

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2009, 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 Pro-Tem Hansen presided. Present: Council members Plumb, Julius, Foreman, Morris, Mullan. Absent: None.

There was no citizen participation.

Moved by Foreman, seconded by Mullan to approve consent agenda items 2 - 5.

2. Approve February 16, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
3. Approve Class B Native Wine, Outdoor Service, Sunday Sales, Rolling Acres RV & Campground 1601 East 36th Street South
4. Resolution Approving Appointment Of City Planner Erin Chambers To Serve As Representative To Central Iowa Regional Housing Authority For A Three-Year Term. Resolution No. 2009 – 016 adopted.
5. Approve List of Eligible Candidates For Police Chief Position

AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent agenda approved.

Moved by Foreman, seconded by Plumb to Introduce a Resolution Setting Date For Hearing And Ordering Notice Of Hearing On Proposed Ordinance To Abolish The Newton Park Board And Reestablish A Newton Park Board That Is Appointed And Not Elected, Along With Other Changes To Effectuate The Change From An Elected Body To An Appointed One. Mullan asked what had prompted this resolution to be on the agenda. Mayor Pro-Tem Hansen noted at the Special Meeting on Feb. 25th we brought up different departments within the organization were going to be reviewed and also discussed was the possibility of converting the Park Board from an elected body to an appointed one. Darrin Hamilton, City Attorney stated this resolution designates March 16 as the public hearing to consider an ordinance to approve the change from an elected board to an appointed one. Denny Slings, Park Director stated the Park Board has done a wonderful job; they set policy and chart a course for the future. They have a deep interest and passion for the park system. Mullan reiterated it was very important for the general population to have time to know and understand this change. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2009 – 017 adopted.

Moved by Foreman, seconded by Plumb to Introduce on first consideration an Ordinance Repealing Article 2, "Park Commission" Within Title 1, Chapter 5 And Creating A New Article 2 "Park Commission" Within Title 1, Chapter 5 Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City of Newton, Iowa, Abolishing The Current Park Commission System And Then Reestablishing A New Park Commission Structure. Hansen stated there was plenty of time for public input as the 3rd reading and adoption of the Ordinance would not take place until the April 20th Council meeting. Mullan moved, seconded by Morris to table the above Ordinance. AYES: Two. NAYS: Plumb, Julius, Hansen, Foreman. Motion to table the ordinance failed. Dave Rorabaugh, Park Commissioner asked to speak. He stated he was thankful for reading about this in the Newton Daily News; I want what is best for Newton. Let's be upfront about this and be part of the discussions. He went on to note he felt the Commissioner's have done a good job, need individuals that have the time. Scott Creech, Park Commissioner also spoke in favor of an appointed board. Fran Henderson stated she was not in support of the change along with Carl Repp, he noted we need more information. Deena Williams spoke in favor of an appointed board. AYES: Four. NAYS: Morris, Mullan. Ordinance passed first consideration.

Moved by Mullan, seconded by Morris to Introduce a Resolution Repealing The 2004 City of Newton Supplemental Specifications To Urban Standard Specifications For Public Improvements And Iowa Statewide Urban Design Standards For Public Improvements And Adopting The 2009 City of Newton Supplemental Specifications To Sudas Specifications For Public Improvements. It was noted this has nothing to do with the National Code. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2009 – 018 adopted.

Moved by Morris, seconded by Julius to Introduce a Resolution Approving Agreement With Fox Engineering For Engineering Services Related To The Newton Sanitary Landfill. Foreman asked if there was anyway this could be done in house. David Stewart, Public Works Director Stated historically we have contracted the expertise of a consultant for this work. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2009 – 019 adopted.

Moved by Mullan, seconded Plumb to Introduce a Resolution Approving Agreement With Fox Engineering For Engineering Services Related To The Newton Sanitary Landfill. David Stewart, Public Works Director stated this agreement includes services provided in the past and additional services now required by newly established IDNR requirements related to Chapter 113. Morris asked if from time to time we seek competitive bids. David Stewart explained with the level of expertise these engineering services provide, we do not have bidding issues. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2009 – 020 adopted.

Moved by Morris, seconded by Julius to Introduce a Resolution Approving Fee Schedules. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2009 – 021 adopted.

Moved by Julius, seconded by Mullan to Introduce a Resolution Authorizing The Newton Fire Department To Submit A Grant Application In The Amount Of \$317,118 To The Assistance To Firefighter Grant Program Administered By The Federal Emergency Management Agency. Foreman stated he had a conversation with the Chief, noting if we receive this grant and do not have the funds for the in kind match we should sell the pumper to the speedway. It was noted by the City Attorney we must get fair market value. Chief Clement stated we would have a professional put value on the pumper. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2009 – 022 adopted.

Moved by Morris, seconded by Hansen to Introduce a Resolution Ordering Bids, Approving Plans, Specifications And Form of Contract And Notice To Bidder, Fixing Amount Of Bidders Check, And Ordering Clerk TO Publish Notice, And For A Public Hearing On Plans, Specifications, Form of Contract And Estimate Of Costs For The East 31st Street North And North 19th Avenue East Resurfacing Contract. Foreman stated he would not be supporting this resolution, we have other streets we can't even drive on, people are losing their jobs and we would be asked to pay the \$60,921 toward this project. Plumb asked for a map of the streets that would qualify, I thought we would look at other streets. Morris stated when we last discussed this if rules changed we can change the project. David Stewart stated criteria for project has not changed. Hansen asked if the money could go into another project that meets the criteria. Stewart did note that this resolution would lock the council into this project. A lengthy discussion ensued by council members. There was general consensus of council to have staff identify other streets that meet the criteria. Moved by Plumb, seconded by Morris to table this resolution. AYES Six. NAYS: None. Resolution was tabled.

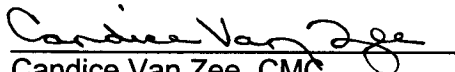
Moved by Plumb, seconded by Foreman to Introduce a Resolution Making Adjustments In The Number Of Authorized City Positions. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2009 – 023 adopted.

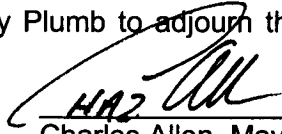
The next agenda item was the discussion on reorganization from the result of an 8% reduction from the general fund. It was decided to go department by department as presented at the budget workshop. Overview of discussions as follows: Police department – it was noted would like to retain at least one or both of the parking enforcement attendants. Public Works – believe there are alternatives to look at. Fire Dept. – Is fine as submitted. Legal Dept. – Is fine as submitted. Community Development – believe there are alternatives to look at. Administration Dept. – Is fine as submitted. Parks Dept. – Fine for the most part, wondered if snow plowing could be shared with public works. A discussion ensued with the city plowing the snow off some sidewalks. It was suggested to put this topic on a back burner and return to the budget. Hansen stated we should take a serious look at sharing manpower when necessary; resonate through departments, also cross training. Wardlow stated he felt he had what he needed to move forward with the reorganization process.

There was no new business come before the council.

Thomas Wardlow stated Bryan Friedman would be inspecting the old Hy-Vee building, and researching a potential business to go in to the building.

Moved by Foreman, seconded by Plumb to adjourn the meeting at 5: 42 p.m. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.


Candice Van Zee, CMC
City Clerk


Charles Allen, Mayor