

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 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 Plumb, Hansen, Ewing, Foreman, Morris, Mullan. Absent: None.

There was no citizen participation.

Dennis Julies, President of the Jasper County Gaming Development Corporation and Jamie Meyers of Regency Development gave an overview of the proposed casino development. After the presentation, the Mayor called a 5 minute break.

Mayor Allen called the meeting back to order. Motion by Foreman, seconded by Mullan to approve consent agenda item 3.

3. Approve January 7, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting minutes
AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent agenda items approved.

Moved by Ewing, seconded by Foreman to Introduce a Resolution Authorizing Publication Of Notice Of Public Hearing For An Amendment To The Airport Management Contract And FBO Lease And Fuel Fee Agreement With Johnson Aviation, Inc. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2008 – 005 adopted.

Moved by Hansen, seconded by Ewing to Introduce a Resolution Adopting The “Speedway: This Exit” Sign As An Official City Sign That Will Be Privately Maintained And Owned. Council member Foreman questioned why the sign wasn’t taken care of through DOT rules and that if the City does we are opening a can of worms for other businesses. Council member Ewing state he would normally not be in favor of it but the Speedway is a major draw for Newton. AYES: Hansen, Ewing, Mullan. NAYS: Plumb, Foreman, Morris. Resolution failed.

Mayor Allen recused himself from this agenda item and handed the gavel over to Mayor Pro-Tem Hansen. Moved by Morris, seconded by Plumb to Introduce the Resolution Directing The Advertisement For Sale Of \$690,000 Urban Renewal Tax Increment Revenue Bonds, Taxable Series 2007B, And Approving Electronic Bidding Procedures. Mayor Pro-Tem Hansen stated with no objections from city council staff was recommending postponing this resolution. There were no objections. Resolution postponed.

Mayor Allen took over the gavel and stated it was time for a discussion on the hotel/motel tax distribution. Mayor Allen stated council member Foreman had asked that this discussion be put on the agenda. Mayor Allen asked Linda Bacon of the Convention and Visitors Bureau to come and speak to the Council. She gave a presentation on the CVB budget for 2007 and spoke to the cuts they had made to their budget such as cuts to their marketing budget and a staff position. Bev Price, chair of the Newton Development Corporation also spoke. Discussion ensued regarding the February 4th meeting to discuss funding requests. Council member Ewing asked what the cost was to the CVB when NDC left the building. Bev Price stated that the Chamber owns the building and the staff person was on an hourly basis that was tracked. City Administrator Watson stated that the work session on February 4th was to work with the organizations to see about funding from the hotel/motel tax and that they were working with NDC to establish a process to set goals. Council member Plumb stated he thought the Council needed to hear from the organizations on their needs and then decide if we should change the distribution.

Mayor Allen stated it was time for a discussion on the process for Council members placing items on city council agendas. Council member Foreman stated he had asked to have this on the agenda and that any council member should have the right to put something on the agenda and we need to establish those guidelines. Council member Hansen stated he and Foreman had a discussion on this last week and he thought that the Mayor and City Administrator had the right to put items on the agenda and some items were better served if put on as a discussion first rather than a

resolution. He also stated that any discussion should be put on by any council member and that all council members had the right to solicit special meetings. Council member Foreman stated he agreed with the right to solicit special meetings. Foreman also stated that there is no formal city code and if it is important, a council member should be able to put it on the agenda. Mayor Allen stated there is nothing I won't allow on the agenda. Council member Plumb stated he was having a problem with that. Council member Foreman stated he thought it should be put down in black and white. Council member Mullan stated that that would be locking in future councils. Council member Foreman stated it should be in black and white that any council member could put any discussion item on the agenda. City Attorney Hamilton stated that council members should visit with the Mayor to put items on for discussion.

Under new business Council member Mullan stated that the Council needs to request that the City Administrator update the nuisance ordinance and a uniform code of maintenance needs to be developed.

Moved by Morris, seconded by Mullan to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

Charles Allen, Mayor

Candice Van Zee City Clerk