NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2026, 6:00 PM

Pledge

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

Call to Order

1. Roll Call
   The City Council of Newton, Iowa met in regular session at 6:00 P.M. on the above date in the Council Chambers at 101 West 4th Street South. Mayor Ervin presided. Present Council Members: Mills, Roth, Dalton, Hallam, Simbro, Holschuh. Absent: None.

Presentation

2. Historic Preservation Commission Annual Report 2025 - Larry Hurto, HPC Chair

Citizen Participation

3. Dr. Troy Adolfson with FOCUSS to speak on a crisis stabilization center in Newton. Devaon Robinson, owner of the Therapy House, is hoping to bring services to Newton. Darnell Loatman, CEO of FOCUSS is trying to help Newton.

Consent Agenda
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Roth to approve consent agenda items 4-23. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

4. February 3, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
5. February 3, 2026 Workshop Minutes
6. Approve Liquor Licenses for the following: Legends American Grill - LC0050866, 1425 W 19th St S, Class C Retail Alcohol License and Outdoor Service renewal
7. Resolution appointing Grayson Bookbinder to the Newton Park Board
   Resolution 2026-045 adopted.
8. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 26-03)
   Resolution 2026-046 adopted.
9. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 26-04)
   Resolution 2026-047 adopted.
10. Resolution approving the 2025 Certified Local Government Annual Report for the Historic Preservation Commission
    Resolution 2026-048 adopted.
11. Resolution approving a Telecommunications Licensing Agreement with Unite Private Networks – UPN 10417
    Resolution 2026-049 adopted.
12. Resolution approving a Telecommunications Licensing Agreement with Unite Private Networks – UPN 10421
    Resolution 2026-050 adopted.
13. Resolution approving a Telecommunications Licensing Agreement with Windstream Iowa Communications, LLC – 713452123
    Resolution 2026-051 adopted.
14. Resolution Approving the Submittal of a Prairie Meadows Legacy Grant application for Parks Improvements
    Resolution 2026-052 adopted.
15. Resolution Providing the Authorization to Apply for Iowa Rural Heritage Grant to assist with Preservation Architect Design Services for the Caretaker's House at Maytag Park
    Resolution 2026-053 adopted.
16. Resolution approving Grant application for emergency replacement of the Newton Airport beacon
    Resolution 2026-054 adopted.
17. Resolution approving the donation of two Maytag Pool season passes to the Downtown Dreams Newton Main Street fundraiser
    Resolution 2026-055 adopted.

18. Resolution approving the donation of one Westwood Golf Course eighteen-hole, ten-punch pass to the Downtown Dreams Newton Main Street fundraiser
Resolution 2026-056 adopted.

19. Resolution approving a performance contract with Rhythmic Rewind for the Newton Fest concert on June 13, 2026
Resolution 2026-057 adopted.

20. Resolution accepting the Central Iowa Housing Trust Fund Forgivable Loan Agreement for a Very Low Income Water Line Replacement Program
Resolution 2026-058 adopted.

21. Resolution ordering bids, approving plans, specifications, form of contract, notice to bidders, ordering the clerk to publish the notice, fixing a date for receiving the same, for a public hearing on plans, specifications, form of contract, and estimate of costs for the 2026 city-wide HMA Project
Resolution 2026-059 adopted.

22. Resolution ordering bids, approving plans, specifications, and form of contract and notice to bidders, and ordering clerk to publish notice and fixing a date for receiving same, and for a public hearing on plans, specifications, form of contract, and estimate of costs for the Arbor Estates Third Addition Construction Project
Resolution 2026-060 adopted.

23. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

24. Public Hearing on a resolution approving the purchase agreement for City-owned property at 920-1100 West 22nd Street South and 2000-2112 South 11th Avenue West in Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Mayor Ervin stated that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing on the above Resolution. There were no written comments. Moved by Simbro, seconded by Dalton to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.

25. Resolution approving the purchase agreement for City-owned property at 920-1100 West 22nd Street South and 2000-2112 South 11th Avenue West in Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-061 adopted.

26. Public Hearing on a Resolution approving the preliminary plat of Arbor Estates Third Addition in the City of Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Mayor Ervin stated that this is the time and place for a Public Hearing on the above Resolution. There were no written comments. Moved by Dalton, seconded by Hallam to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.

27. Resolution approving the preliminary plat of Arbor Estates Third Addition in the City of Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-062 adopted.

Ordinance

28. Third Consideration of an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2016, Title V Public Works, by amending Chapter 53 Stormwater Utility
Moved by Mills, seconded by Holschuh to approve the third consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Third Consideration of the Ordinance was approved. Moved by Mills, seconded by Roth, to adopt the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2481 was adopted.

Resolution

29. Resolution approving a Newton Hotel-Motel Tourism Grant Program Application for $2,500 for the Washer City Card Convention from United Way of Jasper County
Moved by Dalton, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. Jessica Lowe-Volks spoke on the event. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-063 adopted.

30. Resolution approving a 28E Agreement between the City of Newton and Jasper County related to development services in the Newton Rail Park
Moved by Dalton, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Five. NAYS: Simbro. Resolution 2026-064 adopted.

31. Resolution purchasing a used lift from Smith Quality Rental for Newton Parks
Moved by Holschuh, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-065 adopted.

32. Resolution Approving the Purchase of a Pre-cast Flushable Toilet Restroom for Placement at Harmony Park
Moved by Roth, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-066 adopted.

33. Resolution Approving Purchase of Fishing Pier Dock System for Cardinal Pond
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-067 adopted.

34. Resolution Approving and Adopting a Revenue Purpose Statement for the Use or Expenditure of Revenues from an Electric Service Franchise Fee and a Natural Gas Service Franchise Fee
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. Hallam made a motion to table. Failed due to lack of a second. AYES: Five. NAYS: Hallam. Resolution 2026-068 adopted.

35. Resolution Authorizing the Use of a Preliminary Official Statement, and Providing for the Levy of Taxes to Pay General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2026A
Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-069 adopted.

36. Resolution approving Change Order 05 and accepting completion for the City of Newton Fire Department Engine Bay Floor Reinforcing Project
Moved by Roth, seconded by Holschuh to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-070 adopted.

Discussion

37. Urban Chickens and Ducks
Discussion ensued. Staff will put the same Ordinance on the next agenda with a 12-month sunset.

Mayor/Council Comments

38. Mayor and Council Comments
Mills hopes to continue to shape our community. He is grateful to be able to sit on the council and be a part of a decision-making process that can help others. Roth stated that about 120 folks came to the Night to Shine; it was a wonderful event. Mayor Ervin represented Newton at a Mayors meeting. It was interesting to hear other mayors speaking about the same issues and how they are planning for the future.

Adjourn

Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

Katrina Davis, City Clerk

Randy J. Ervin, Mayor

SEAL