NEWTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 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. National Community Planning Month
   Mayor Ervin proclaimed October as Community Planning Month.
3. National Fire Prevention Week - October 4-10, 2026
   Mayor Ervin proclaimed October 4-10 as Fire Prevention Week with the theme, "Charge into Fire Safety; Safe Charging is a Superpower."

Presentation

4. United Way of Jasper County Update - Jessica Lowe Vokes, Executive Director
   Jessica Lowe Vokes provided information on the events and activities of United Way over the last year.
5. NHDC Update - Bruce Showalter, Housing Director
   Bruce Showalter provided information on the activities of Newton Housing Development over the last year.

Citizen Participation

6. There was no citizen participation.

Consent Agenda
Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to approve consent agenda items 7-20. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Consent Agenda was adopted.

7. September 21, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
8. September 21, 2026 City Council Goal Setting Workshop Minutes
9. Resolution Appointing Doug Cook to serve on the Newton Building Trades Board for an unexpired term ending December 31, 2026, and to serve on the Newton Building Trades Board for a term beginning January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2029
   Resolution 2026-354 adopted.
10. Resolution levying assessments for costs of nuisance abatement and providing for the payment thereof (Schedule 26-16)
    Resolution 2026-355 adopted.
11. Resolution fixing the amounts to be assessed against individual private properties for the abatement of nuisance violations (Schedule No. 26-17)
    Resolution 2026-356 adopted.
12. Resolution approving a professional services agreement with Bolton & Menk for the Watershead Delination Project
    Resolution 2026-357 adopted.
13. Resolution approving professional services agreement with Bolton & Menk for platting Memorial Park Cemetery Lots
    Resolution 2026-358 adopted.
14. Resolution Authorizing the City of Newton and the Newton Fire Department to Enter into a 28E Agreement for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Transportation with Jasper County Emergency Management Agency Emergency Medical Service
    Resolution 2026-359 adopted.
15. Resolution Approving Reimbursement of Paramedic Program Expenses for Josh Seal
    Resolution 2026-360 adopted.
16. Resolution to enter into agreements with the Iowa DOT and Key Cooperative, Inc. for the Highway 14 Reconstruction (NHSX-014-4(073) --3H-50) Project
    Resolution 2026-361 adopted.

17. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the CRH Properties LLC Property Located at 117 1st Ave W Within the North Central Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2026-362 adopted.

18. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Jasper Point Plaza, LLC Property Located Within the 1st Avenue East Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2026-363 adopted.

19. Resolution Approving a Property Tax Rebate for the Nehring Auto Property Located at 1800 1st Ave E Within the 1st Avenue East Urban Renewal Area
Resolution 2026-364 adopted.

20. Approve Bills

Resolution

21. Resolution approving the granting of Downtown Improvement Grant funds for 104 1st Ave East, Newton, IA in the Facade Improvement Program area.
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-365 adopted.

22. Resolution approving the granting of Downtown Housing Grant funds for 104 1st Ave East, Newton, IA
Moved by Dalton, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-366 adopted.

23. Resolution adopting the 2026-2028 City Council Goals for the City of Newton
Moved by Mills, seconded by Roth to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-367 adopted.

24. Resolution approving the City of Newton Social Media Policy
Moved by Mills, seconded by Simbro to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-368 adopted.

25. Resolution approving amendments to the City of Newton Employee Handbook
Moved by Mills, seconded by Holschuh to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-369 adopted.

26. Resolution approving the FY2028 and FY2029 wage agreement with Public Professional and Maintenance Employees Local 2003 (Police)
Moved by Hallam, seconded by Mills to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-370 adopted.

27. Resolution approving the FY2028 and FY2029 wage agreement with the Newton Association of Professional Fire Fighters
Moved by Mills, seconded by Roth to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-371 adopted.

28. Resolution approving the FY2028 and FY2029 wage agreement with Teamsters Local 120
Moved by Mills, seconded by Hallam to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-372 adopted.

29. Resolution adopting fee schedule for Westwood Golf Course for 2027
Moved by Holschuh, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. Moved by Hallam, seconded by Dalton to amend the Newton citizen discount rate from 5% to 10% on punch cards and season memberships. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. The amendment passed. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-373 was adopted as amended.

30. Resolution approving a rate increase for City Attorney prosecution services
Moved by Simbro, seconded by Roth to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-374 adopted.

31. Resolution approving Pool Pavilion flooring project by Accents in Concrete, Inc.
Moved by Roth, seconded by Dalton to adopt the Resolution. AYES: Six. NAYS: None. Resolution 2026-375 adopted.

Appeal Hearing

32. Vacant Building Ordinance Appeal Hearing for 321 1st Avenue East
Property owners Richard & Janet Graber are appealing city staff's determination that their building located at 321 1st Avenue East is vacant, by definition of Newton's Vacant Building Ordinance and the Permitted Uses within the city's Central Business District commercial zone. City staff presented information related to the Vacant Building Ordinance. Janet Graber, one of the property owners, indicated that the identified vacant space was utilized for storage and a private workshop, and further stated that the building was properly maintained and insured. Council will make a determination at a subsequent meeting.

33. Vacant Building Ordinance Appeal Hearing for 109 East 4th Street South
Property owners Richard & Janet Graber are appealing city staff's determination that their building located at 109 East 4th Street South is vacant, by definition of Newton's Vacant Building Ordinance and the Permitted Uses within the city's Central Business District commercial zone. City staff presented information related to the Vacant Building Ordinance. Janet Graber, one of the property owners, indicated that the identified vacant space was utilized for storage and a private workshop, and further stated that the building was properly maintained and insured. Council will make a determination at a subsequent meeting.

Staff Report

34. Legislative Updates Impacting Community Development - Erin Chambers, Community Development Director
Chambers presented Legislative updates that will affect Community Development, such as SF 2378 Zoning Regulations & Boards of Adjustment Appeals, SF 2369 Accessory Dwelling Unit technical corrections, HF 2800 NEC preemption & technical corrections, HF 2297 Passive Radon Mitigation, and HF 2634 Perpetual Care Government Cemeteries.

35. Police Department - Rob Burdess, Police Chief
Burdess presented the police department's annual report.

Mayor/Council Comments

36. Mayor and Council Comments
Simbro is happy to say the jake break ordinance has helped to keep the noise down. Mills reiterated that with all the activities in Newton it is hard to be bored; there is always something going on. He also thanked the presenters and indicated that council would be getting an answer for the Grabers. He thanked Chief Burdess and the department for their work, knowing they would be the first to show up. He encouraged citizens to get to know the officers. Mills encourages citizens to educate themselves on the Flock cameras. It's a technology that is there to help. You are already on camera somewhere. Roth announced that the winners were announced tonight at the Main Street Iowa Open for Business contest. Fuego Hot Glass of Newton received $10,000 in a tie for 3rd place. Mayor Ervin announced several events coming up such as Scary on the Praire, a Desert Sale at the Alta House, the Art Festival was amazing, and the Gray Moon pie contest was fun. There are some new businesses opening, such as a bakery across from PJs Deli. Also, join Newton Community School at the home football game on Friday night.

Adjourn

Moved by Mills, seconded by Roth to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 P.M. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

Katrina Davis, City Clerk

Randy J. Ervin, Mayor

SEAL