NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 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. 2026 Library Card Sign-Up Month Proclamation
   Mayor Ervin proclaimed September as National Library Card Sign-Up Month

Presentation

3. RSVP Update - Sarah Patterson, RSVP and Grant Program Director, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
   RSVP's Jasper County RIDE program, which provides medical transportation, had over 225 clients, provided 1578 rides in 2025 and approximately 30 volunteers drove 56,649 miles. Through the VITA tax assistance program, 25 volunteers filed 719 tax returns and secured $865,503 in returns for clients. RSVP is also in 22 K-4th grade classrooms in the Newton Elementary Schools. 25 dedicated volunteers tutor once a week mid September thru early May.

4. NDC Update - Frank Liebl, Executive Director, Newton Development Corporation
   NDC spent a lot of time developing the Newton Rail Park. There are 360 acres that could be developed overtime. Frank spoke regarding the leased spaces at Plant 2, Heartland Storage Solutions, Plant 1 Lofts at Legacy Plaza, Legacy's Green space, and IowaWORKS Mobile Unit. NDC received the 2026 Labor shed report. TPI now employs 660 employees. Frank presented a video of the blades going out on the tracks.

Citizen Participation

5. Jeff Maki, representing NAPTA, Newton Area Pickel Ball Tennis Association, wanted to thank the city. They have over 38 members in the inaugural league with 50 members all together. The tournaments brought a lot of visitors to town and they received some great feedback. They are looking to partner with the city for events in the future.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to approve consent agenda items 6 - 20. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

6. August 17, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
7. August 24, 2026 Special City Council Meeting Minutes
8. Approve Liquor Licenses for the following: Kwik Star #1001 - LG0000900, 1910 1st Ave E, Class B Retail Alcohol License renewal; Pit Stop Liquors - LE0004484, 1324 1st Ave E, Class E Retail Alcohol License renewal
9. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 26-14)
   Resolution 2026-318 adopted.
10. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule 26-15)
    Resolution 2026-319 adopted.
11. Resolution amending the City of Newton Financial Policy, Section 8, Purchasing Policy, subsection 2(b)
    Resolution 2026-320 adopted.
12. Resolution approving Change Order #1 and accepting completion of the construction of an open-air shelter kit for the Westwood clubhouse patio
    Resolution 2026-321 adopted.
13. Resolution Approving Transfer of Ownership for 721 East 7th Street North in Accordance with the Executed Purchase and Redevelopment Agreement
    Resolution 2026-322 adopted.

14. Resolution accepting completion of the project to deliver sand for the Cell D1/D2 project at the Newton Sanitary Landfill
Resolution 2026-323 adopted.

15. Resolution authorizing the purchase of plow snow blades for snow and ice control
Resolution 2026-324 adopted.

16. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Ex Nihilo Property Located at 107 1st Ave W Within the North Central Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2026-325 adopted.

17. Resolution amending the funding source for the purchase of barricades for community event street closures
Resolution 2026-326 adopted.

18. Resolution ordering bids, approving plans, specifications, form of contract, notice to bidders, ordering clerk to publish notice, fixing a date for receiving same, for a public hearing on plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of costs for the W 8th St Traffic Signal Upgrades Project
Resolution 2026-327 adopted.

19. Resolution approving payment to Leibold Irrigation, Inc. for reconnection of irrigation system at Westwood Golf Course following completion of the Westwood Golf Course bridge repairs
Resolution 2026-328 adopted.

20. Approve Bills

Public Hearing

21. Public Hearing on a Resolution Approving the Purchase and Redevelopment Agreement for 827 East 8th Street South, 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 Mills, seconded by Roth to close the public hearing. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The public hearing was closed.

22. Resolution Approving the Purchase and Redevelopment Agreement for 827 East 8th Street South, Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-329 adopted.

Ordinance

23. First consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Newton, Iowa, 2025, Title VII, Chapter 70, Section 70.15, "Traffic and Parking Schedules Adopted by Reference", to make changes to street parking in southeast Newton
Moved by Holschuh, seconded by Simbro to approve the first consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. First Consideration of the Ordinance was approved. Moved by Dalton, seconded by Hallam to suspend the rules and waive the second and third consideration of the Ordinance. AYES: Five. NAYS: Holschuh. Motion passed. Moved by Dalton, seconded by Roth, to adopt the Ordinance. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Ordinance 2492 was adopted.

Resolution

24. Resolution calling a special election, setting March 2, 2027, as the Special Election Date and adopting ballot language on the proposition of a new electric utility franchise agreement between the City of Newton and Interstate Power and Light Company
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. Moved by Roth, seconded by Holschuh to postpone the resolution to the next meeting to review the language. AYES: Four. NAYS: Hallam, Mills. Resolution was postponed.

25. Resolution calling a special election, setting March 2, 2027, as the special election date and adopting ballot language on the proposition of a franchise fee on energy providers operating in the City of Newton, Iowa
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Roth to adopt the Resolution. Moved by Roth, seconded by Holschuh to postpone the resolution to the next meeting to review the language. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution was postponed.

26. Resolution Approving Amendments to the Rental Inspection Program Policy
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-330 adopted.

27. Resolution approving Utilities Department Compensation Adjustments
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Roth to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-331 adopted.

28. Resolution approving a Newton Hotel-Motel Tourism Grant Program Application for $2,472.11 for the Newton Arboretum & Botanical Gardens Fall Festival
Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-332 adopted.

29. Resolution approving a Newton Hotel-Motel Tourism Grant Program Application for $2,300 for the Newton Arboretum & Botanical Gardens Scary on the Prairie
Moved by Holschuh, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-333 adopted.

Staff Report

30. Fire Department Annual Report — Jarrod Wellik, Fire Chief

31. Library Annual Report - Nicole Terry, Library Director

Mayor/Council Comments

32. Mayor and Council Comments
Council discussed Dolly Parton's passing and the great benefit of the Imagination Library that she provided. They spoke about the splash pad restroom, and goal setting coming up on September 21st. Roth provided an update on her cancer diagnosis. Mayor Ervin spoke about teaching at West Academy about the structure of government and touring Nucor. He announced that KCOB would be live again in October, about the Landmark Arts Festival that takes place at the DMACC Newton Campus on Saturday, September 19, and that the city will be pursuing Buc-ee's. He invited everyone to participate in the Homecoming block party and parade on Thursday.

Closed Session

33. To Evaluate The Professional Competency Of Individuals Whose Appointment, Hiring, Performance Or Discharge Is Being Considered When Necessary To Prevent Needless And Irreparable Injury To That Individual's Reputation And That Individual Request A Closed Session. Pursuant To The Provisions Of Section 21.5(1)(i), Code of Iowa 2026
At 9:01 P.M., it was moved by Mills, seconded by Holschuh to go into closed session. The city attorney advised the council that they had legal authority to do so. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The motion passed.

Return to Open Session

34. Return to Open Session
Council returned to open session at 11:36 P.M. with all members present.

Adjourn

Moved by Dalton, seconded by Roth to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

Katrina Davis, City Clerk

Randy J. Ervin, Mayor

SEAL