

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 16, 2007, 5:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The City Council of Newton, Iowa met in regular session at 5:30 P.M. on the above date in the Council Chambers at 101 West 4th Street South. Mayor Allen presided. Present: Council members Morgan, Hansen, Ewing, Foreman, Morris, Mullan. Absent: None.

Mayor Allen read the Arbor Day Proclamation, proclaiming April 27, 2007 as Arbor Day.

Alan Halferty, ReNew Newton stated a model of directional signage had been placed in the atrium. He went on to note this is great way of promoting tourism, the City Council may want to consider strategically placing them at the 164 and 168 entrances to the City, and then other locations within the City. The cost for electrical signage is approximately \$2,200 and solar powered doubles in cost. Another option could be to place the signs on existing poles. It was noted for staff to work with the ReNew Committee to come up with a plan and cost for Council consideration.

Annette West, Executive Director, Chamber of Commerce presented a spreadsheet with events for the upcoming Sesquicentennial Celebration August 2 – 5. West highlighted the Simon Estes Concert contract that was another agenda item.

At citizen participation Marty Stratton stated the Iowa Speedway 8K run that was held last weekend was a huge success and went on to note the committee that organized the event did an outstanding job.

Moved by Morgan, seconded by Mullan to approve the consent agenda. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Motion carried to approve the consent agenda.

Moved by Morgan, seconded by Ewing to Introduce on first consideration an Ordinance Creating Article 6 “Newton Sesquicentennial Regulations / Permits”, Within Title 2, Chapter 13 Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Newton, Iowa, Establishing Regulations And A Permit Structure For Newton’s Sesquicentennial Celebration - August 2 – 5, 2007. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance passed first consideration. Moved by Foreman, seconded by Morris to suspend the rules and waive the second and third considerations of the above ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance passed second and third considerations. Moved by Hansen, seconded by Mullan to adopt the above ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance No. 2103 adopted.

Motion by Morris, seconded by Mullan to Introduce a Resolution Authorizing Contract With Simon Estes For Performance On August 2, 2007 At Newton’s Sesquicentennial Celebration. Annette West stated if this resolution were passed this evening they would begin selling the tickets on Wednesday. Hansen wanted to know how they were promoting ticket sales. West indicated marketing would be in the form of a website, press releases and this would also be promoted regionally and statewide. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2007 – 038 adopted.

Motion by Morgan, seconded by Ewing to Introduce a Resolution Setting Public Hearing And Authorizing Publication Of Notice On City Of Newton City-Wide Urban Revitalization Plan Revision. Foreman noted this would enable us to allow for the standard residential tax abatement currently in place for the rest of Newton to be available in the North Central Urban Renewal Area. It was stated this is what the revision would accomplish. AYES: Six NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2007 – 039 adopted.

Motion by Hansen, seconded by Mullan to Introduce a Resolution Approving Acceptance Of Real Estate Deeds And A Public Utility Easement From US Motorsport Corporation Properties Located In Section 1 And 12, Township 79 North, Range 19 West Of The 5th PM. Foreman asked how many deeds were left to accept in this area. Bryan, Friedman, Community Development Director noted there were four. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2007 – 040 adopted.

Motion by Ewing, seconded by Morgan to Introduce a Resolution Accepting Work On The Fencing Improvements For The Newton Municipal Airport Project. There was a brief discussion on measured quantities. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2007 – 041 adopted.

Motion by Mullan, seconded by Ewing to Introduce a Resolution Authorizing Agreement Between The City of Newton, Iowa And The Iowa Speedway For Fire Pumper / Firefighter Standby For The Iowa Speedway. It was noted this agreement allows for the City to provide that service, recoup its costs and still provide for the protection of the City of Newton as a whole. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2007 – 042 adopted.

Motion by Foreman, seconded by Hansen to Introduce A Resolution Approving Public Professional And Maintenance Employees Local 2003 Collective Bargaining Agreement. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2007 – 043 adopted.

Under new business Foreman noted Memorial Garden along 1st Avenue was in need of mowing and clean up. He stated he realized it was not owned by the City but wondered if staff could visit with the owners. Foreman stated he received a call from Churchill who complained about the matter on the title to his property had taken too long. Foreman agreed and wanted an update from the City Attorney. City Attorney Hamilton recalled how Churchill addressed the City Council several meetings ago regarding the sale of his home to a private party. This sale was approximately one year ago from tonight's meeting. The issue involves a cloud on the title to the property and a few thousand dollars Churchill wants back from an escrow account. The City is only involved to the extent the buyer wants the City to vacate a platted street that was never developed. This would be the third attempt to vacate as objections have been raised regarding the two prior attempts, one many years ago, the other right before Churchill purchased the property. The City is waiting for the buyer's attorney to request a vacation, if that is how the buyer wishes to proceed. Foreman wanted to know if the City could force the vacation without waiting for the buyer's attorney. Hamilton advised staff would look into and if the City can be an applicant, the process would be started due to Council's direction. Lastly Foreman stated there were great things in Newton, along with having a top-notch hospital right here in the city, we are lucky to have it. Hansen noted he was receiving several emails from citizens wondering about development in Newton, he assured citizens that projects were being worked on, but to be patient. Mullan wondered if staff had the final numbers from the ice storm clean up. David Watson, City Administrator stated those numbers would be forthcoming.

Moved by Hansen, seconded by Morris to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

Charles Allen, Mayor

Candice Van Zee
City Clerk