

NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 2, 2023, 6:00 PM

Pledge

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Hansen 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 Hansen presided. Present Council Members: Hallam, Dalton, George, Ervin, Trotter, Wade. Absent: None.

Proclamation

2. Fire Prevention Week Proclamation

Mayor Hansen proclaimed October 8th through October 14th as Fire prevention week.

Presentation

3. Update from the Auditor's Office - Jenna Jennings, Jasper County Auditor

Jennings presented the projects the Auditor's office is currently working on, including the election, the opioid settlement distribution, the state audit, EMS projects, and reinvestment districts.

Citizen Participation

4. Jay Koenen, 713 E 17th St N, had concerns about his adjoining building when the Chedester building is demolished. Frank Mulbrook, 210 E 10th St S, spoke regarding parking on both sides of the street. Would like to see that fixed along with the condition of the streets. Tanya Michener, NDC Associate Director, introduced Michael Wagler, State Coordinator of Main Street Iowa. They are putting on a Fall Workshop in Newton for 3 nights and 2 days. Using Newton as a living laboratory so other communities can learn from our successes and struggles. Michael Rinehart, 1305 S 11th Ave E, spoke regarding parking in the grass. He feels that warning tickets should be issued prior to giving tickets. Jerry Chandler, 539 W 10th St S, wants a debate to get answers out to the public. Donna Stumme, 401 W 10th St S, spoke about a grassroots message to China and residence. Robert Williams, 612 E 26th St N, thanked the council for their service and asked the council to listen to their neighbors.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Trotter, seconded by Hallam to approve consent agenda items 5-18. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

5. September 18, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
6. September 27, 2023 Special City Council Meeting Minutes
7. Approve Liquor Licenses for the following: Shop N Save Newton LLC- LE0003589, 404 S.11th Ave W, Class E Retail Alcohol License; Lucky Wife Wine Slushies, Special Event November 4, 2023, 500 1st Street North, Special Class C Retail Alcohol License
8. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 23-09)
Resolution 2023-259 adopted.
9. Resolution awarding contract for the 2023 Ceiling Installation Project - Community Services
Resolution 2023-260 adopted.
10. Resolution ordering bids, approving plans, specifications, form of contract, notice to bidders, ordering clerk to publish notice, fixing a date for receiving same, for a public hearing on plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of costs for the Water Treatment Plant Controls and Telemetry Replacement Project
Resolution 2023-261 adopted.
11. Resolution ordering bids, approving plans, specifications, form of contract, notice to bidders, ordering clerk to publish notice, fixing a date for receiving same, for a public hearing on plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of costs for the WPC 1st St N Aerial Sewer Crossing Repair Project
Resolution 2023-262 adopted.
12. Resolution appointing the Public Works Department's Engineering Technician I as the City of Newton's Title VI Coordinator and the Americans with Disability Act Program Coordinator
Resolution 2023-263 adopted.
13. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Cindy Rogers-Sell Property Located at 107 1st Ave W Within the North Central Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2023-264 adopted.

14. Resolution Setting a Date of Meeting at which it is Proposed to Approve an Amended Development Agreement with Hotel Maytag Investors, LLC, Including Annual Appropriation Tax Increment Payments
Resolution 2023-265 adopted.
15. Resolution Setting a Date of Meeting at Which it is Proposed to Approve a Development Agreement with Mercurialis Holdings Real Estate Newton LLC, Including Annual Appropriation Tax Increment Payments
Resolution 2023-266 adopted.
16. Resolution Setting a Date of Meeting at Which it is Proposed to Approve a Development Agreement with Ex Nihilo LLC, Including Annual Appropriation Tax Increment Payments
Resolution 2023-267 adopted.
17. Resolution awarding contract for the 2023 tuckpointing and brick replacement project
Resolution 2023-268 adopted.
18. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

19. Public Hearing on a Resolution To Approve an Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the North Central Urban Renewal Area
Mayor Hansen 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 George to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
20. Resolution To Approve an Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the North Central Urban Renewal Area
Moved by George, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2023-269 adopted.
21. Public Hearing on a Resolution Approving the First Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 23-24
Mayor Hansen 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 Dalton to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.
22. Resolution Approving the First Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 23-24
Moved by Hallam, seconded by George to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2023-270 adopted.
23. Public Hearing on a Resolution Approving the Purchase Agreement for City-owned Property at 1011 and 1015 East 9th Street North, Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Mayor Hansen stated that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing on the above Resolution. There were no written comments. Jerry Chandler asked about the cost and what the income would be. 1011 was acquired through the tax certificate process. 1015 was purchased in line with other purchases in the most recent years. The city has also had ongoing maintenance costs. This would put the property back in the tax roles. Donna Stumme stated that if a D&D property had any meth residue it would always be there and a danger. Robert Williams asked about the list of D&D properties on the website. Will have this done shortly along with public notices regarding D&D sales. Lonnie Appleby, 506 W 16th St N, spoke regarding the costs associated with purchasing other D&D properties. Moved by Wade, seconded by Hallam to close the public hearing. AYES: Five. NAYS: Wade. The public hearing was closed.
24. Resolution Approving the Purchase Agreement for City-owned Property at 1011 and 1015 East 9th Street North, Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Moved by George, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. It was moved by Ervin, seconded by Wade to postpone this resolution to the next meeting to get additional information, AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Abstained by Dalton. Resolution was postponed.

Resolution

25. Resolution approving the lease of a mobile office for the Westwood Clubhouse Project
Moved by George, seconded by Wade to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2023-271 adopted.
26. Resolution Approving Extension and Amendment to the Newton Housing Initiative Single Family Home Construction Incentive Programs through December 31, 2026
Moved by George, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2023-272 adopted.
27. Resolution approving a Newton Hotel-Motel Tourism Grant Program Application for \$2500 from the Jasper County Historical Museum
Moved by Ervin, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2023-273 adopted.

28. Resolution Approving the Granting of a Downtown Improvement Grant for 309 1st Avenue West for Exterior Paint and Facade Rehabilitation
Moved by Wade, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2023-274 adopted.
29. Resolution Approving Downtown Improvement Grant Funds to 114 East 2nd Street South for Facade Rehabilitation
Moved by George, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2023-275 adopted.
30. Resolution to promote retail through a marketing campaign focused on holiday shopping and shopping local using local & regional radio, targeted streaming radio, and digital video.
Moved by Trotter, seconded by George to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2023-276 adopted.
31. Resolution approving a Newton Hotel-Motel Tourism Grant Program Application for \$2000 from Newton Main Street
Moved by George, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2023-277 adopted.
32. Resolution to Approve Agreement with Chedester Properties, LLC, Jeremy Chedester and Rachel Chedester
Moved by George, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2023-278 adopted.

Staff Report

33. Community Services Department Annual Update - Community Services Director Brian Laube
Laube provided an overview of the past year in the parks, golfcourse, and pool.
34. Downtown Splash Park Project Update - Community Services Director Brian Laube
Laube presented a visual of one of the potential renderings for the splash pad indicating that the city would contribute \$225,000 with \$410,000 in donations.

Mayor/Council Comments

35. Mayor and Council Comments
Hallam indicated that he was able to tour the old Montgomery Ward building that would bring an indoor market and other businesses to this old building. Hallam indicated that the League of Women voters would have a candidate debate. Wade stated that there were questions about what was approved on the Hotel Maytag agreement. Mayor Hansen stated that they can go back and watch the past meetings and look at the council packet.

Closed Session

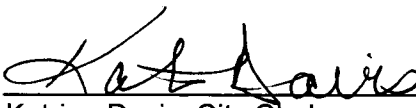
36. To Discuss Strategy with Counsel in Matters that Are Presently in Litigation or Where Litigation is Imminent Where its Disclosure Would be Likely to Prejudice or Disadvantage the Position of the Governmental Body in that Litigation, Which Discussions are Exempt from the Open Meetings Law Pursuant to the Provision of Section 21.5(1)(c), Code of Iowa 2023
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Ervin to go into closed session. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Motion passed. The council will take a short recess to clear the chambers.

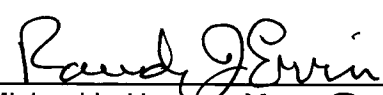
Return to Open Session

37. Return to Open Session
Council returned to open session at 9:13 P.M. with all members present.

Adjourn

Moved by Dalton, seconded by George to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.


Katrina Davis, City Clerk


~~Michael L. Hansen~~, Mayor Pro Tem
Randy J. Ervin

