

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 11, 2009, 5:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The City Council of Newton, Iowa met in special 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 via telephone, Julius, Foreman, Morris, Mullan. Absent: None

Moved by Plumb, seconded by Mullan, introduced a Resolution Approving Modification To The East 8th Street North Relocation Project. Darrin Hamilton, City Attorney / Acting City Administrator stated there was an updated council report and resolution from that which Council had received in their packets. He went on to note Clappsaddle-Garber Associates (CGA) is the design engineer hired by the City of Newton on this project and has agreed, through their insurance carrier, to reimburse the city of Newton the costs associated with the change order for \$37,108.50. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2009 – 053 adopted.

Mayor Allen stated this is the time for citizen's input on the Maytag Bowl Project. What is scope of project and how many dollars can City put into the project. He went on to note citizens from Restore the Pride and Save the Bowl will have an opportunity to speak on the subject. The following citizens spoke for Restore the Pride: Evelyn George thanked the Mayor for arranging the meeting. She went on to note she believed we were getting the cart in front of the horse, we cannot change history we need to move forward, make sure the plans meet the needs and evaluate costs. All areas of the park are busy with activity. Christine Pletcher stated she works with the artistic music events at the park. The bowl area is in dyer need of renovating. The events attract visitors; it is also very difficult to ticket in this area and we have suffered electrical outages during musical events. This could be a beautiful venue, enhance function of the bowl, it is our obligation to save the bowl. This would also be a huge amenity to our city; there is no reason to say no and no reason for controversy. John Liebel stated the idea began two and a half years ago. There has been great ideas and brainstorming, make bowl more user friendly, it would be a great setting for the Farmer's Market, Shakespeare in the Park just to name a few. Larry DeCook presented his background in Newton. He went on to note in the beginning he too had problems with the Plaza area, but the entire bowl and plaza will blend in and be complimentary to the pool area. Remember we are doing this for our children and grandchildren. Newton is moving forward, we should do this together. The following citizens spoke for Save the Bowl: Beverly Morris stated she had prepared a three-minute presentation. I will not rehash what I have previously discussed. We know there are differences in opinion concerning the Maytag Bowl project. We have discussed the deterioration of the entrance of City hall, we have sewer back ups in certain areas of the City and now the City Council is discussing a \$2.5 million dollar renovation project. These things will not go away, a decision needs to be made. Deena Williams stated she loves this town and loves Maytag Park, we have to do something about the Bowl, please do not change the dynamics of the bowl. Ms Williams also wanted three questions answered. Whose name is on the 1244 P.O. Box? Restore the Pride and who is Advanced Development Services. In addition, who is keeping books on these donations and what happens to the money if the renovation does not take place. We need a citywide vote. Joyce Moen stated she was working and researching on having Maytag Park on the historic registry. She also had several questions on the terracing that is in the plans presented by Restore the Pride. The terracing width and drop to the next level cannot be answered; they are showing sidewalks with no handrails. She went on to question the removal of all the benches and the placement of the Plaza area is the opposite of going green. I am concerned about the sale and consumption of alcohol in the park. I recognize the need to repair the bowl. Keep the beautiful functional park. Mayor Allen read a commentary that was in the Newton Daily News. Denny Slings, Park Director reviewed the projects that have been in the Capital Improvement Program. Mayor Allen stated this was the time for Council discussion. Plumb stated that the \$2.5 million dollar project was way out of line, I just see repairing the Bandshell, ramp to the Bandshell and fixing the restrooms. Foreman noted that it is a good project but we cannot afford it, we don't have the financing, we are having to lay people off, we have streets that need repaired and he would not vote for bonding this project. Morris asked if the \$500,000 that is, being requested by the city is etched in stone. It was noted this is what is recommended to secure the CAT grant. Foreman stated he was in favor of bringing the bowl back to its original condition. Frank Liebel stated the grant writer says the city piece of financing is crucial, 20% of package, the size of city's investment determines the CAT grant. Morris asked if the County had been approached for funds. Frank Liebel stated they have not been formally approached. Julius stated we have heard from two groups and both groups have good points, we have heard each of them say restore the bowl. We need common ground, by using common sense. He went on to note just focus on the bowl to today's standards. Community go forward with fundraising. Use hotel/motel taxes. Hansen said the common ground is the bowl, the negative is the plaza area, if we could reach consensus, settle on design from this body. I have heard many comments made and questions asked. These deserve an answer. Joyce Moen stated she has researched Mr. Maytag's speech that he gave when he donated the park, it was to go to

everyone, and these gated events defeat the purpose of the park. Scott from RDG Company presented the conceptual designs of the entire renovation project. Discussion ensued. There were questions about the donations received. Mayor Allen requested at the next city council meeting resolutions accepting the entire conceptual design for the Maytag Bowl and a resolution to just renovate the Maytag Bowl. Mayor Allen thanked everyone for their input.

Moved by Foreman, seconded by Mullan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

Charles Allen, Mayor

Candice Van Zee, CMC
City Clerk