NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 6, 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.

Proclamation

2. Proclamation Fair Housing Month - April 2026
Mayor Ervin proclaimed April as Fair Housing Month.

Presentation

3. Iowa Speedway Update — Eric Peterson, President
An economic impact study was done. Over $150 million dollar impact to the state of Iowa from bringing in the cup race. On track for another sell-out for 2026. Viewership for the race continues to grow. Will be hosting more events throughout the year. Sitting at about 160 events currently. On April 25th, we are hosting an open house. Bring out your family hoping to have as much involvement as possible. They appreciate everyone's support.

4. Newton High School Esports Program — Officer Kyle Lovan
Officer Kyle Lovan introduced student participants from Newton High School's growing e-sports program, highlighting its early success and impact. Lovan, who serves as the School Resource Officer, raised more than $24,000 in 2025 to launch the school's first competitive gaming team, providing students the opportunity to compete in titles such as Rocket League, Valorant, and Mario Kart through the Iowa High School Esports Association. The program has already seen strong engagement and competitive success, including a state showdown appearance in Rocket League during its inaugural year. Designed to mirror the benefits of traditional athletics, the initiative emphasizes teamwork, communication, and leadership, while also fostering positive relationships between students and law enforcement.

Citizen Participation

5. Janet Graber, 423 S 2nd Ave E, has an appeal with the Building Trades Board that has been put on hold. She asked the council to look at the current code before a vote is made. Dennis Kulp, 3 Holiday Ct, is concerned about adding fees to taxpayers. Scott Thompson, 2388 N 8th Ave E, is concerned about 9th Ave water management and people driving around the pond tearing things up. Eugene Lammers, 202 N 15th Ave W, spoke regarding the city budget.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Holschuh, seconded by Hallam to approve consent agenda items 6-33. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

6. March 16, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

7. March 26, 2026 Special City Council Minutes

8. Approve Liquor Licenses for the following: AmericInn, BW0097446, 4401 S 22nd Ave E, Special Class "C" Retail Alcohol License renewal; Casey's General Store #2417 - LE0002740, 1200 W 18th St S, Class E Retail Alcohol License renewal; Git-N-Go Convenience Store #14 - LG0000558, 801 1st Ave W, Class B Retail Alcohol License renewal; Hy-Vee Fast and Fresh, 1421 1st Ave E, Class E Retail Alcohol License renewal; Los Amigos Mexican Bar & Grill, LC0048081, 2002 1st Ave E, Class C Retail Alcohol License and Outdoor Service renewal

9. Approve 2026-2027 Cigarette/Tobacco/Nicotine/Vapor License for the following: Brew #96, 1325 1st Ave W; Brew #101, 1806 S 12th Ave W; Fareway #848, 120 N 3rd Ave E; Kwik Star #1001, 1910 1st Ave E

10. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 26-06)
Resolution 2026-101 adopted.

11. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 26-07)
Resolution 2026-102 adopted.

12. Resolution approving the purchase and up-fit services for two police patrol vehicles
Resolution 2026-103 adopted.

13. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the GG 115 LLC Property Located at 208 S 2nd Ave W Within the North Central Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2026-104 adopted.

14. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Newton Senior Residence, LLC Property Located Within the North Central Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2026-105 adopted.

15. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Leavenwealth Capital, LLC Property Located Within the North Central Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2026-106 adopted.

16. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Hotel Maytag Investors, LLC Property Located Within the North Central Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2026-107 adopted.

17. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Van Maanen Electric, Inc Property Located at 500 Iowa Speedway Drive Within the East Mart Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2026-108 adopted.

18. Resolution accepting completion of 2025 Water Treatment Clarifier Painting Project
Resolution 2026-109 adopted.

19. Resolution approving change order #1 and #2 for Westwood Golf Course Bridge Replacement and Repairs Project
Resolution 2026-110 adopted.

20. Resolution approving amendment #001 to the Engineering Services Agreement for Arbor Estates 3rd Addtion
Resolution 2026-111 adopted.

21. Resolution approving a non-standard use agreement with the property owner of 118 N 2nd Ave E.
Resolution 2026-112 adopted.

22. Resolution approving the donation of two Maytag Pool Season Passes to the Mercy One Newton Gala Fundraiser
Resolution 2026-113 adopted.

23. Resolution repealing the 2025 City of Newton Supplemental Specifications and SUDAS Standard Specifications and the Design Manual and adopting the 2026 editions of both the SUDAS Standard Specifications and Design Manual along with the 2026 City of Newton Supplemental Specifications to said 2026 editions of the SUDAS Standard Specifications and Design Manual.
Resolution 2026-114 adopted.

24. Resolution renewing agreement with Veenstra & Kimm for Building Inspection Services
Resolution 2026-115 adopted.

25. Resolution approving Engineering Design Services Agreement for the W 8th St Traffic Signal Upgrades Project
Resolution 2026-116 adopted.

26. Resolution accepting completion of the 2025 Tree Removal Project No. 3
Resolution 2026-117 adopted.

27. Resolution approving the purchase of a 2025 Yamaha Umax Cart with Range Cage Adapter
Resolution 2026-118 adopted.

28. Resolution awarding the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus harnesses and equipment.
Resolution 2026-119 adopted.

29. Resolution approving the appointment of an Assistant Fire Chief and establishing compensation
Resolution 2026-120 adopted.

30. Resolution to enter into an agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation for the W 8th St Traffic Signal Upgrades - Project Number CS-TSF-5482(625)--85-50
Resolution 2026-121 adopted.

31. Resolution Setting a Public Hearing Date to Approve the 2026-27 Operating Budget for the City of Newton
Resolution 2026-122 adopted.

32. Resolution setting a public hearing for the sale of city-owned property at 1017 West 4th Street South, Newton, Jasper county, Iowa
Resolution 2026-123 adopted.

33. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

34. Public Hearing on a resolution awarding a contract for the 2026 city wide HMA project
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 Roth to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.

35. Resolution awarding contract for the 2026 city wide HMA Project
Moved by Roth, seconded by Holschuh to adopt the Resolution. Mills indicated that he is employed by Manatt's and will abstain. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. ABSTAINED: Mills. Resolution 2026-124 adopted.

36. Public Hearing on a resolution awarding the contract for the Arbor Estates Third Addition Construction Project
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 Hallam, seconded by Mills to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.

37. Resolution Awarding Contract for the Arbor Estates Third Addition construction project
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Holschuh to adopt the Resolution. Dalton indicated that he is related to the bidder and will abstain. AYES: Five. NAYS: None. ABSTAINED: Dalton. Resolution 2026-125 adopted.

38. Public Hearing on a resolution awarding a contract for the 1st St N 8" Watermain Project
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 Holschuh, seconded by Dalton to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.

39. Resolution Awarding contract for the 1st St N 8" Watermain Project
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026- adopted.

Ordinance

40. Third Consideration on an Ordinance amending City of Newton Code of Ordinances Title IX: General Regulations, Chapter 94: Public Nuisances and Title XV, Land Usage, Chapter 158: Zoning pertaining to Urban Chickens & Ducks
Moved by Holschuh, seconded by Dalton to approve the third consideration of the Ordinance. Erika Patterson, 1421 N 8th Ave E, and Alexa Young, 313 E 13th St N, thanked everyone involved for supporting this ordinance. Hoping to use their Facebook group, "Backyard Birds for Newton", as a resource to make this a positive experience. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Third Consideration of the Ordinance was approved. Moved by Dalton, seconded by Mills, to adopt the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2483 was adopted.

41. First Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, Title XIII: General Offenses, Chapter 130: General Provisions, by Adding a New Section Regarding Public Intoxication
Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to approve the first consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. First Consideration of the Ordinance was approved.

Resolution

42. Resolution approving a Newton Hotel-Motel Tourism Grant Program Application for $2,500 for the Fierce Faith Music Festival
Moved by Dalton, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. Kristi Cummins spoke about the growing event which will be at the Iowa Speedway. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-127 adopted.

43. Resolution establishing Fee for Chicken and Ducks
Moved by Holschuh, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-128 adopted.

44. Resolution approving Downtown Improvement Grant funds for 122 N 2nd Ave W in the Signage Program Area

Moved by Hallam, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. Elyssa Niichel owner of Roots and Roosts, goal is to have a year around Farmers Market, a hair salon, and fresh flowers. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-129 adopted.

45. Resolution Awarding a contract for the construction of Harmony Park restroom footing and utility installation project
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. Brandy Conner, 709 E 10th St N, would like to make sure the restrooms are unlocked and available for use. Mayor Ervin indicated they would be on an automated timer. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-130 adopted.

46. Resolution Awarding a contract for the construction of the Cardinal Pond parking improvement project
Moved by Roth, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. Scott Thompson, 2388 N 8th Ave E, asked about the plan. Public Works Director, Grife, indicated there would be a gravel lot with ballads and safety chain to prevent people from driving around. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-131 adopted.

47. Resolution Approving Reorganziation of Staffing Postions for Westwood Golf Course
Moved by Holschuh, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-132 adopted.

Staff Report

48. Summer Events at the Library — Phyllis Peter, Youth Services Librarian
Newton Public Library offers a wide range of community-focused programs for all ages, funded through donations and partnerships, with a strong emphasis on literacy, lifelong learning, and accessibility. It highlights services like job-seeker support, a memory lab for digitizing media, STEM programs, storytimes, and outreach to schools and community groups. The library also runs popular initiatives such as the "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" program, summer reading programs, and free summer snacks, alongside events, workshops, and multi-generational activities. Additional offerings include STEM kits, board games, and play-based learning spaces, all aimed at making the library a hub for education, creativity, and community engagement.

Mayor/Council Comments

49. Mayor and Council Comments
Council discussed all the great programs the Library has. Simbro mentioned the progress on the sidewalk by Walmart. Mills thanked everyone for the stormwater progress and for all the events in the community; you should not be bored. Mayor Ervin stated that people don't pay taxes to a city, they pay taxes to a community; one they are helping to support. He mentioned the Sudanese Open House event. It was an awesome event. We are progressing the city every day. We are doing some great things and a family-oriented town.

Adjourn

Moved by Mills, seconded by Dalton to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

Katrina Davis, City Clerk

Randy J. Ervin, Mayor

SEAL