

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 24, 2020, 6:00 P.M.
ELECTRONIC MEETING

The City Council of Newton, Iowa met in regular session at 6:00 P.M. on the above date via an electronic meeting (pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.8) because a meeting in person is impossible or impractical due to concerns for the health and safety of council members, staff, and the public due to COVID-19. Mayor Hansen presided. Present Council Members: Hallam, Stonner, George (arrived at 6:21 p.m.), Ervin, Trotter, Mullan. Absent: None.

Mayor Hansen asked everyone present to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lucas Hughes, President & CEO of the YMCA and Jessica Lowe-Volks, Director of United Way presented on the effects of Covid-19 and the storm on their revenues. Both organizations continue to work hard to support the community.

There was no citizen participation.

Moved by Mullan, seconded by Trotter to approve consent agenda items 5-9.

5. August 3, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
6. Resolution Levying the Amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 20-04). (Council Report 20-202)
7. Resolution setting the date for public hearings on proposals to enter into Taxable General Obligation Loan Agreements. (Council Report 20-203)
8. Resolution setting a public hearing for the sale of City-owned property at 309 South 8th Avenue West, 609 South 3rd Avenue East, and 514 South 2nd Avenue West. (Council Report 20-204)
9. Approve Bills

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

Moved by Trotter, seconded by Stonner to approve the third consideration of an Ordinance amending Title XIII, Chapter 135 "Fireworks" of the Code of Ordinances, Newton, Iowa. Discussion ensued. Ervin proposed that the fine be raised to \$400 and the time extended from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on the 4th. Mayor Hansen indicated that this would significantly alter the Ordinance and it would require going back to the first reading. Ervin moved to increase the fine to \$400 and look at the time frames at another time, seconded by Trotter. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The amendment was approved. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The third consideration of the amended ordinance was approved. It was moved by Trotter, seconded by Stonner to adopt the ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2380 was adopted.

Moved by George, seconded by Mullan to approve the third consideration of an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2016, Title VII, Chapter 70, Section 70.15, "Traffic and Parking Schedules Adopted by Reference", to make changes to street parking in the 300-400 blocks of East Twenty Second Street South. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Third consideration approved. It was moved by Mullan, seconded by Trotter to adopt the ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2381 was adopted.

Moved by Stonner, seconded by George to approve the third consideration of an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2016, Title VII, Chapter 70, Section 70.15, "Traffic and Parking Schedules Adopted by Code Reference" by adding stop signs at Arbor Estates Plat #1 & Fairmeadows North Plat #8. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Third consideration approved. It was moved by Stonner, seconded by Mullan to adopt the ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2382 was adopted.

Moved by Mullan, seconded by George to approve the second consideration of an Ordinance Amending The Code Of Ordinances, City Of Newton, Iowa, 2016, Title V Public Works, By Adding Chapter 53 Stormwater Utility. Fred Rhodes, 1099 S. 2nd Ave. E., spoke in opposition. Hallam made a motion to table the ordinance due to Covid-19 and the uncertainty of the economic conditions, seconded by Ervin. AYES: Two. NAYS: Stonner, George, Trotter, Mullan. Motion to table failed. AYES: Five. Moved by Mullan, seconded by George to approve NAYS: Hallam. Second consideration was approved.

Moved by Mullan, seconded by George to approve the second consideration of an Ordinance Amending and Updating the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2016, Title III: Administration, Chapter 35: Fiscal Management; Taxation. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Second consideration was approved.

Moved by Stonner, seconded by Trotter to approve the second on an ordinance adding Title XI, Chapter 119 - Electric Transmission Franchise to the Newton Code of Ordinances 2016, granting to ITC Midwest LLC, its successors and assigns, a nonexclusive twenty-five year franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain and operate an electric transmission system in the City of Newton, Iowa. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Second Consideration was approved.

Moved by Hallam, seconded by Ervin to adopt a Resolution authorizing the Newton Historic Preservation Commission to apply for a preservation grant for a historic preservation plan project. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2020-192 adopted.

Moved by Trotter, seconded by Ervin to adopt a Resolution approving City of Newton purchase of 315 East 4th Street South, Newton, for the D&D Program. AYES: Six, NAYS: None. Resolution 2020-193 adopted.

Moved by Trotter, seconded by Stonner to adopt a Resolution approving City of Newton purchase of 421 North 3rd Avenue East, Newton, for the D&D Program. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2020-194 adopted.

Moved by George, seconded by Trotter to approve a Motion approving an FY22 annual budget target for the Newton Public Library of \$669,306 for general fund and local option sales tax expenditures, not counting donations, and encouraging the Library Board of Trustees to develop a secondary budget of \$635,841 in the case that it is determined during the latter portions of the FY22 annual budget process that the reduction in revenues due to COVID-19 will be more than currently estimated. Discussion ensued. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Motion passed.

During staff reports Jody Rhone, Public Works Director, presented on the storm recovery efforts. On August 10, 2020 at around 10:45 a.m. the Derecho storm hit Newton. Warning sirens went off due to high winds. 100% of city streets were partially or completely blocked. There was a complete power outage. 1215 miles of transmission lines were on the grounds. Jasper County Emergency Management activated the EOC. As soon as the storm passed public works began clearing streets while police and fire began responding to emergency calls. By 10:00 p.m. all streets were opened or barricaded. Information was assimilated through the City of Newton website. Management is very proud of City staff. On August 12th Governor Reynolds issued a disaster proclamation to use state resources to help with debris management. Assistance was requested from the Iowa DOT. By August 11th 5% of power in Newton was restored. By August 15th, 75% of citizens had power. Many organizations opened their doors to assist citizens. On August 17th crews began collecting tree debris from the right of ways. By August 20th, 99% of power in Newton was restored. The remaining 1% were individuals that needed electrical assistance on their homes. The Mayor authorized assistance for the food waste disposal. Volunteers helped to clean up over 80 homes and the union cemetery.

During Mayor/Council comments Mullan asked that volunteers assist with the cleanup in the cemeteries.

It was moved by Mullan, seconded by Trotter to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

Michael L. Hansen, Mayor

Katrina Davis, City Clerk