for Jordan Well repair from lightning strike
Resolution 2023-211 adopted.

10. Resolution Approving a Funding and Partnership Agreement with Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency for Fiscal Year 2024
Resolution 2023-212 adopted.

11. Resolution approving emergency replacement of the irrigation water intake system at the Westwood Golf Course
Resolution 2023-213 adopted.

12. Resolution authorizing purchase of new sewer inspection camera equipment for the utilities department.
Resolution 2023-214 adopted.

13. Resolution awarding contract for the Southwest Building Roof Rehabilitation Project.
Resolution 2023-215 adopted.

14. Resolution approving a new 3-year agreement with Iworq work order and asset management for Utilities and Public Works
Resolution 2023-216 adopted.

15. Resolution Approving the Special Event Application for the Bowlful of Blues
Resolution 2023-217 adopted.

16. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

17. Public Hearing on Resolution Approving the Purchase Agreement for Real Property Located at 909 East 7th Street North, Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Mayor Pro-Tem Ervin stated that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing on the above Resolution. There were no written comments. Moved by Trotter, seconded by Wade to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.

18. Resolution Approving the Purchase Agreement for Real Property Located at 909 East 7th Street North, Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Moved by Wade, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2023-218 adopted.

Ordinance

19. Second Consideration of an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, Title VII, Chapter 70, Section 70.15, Traffic and Parking Schedules Adopted by Reference" to Designate Free Municipal Parking Lots and Remove Parking Restrictions in the 100 Block of East Third Street South
Moved by Trotter, seconded by George to approve the second consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Second Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.
20. Second Consideration of an Ordinance Amending and Updating the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, Title XV: Land Usage, Ch. 158: Zoning
Moved by George, seconded by Hallam to approve the second consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Second Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.

Resolution

21. Resolution approving a Preliminary Design Services Agreement for the Downtown Spray Park & Gathering Space Project
Moved by George, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2023-219 adopted.
22. Resolution approving the submittal of an Iowa Economic Development Authority Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) grant application for the Maytag Pool Play Feature Improvements and Downtown Spray Park & Gathering Space Projects
Moved by Hallam, seconded by George to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2023-220 adopted.
23. Resolution approving a letter of support for a Brownfields/Grayfields Redevelopment Tax Credit application by Christensen Development for the redevelopment project at Legacy Plaza
Moved by Dalton, seconded by George to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2023-221 adopted.
24. Resolution approving a step increase for the Water Pollution Control Superintendent
Moved by Wade, seconded by George to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2023-222 adopted.
25. Resolution to approve creating a temporary Firefighter/EMT/P position and eliminating an Administrative Assistant position (Ambulance Billing Specialist) in the Fire Department
Moved by Trotter, seconded by George to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2023-223 adopted.

Staff Report

26. Annual Library Report - Nicole Terry, Library Director
Terry presented the Annual Library Report indicating that 441 new library cards were issued between July 2022 and June 2023 with 11,025 registered library patrons. There was an increase of 11% in physical circulation from 85,675 to 95,505. There were 319 physical items going in and out of the library each day. The digital circulation went up 16% from 25,093 to 29,161. This accounts for 23% of total circulation. Library visits were up by 7% with 8712 internet station sessions and 225 meeting room uses. The State Library of Iowa reported that we are #1 in programming attendance geared towards adults and #2 in kids aged 6-11 program attendance. The Pet Photo Booth and the Mermaid Pool party were both huge successes.

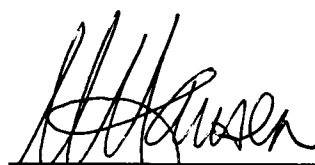
Mayor/Council Comments

27. Mayor and Council Comments
Wade asked for an update on the property downtown that was damaged by Derecho 2020. Mike Heilman, City Attorney, stated that the case was filed back in 2021, but because of COVID, all 2020 cases were pushed to 2021 and thus the 2021 cases were then pushed forward, plus one of the defendants passed. All of this resulted in a continuance of the case. In the court system, you are looking at about a year from the date of the continuance for a new date. The city has been doing what they need to do to move it along. There have been multiple summary judgements submitted. Unfortunately, the judge declined to award summary judgement and set it for trial. It is scheduled for trial on October 3rd. Trotter announced that he would not be running for council in the upcoming election and offered any assistance to anyone in the 3rd Ward that may have any questions.

Adjourn

Moved by Trotter, seconded by Wade to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.


Katrina Davis, City Clerk


Michael L. Hansen, Mayor

