

BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2007, 4:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The City Council of Newton, Iowa met in special session at 4:30 P.M. on the above date in the Council Chambers at 101 West 4th Street South. Mayor Allen presided. Present: Council members Foreman, Morgan, Hansen, Mullan, Ewing. Absent: None.

Mayor Allen read the eulogy he had given at Council Member Greve's funeral on Saturday. He also read the proclamation that honored the life and work of A.J. Jim Greve that had been signed by the Governor, Senator Black, Representative Bell, Chair for County Supervisor's Worthington and himself.

At this time Mayor Allen handed the gavel over to Mayor Pro-Tem to proceed with the next agenda item. An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Chapter 34 of the Code of Ordinances Of The City of Newton And The Zoning Map Adding "Educational Facilities" As A Permitted Use In The C-CBD: Central Business District Commercial Zone And Rezoning The DMACC And Whirlpool (Maytag) Properties To C-CBD From IH: Heavy Industrial. Mayor Pro-Tem Hansen took over the meeting. Van Zee stated for the record their had been a written comment from Pete Koppin, 1120 West 18th Street South stating he was unable to attend this meeting and asked that they delay the ordinance until the next meeting.

Ron Foreman stated the following: I would like to make a short statement on the matter we are about to vote on. I have written it out so I don't mess up and leave out some of the key points.

This is about my last conversation with Jim Greve. This phone conversation took place on the day he died. If I get a little teary eyed or my voice starts to rattle please overlook it.

It is a well-known fact that Jim and I voted no on the waiving of the 2nd and 3rd reading at the last council meeting. It is important that all the people know whey. Iowa Telecom's attorney stated, during that meeting, they would not close on the redevelopment agreement until the plat work and zoning issues were resolved.

There were plans to close on the next day following the council meeting. New information had come to light prior to Monday's council meeting that there are several hundred thousand dollars of back property taxes owed to Newton by Maytag, Whirlpool, or both.

We did not vote against the readings to kill the project but instead to postpone the closing and hold a little leverage to get those back taxes paid. No one is pointing fingers about the shortage, it is just something that happened and we must get it taken care of.

Jim called me the next day and wanted to talk about this matter. He reminded me that he had a resolution he wanted the council to pass, the contents of which I will not go into tonight as it is unrelated to this issue. He said you know the readings are going to pass anyway so maybe we should vote yes and make room for compromise on my resolution. Well of course you know I said no. I did however follow it up and suggested to Jim if that's what you want why not go ahead and vote yes, then they will have their 5 votes and it will be taken care of. That's the way it was left and I know that is what Jim was going to do. We all know the rest of the story for on that very day Jim passed away.

I would be lying if I told you I was not upset about the way procedure have been skirted around by holding two meetings on the same night to get the readings done. I am sure it is legal but in my opinion it is not the high road for us to take. Regardless, this is a moot point now and water under the bridge.

This is a moot point because as soon as I learned of Jim's passing I made up my mind what I was going to do. I decided to vote yes on the waiving of the readings. I am doing this out of respect for Jim and his last request of me.

I don't know how it will be registered in the official record but in my book Jim will be casting his last vote on this matter and will be leaving on a 6-0 vote.

I know for a fact that Jim and I both hope the City will go full steam ahead at collecting the back taxes owed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hansen stated he had received a call from Mike Knoll of Whirlpool. He stated he would like to resolve this tax issue.

Moved by Ewing, seconded by Morgan to Introduce on second consideration an Ordinance Amending Title 4, Chapter 34 of the Code of Ordinances Of The City of Newton And The Zoning Map Adding "Educational Facilities" As A Permitted Use In The C-CBD: Central Business District Commercial Zone And Rezoning The DMACC And Whirlpool (Maytag) Properties To C-CBD From HH: Heavy Industrial. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Ordinance passed second consideration. Moved by Foreman, seconded by Hansen to suspend the rules and waive the third consideration of the above ordinance. AYES: Two. NAYS: Three. The third consideration did not pass. It was noted there was a special meeting at 5:00 on the third reading of the above ordinance.

Mayor Allen took over the meeting and stated at this time Candice Van Zee, Director of Administrative Services will present two budget options to the city council members. The first scenario was setting the levy at \$15.72, and using \$304,199 local option sales and service revenue; this had previously been presented to the finance committee on February 5, 2007. The second option was setting the levy at \$15.79 and using 35% of projected LOSST revenues for 2007-08 (\$966,296). This figure would be \$338,204. Van Zee stated the second option would provide a better ending balance in the trust and agency fund.

Moved by Hansen, seconded by Mullan to recess the meeting at 4:59 p.m. and to resume after the Special Council meeting at 5:00 p.m. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

At 5:30 p.m. with all council members present a brief discussion ensued over the two budget options that had been previously presented. By unanimous consensus the council directed staff to proceed with the \$15.79 levy. It was noted by Ewing to keep in mind the need for equipment. Foreman stated the need for street projects.

Moved by Hansen, seconded by Mullan to designate March 5, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. as the time and date for the public hearing on the 2007-08 operating budget. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Hansen, seconded by Foreman to adjourn the meeting at 5:34 p.m. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

Charles Allen, Mayor

Candice Van Zee, CMC
City Clerk