

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 18, 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 Allen presided. Present: Council members Plumb, Hansen, Julius, Foreman, Morris, Mullan. Absent: None

At citizen participation Beverly Morris, 415 North 3rd Avenue East stated she has been a member of Save the Bowl and is interested in where her tax dollars are going. Just fix the bowl and leave Maytag Park as a historical location. Kimberley, 227 East 10th Street South stated she would like to see Maytag Park left as is except for maybe some maintenance items taken care of; the park is not big enough for everything that is being discussed.

Mayor Allen made the following statement:

The Maytag Bowl like the Jasper County Courthouse, H.A. Lynn Stadium and now the Iowa Speedway, is a place uniquely Newton. And as Mayor, I was immediately thrilled when I heard money was being raised in an effort to beautify the bowl. But I have been just as quickly disappointed to see the process unfold as it has. One of the lessons that my experience as Mayor has taught me is that being in a hurry is almost never effective. More importantly, experience has taught me that when emotion takes over the debate, everyone stops listening. Nothing productive can come of it. And after last Monday's 2-½ hour meeting, it became very apparent that the discussion has become non-productive. And that agrees with what I have been hearing out in the community. We all love the idea of "something" happening at the Bowl; it is the details that are getting caught up in all the noise.

And important noise it is. I and the Council just had to sit through a budget process where we had to look at job cuts, we had to look at across the board cuts – you name it, we seemed to be needing to cut it. And before we do anything else, we need to get the new Park Board appointed and approved by City Council. As the city's main point of contact for everything to do with parks, this group needs to continue to be included early in all decision making.

Once the Park Board is established, I then intend to form a committee to work with the Park Board to move this process forward. This group will accept input from all the groups currently at the table, as well as asking for input from a wide range of constituents, ranging from the City Council to the school district, from the Chamber and CVB to the Community Theater group. The vast majority of Newton residents have just recently become aware of the push to do work on the Bowl. I think we have enough time to step back and look at this for a while longer.

We all live here. We all want the best for Newton and the bowl. Let us step back a bit to get more of a consensus on this process. And please do not forget – the bowl was build to bring the people together.

Following the Mayor's statement Foreman said he did not disagree with the Mayor's statement but we just do not have the money; just bring the bowl back to its original state. Hansen stated we need to look at reallocation of the hotel/motel taxes, road projects, and get started on some of the infrastructure projects we discussed during our budget process.

Mayor Allen proclaimed Public Works Week, May 18 – 23.

Moved by Hansen, seconded by Foreman, to approve consent agenda items 4 - 6.

4. Approve May 4, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
 5. Approve Cigarette Permits submitted from Casey's # 1375, 1006 North 19th Avenue East; Casey's # 1911, 1018 First Avenue East; Casey's # 2341, 3104 First Avenue East; Casey's # 2417, 1200 West 18th Street South; Dezi's Quick Shop, 702 1st Ave E; Love's Travel Stop #361, 4400 South 22nd Avenue East;
 6. Approve Class A Liquor License, Sunday Sales, Elk's Lodge # 1270, 111 East 2nd Street South
- AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent agenda approved.

Mayor Allen stated this was the time and the place for a public hearing on the Resolution Approving 2008 – 2009 Budget Amendments. There had been no written comments. Deena Williams had a question on the capital items. Moved by Foreman, seconded by Morris, to close the Public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Public hearing closed. Moved by Foreman, seconded by Hansen, to introduce a Resolution Approving 2008 – 2009 Budget Amendments. Darrin Hamilton, City Attorney / Acting City Administrators noted the hospital revenues and expenditures. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2009 – 054 adopted.

Moved by Morris, seconded by Plumb, to introduce a Resolution Approving Acceptance Of Deed For Real Estate From Property Located In Section 27, Township 80 North, Range 19 West Of The 5th PM In Jasper County, Iowa. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2009 – 055 adopted.

Moved by Foreman, seconded by Plumb, to introduce a Resolution Approving Purchase of 2 Ea. Drager Thermal Imager Cameras And 6 Ea. Motorola Portable Radios 12 Ea. MSA Lapel

Microphones, 1 Ea. Motorola Charger Conditioner. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2009 – 056 adopted.

Moved by Hansen, seconded by Foreman, to introduce a Resolution Approving Newton Manufacturing Banners. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2009 – 057 adopted. The Mayor and City Council congratulated Newton Manufacturing for their 100th anniversary. Lee Cochran of Newton Manufacturing thanked the Mayor and City Council and presented a brief history of the company.

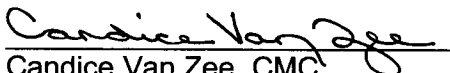
Moved by Julius, seconded by Foreman, to introduce a Resolution Approving Agreements with City Administrator and City Attorney Regarding COLA. Hansen thanked Tom and Darrin for foregoing the COLA. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution No. 2009 – 058 adopted.

The next agenda item was a discussion on the City of Boone's Check Valve Program. David Stewart, Public Works Director reviewed the City of Boone's property protection pilot program. Stewart highlighted criteria they used to put the program in place. Discussion about the program ensued by Council Members. Staff was directed to bring a resolution to the next regular council meeting on this item.

Under new business Foreman asked if the City had ever taken donations for any other projects such as the Maytag Pool project. Denny Sling, Park Director, stated they had and as most recently for the skateboard park project. Foreman requested the park department cease taking funds for the bowl project. Julius stated he had citizens watching the live broadcast this evening as the quality of the meetings has not been that good. Mayor Allen noted he felt that sometimes it was in just some particular areas of the city. Hansen reminded viewers to call Mediacom when they are having problems with the reception. Mayor Allen also wanted to have staff research the possibility of uploading the meetings on the Internet. Hansen reminded everyone of the five year DOT Capital Program (street repair) which includes the stretch of 1st Avenue from highway 14 to West 4th Street South. The letting will be in July. He also wondered when the 17th Street and 9th Street projects would be forthcoming for council consideration.

Under old business Bryan Friedman, Community Development Director, provided an update to Council on the D & D properties, more specifically the hatchery. Plumb stated the D & D property located on 1st Street South had a fence down and stumps still needed to be removed. Friedman noted there was a contractor hired to remove the stumps and staff was aware of the fencing needing to be reset.

Moved by Foreman, seconded by Plumb, to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.


Candice Van Zee, CMC
City Clerk


Charles Allen, Mayor