

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 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, Foreman, Morris, Mullan. Absent: Ewing.

At Citizen Participation, Levi Pence addressed the Council about a new Community Activity Center he was looking into pursuing at the site where the skate castle is located, he was requesting a letter of support from the City.

Sue Padilla presented the Library Annual Report.

Moved by Morgan, seconded by Mullan to approve consent agenda items 3 - 5.

3. Approve September 4, 2007 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
4. Approve Class C Beer Permit, Sunday Sales, Love's Travel Shop # 361, 4400 South 22nd Avenue East
5. Approve Cigarette Permit Submitted By Love's Travel Shop #361, 4400 South 22nd Avenue East

AYES: Five. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Ewing. Consent agenda items approved.

Mayor Allen stated this was the time and the place for a continued public hearing on the Resolution Approving Sale Of Property Located At 815 West Sixth Street South Through The City Of Newton Dangerous And Dilapidated Building Program To Blueprint Development, Inc. Moved by Morgan, seconded by Hansen to continue the public hearing to the October 1, 2007 City Council Meeting. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Ewing. Public Hearing was continued.

Moved by Morgan, seconded by Mullan to Introduce A Resolution Approving Purchase Of A Salt Brine Production System For The Public Works, Street Division From Veritech Industries, Inc. Of Alexandria, Minnesota. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Ewing. Resolution No. 2007 – 113 adopted.

Moved by Morgan, seconded by Morris to Introduce A Resolution Approving A Modification To Roadway And I-80 Improvements Associated With The Iowa Speedway. Hansen stated he had visited with the Public Works Director and was concerned that even with the proposed modifications it would not take care of all the erosion problems. Moved by Hansen, seconded by Foreman to postpone adopting the resolution until staff meets with the Speedway to go over the erosion control issues and bring it back to Council at their meeting on the 24th. AYES: Three. NAYS: Morgan, Mullan. ABSENT: Ewing. The amendment failed. Discussion ensued on the four issues out of the twenty-four modifications being requested. Moved by Hansen, seconded by Morgan to amend the resolution to proceed with all of the modifications except the four. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Ewing. Amendment passed. Mayor Allen requested the original roll call vote with the amendment. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Ewing. Resolution No. 2007 – 0 114 adopted as amended.

Moved by Hansen, seconded by Mullan to Introduce a Resolution Approving Purchase Of A Copier From Forbes Office Solutions For A Purchase Price Of \$6,925. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Ewing. Resolution No. 2007 – 115 adopted.

Moved by Morgan, seconded by Mullan to Introduce a Resolution Authorizing Software Purchase For Public Works Department, Engineering Division. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Ewing. Resolution No. 2007 – 116 adopted.

Moved by Foreman, seconded by Morris to introduce A Resolution Approving An Amendment To An Intergovernmental Agreement To Code Of Iowa Chapter 28E Between Jasper County, Iowa And The City of Newton, Iowa Regarding Joint Exercise Of Urban Renewal Powers. Bryan Friedman, Community Development Director stated per the terms of a 1994 Intergovernmental (28E) Agreement, the City of Newton permitted a Jasper County Tax Increment Finance District to be established in and around the northeast part of Newton, in the vicinity of Maytag Plant 2 and the intermodal rail facility. Part of the terms of the Agreement stated that the City's portion of the property taxes in the incorporated areas would not be captured by the County TIF District and would instead flow to the City.

The City and County now have two immediate opportunities for industrial development. Alpha Products has entered into a development agreement to build two warehouses in the City and TPI Composites has a conditionally approved site plan for a large factory on land that is currently being considered for annexation to the City. Both of these potential projects are located in the County TIF District, and both require assistance from County bonding. In order for there to be sufficient incremental taxes to make the County bonding feasible, the City portion of the property tax levy would need to be collected by the TIF District.

The proposed amendment to the agreement allows the incremental City portion of the property tax bill to be collected by the TIF District. This applies only for the Alpha Products and TPI Composites sites and only for the purpose and duration of funding the bonding in support of the projects on those sites. Since the projects create jobs, build tax base, and are beneficial to both the City and County, the amendment is a cooperative way to foster economic development. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Ewing. Resolution No. 2007 – 117 adopted.

Moved by Mullan, seconded by Morgan to Introduce a Resolution Approving The 2006 – 2007 Annual Financial Report For Streets And Parking. At the Sept. 4, 2007 City Council Meeting Council Member Foreman inquired about the \$538,664 road project that is identified in the report. Candice Van Zee, Director of Administrative Services stated that project was not funded by RUT money, however because this road has become a public street the project must be included in the report. AYES: Four. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Foreman. ABSENT: Ewing. Resolution No. 2007 – 118 adopted.

Moved by Hansen, seconded by Foreman to Introduce a Resolution Approving Submission Of Grant Application To Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Ewing. Resolution No. 2007 – 119 adopted.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion for a hotel in the Prairie Fire District. Bryan Friedman, Community Development Director, presented an overview of the project. It was noted for this project the developer was requesting incentives in the form of a grant, to date, no upfront cash incentives have been granted in the Prairie Fire District. Discussion ensued by Council Members.

Another discussion was held on Historic Preservation Commission. Bryan Friedman, Community Development Director stated in its Sesquicentennial year, it has been recognized that Newton has a great deal of rich history in its built environment. There is community interest in efforts to recognize, preserve, and enhance Newton's historical assets, especially in a more formal and systematic way. The State Historic Preservation Office, through a nationwide program, has a detailed process for becoming what is known as "Certified Local Government" in regards to historic preservation. The first step in gaining this certified status is for the City Council to adopt an ordinance to establish a Historic Preservation Commission. Fred Chabot, 930 East 10th Street South encouraged Council Members to place this item on an upcoming agenda while noting the importance of this commission.

Under new business, Steve Mullan began a discussion on the street sweeper that is no longer operable. David Stewart, Public Works Director presented options to the Council. Noting they could purchase new, hire a contractor to sweep the streets, lease a sweeper or do nothing. Council directed staff to put this item on an upcoming agenda for Council to address. Morris requested an update on the skateboard park. David Watson noted he would get an update, he went on to note the city had been experiencing email server failure, and had authorized staff to get a new server and software ordered. This item will be on the agenda September 24th.

Moved by Hansen, seconded by Foreman to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

Charles Allen, Mayor

Candice Van Zee City Clerk