MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEWTON CITY COUNCIL
January 22, 2019 – 7 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Newton City Council was held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at Newton City Hall.

PRESENT: Mayor Anne P. Stedman, Mayor Pro Tem John Stiver and Council Members Jerry Hodge, Anne Wepner, Jody Dixon, Tom Rowe and Ed Sain

STAFF: City Manager Todd Clark, City Clerk Amy S. Falowski, City Attorney John Cilley, City Department Heads and members of the management team

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Anne P. Stedman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

ITEM 2: OPENING Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Jody Dixon provided the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made by Council Member Jerry Hodge, seconded by Council Member Ed Sain, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That the Regular Minutes of the January 8, 2019 City Council meeting be – APPROVED

ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Upon motion duly made by Council Member Anne Wepner, seconded by Council Member Ed Sain, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That the Consent Agenda be – APPROVED

A. Sewer Adjustments

(Ordinances, Resolutions and Proclamations are hereby referenced and on file in the Office of the City Clerk)

ITEM 5: COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: PEOPLE WHO WISH TO COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS ARE ASKED TO SIGN IN WITH THE CITY CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

Mayor Anne P. Stedman asked if anyone present would like to make comment concerning non-agenda items.

Mr. Laddie Ford Jr., South Caldwell Street, stated that

ITEM 6: Presentation

A. St. Andrews Anglican Church – Check Presentation

Ms. Virgina Reid, St. Andrews Anglican Church, stated on behalf of the church and her granddaughter, she would like to present the city with a $100 check for the Streetscape Project. Mayor Stedman thanked Ms. Reid and the church on behalf of the entire City Council and Staff.
B. Fiscal Year 2018 Audit

Jennifer Rice of Martin-Starnes & Associates presented the City Council with the 2018 Audited Financial Statement. Ms. Rice stated that the financial statements of the City of Newton present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position which results in an unqualified opinion. Ms. Rice stated that this opinion basically means the auditors feel the City followed all accounting rules appropriately and that the financial statements are an accurate reflection of the financial position of the City with no material misstatements.

Ms. Rice stated that the Finance Staff was very cooperative, and that her staff was very appreciative of this.

City Manager Todd Clark thanked Ms. Rice and also Vickie Thomas, Finance Director, and her staff for the great job that they do for the City, and stated that the audit is available to the public on the City’s website.

ITEM 7: Old Business

A. Consideration Reimbursement for Water Line Replacement Project on N. Ship Ave.

Public Works and Utilities Director Dusty Wentz stated that in July of 2018 City staff was made aware of low water pressure at five homes on the 2100 block of North Shipp Ave. The pressure was 15 psi, which is below the required 20 psi to maintain positive pressure to prevent backflow. After some investigation, it was determined that all five homes were all connected on the same one (1) inch line. Mr. Wentz explained that because of the severity, staff brought in engineering to start the permitting process with the State. Staff proceeded with ordering material to replace the 420 feet of one (1) inch water line with a new six (6) inch water main. Mr. Wentz stated that city staff did the installation, and that it included six (6) new water service lines and one (1) new fire hydrant. Mr. Wentz stated that this project was completed the first part of November 2018, and that currently customers on the 2100 block of North Shipp Ave have sufficient water supply with good fire flow on a new fire hydrant.

Mr. Wentz stated the Distribution Supplies and Maintenance line item in the adopted fiscal year 2019 budget is $168,500.00. This budget is for all water distribution and sewer collection line repairs and minor replacements. As of January 15, 2019, there is $16,921.68 and just over four months left in this budget year. Mr. Wentz explained that the Distribution – Collections division typically averages about $15,000 per month in spending out of this budget.

Mr. Wentz stated that to complete this water line project, staff transferred $12,800.00 out of distribution supplies and maintenance budget to pay for engineering and did spend $18,849.76 on materials to get adequate water supply to five residents. He explained that the total cost without labor and equipment was $31,649.76. The Distribution Supplies and Maintenance line item budget needs this amount to make it to the end of current fiscal year.

Mr. Wentz stated that staff recommends that council approve the attached budget ordinance amendment to reimburse the Distribution Supplies and Maintenance line item for the replacement of the N. Shipp Ave. water line.

Upon motion duly made by Council Member Jody Dixon, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem John Stiver, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That the Budget Ordinance Amendment to Reimburse the Distribution Supplies and Maintenance Line Item for the Replacement of the N. Shipp Ave. Water Line be – ADOPTED.

(Ordinances, Resolutions and Proclamations are hereby referenced and on file in the Office of the City Clerk)
ITEM 8: New Business

A. Consideration of Budget Amendment to Establish a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for Both the Public Works Facility and the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Public Works and Utilities Director Dusty Wentz stated that The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and United States Environmental Protection Agency requires both our Public Works Facility and Wastewater Treatment Plant have individual storm water permits. At Public Works, the permit is required due to the garage and the wash bay. At the Wastewater Treatment Plant, a permit is required due to the sewage treatment process with a design flow of 1.0 million gallons per day. Mr. Wentz stated that under both permits, a storm water pollution prevention plan is required to be in place. This plan is very comprehensive.

Mr. Wentz stated that staff reached out to The Wooten Company for a price to assist the City in developing storm water pollution prevention plans. A lump sum price to complete each of the plans is as follows:

Public Works Facility: $14,000.00
Wastewater Treatment Plant: $11,000.00

Mr. Wentz stated that this mandated requirement was not funded in this year’s budget and is time sensitive. He explained that failure to create the storm water pollution prevention plans will result in an inability to obtain the required permit, and daily fines up to $25,000 per day.

Mr. Wentz stated that Staff recommends that Council adopt the attached budget amendment for development of two storm water pollution prevention plans.

Upon motion duly made by Council Member Ed Sain, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem John Stiver, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That the Budget Ordinance Amendment for Development of Two Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans be – ADOPTED.

(Ordinances, Resolutions and Proclamations are hereby referenced and on file in the Office of the City Clerk)

B. Consideration of a Creation of Three-way Stop at the Intersection of County Center Drive and Constitution Avenue

Interim Police Chief Tim Hayes stated that in August of 2018, staff received a letter from Shuford Abernehty, President of Abingdon Senior Housing Services, Inc., about concerns that residents of Stonecrest Townhomes are having at the intersection of County Center Drive and Trial Place. He explained that specifically, neighbors are concerned with “limited site distance as you enter County Center Drive from Trial Place and the speed in which cars travel on County Center Drive”. As the Azalea Glen project progresses staff felt now was a good time to address these concerns. Police, Planning and Public Works analyzed these concerns and after a site visit it was determined that adjustments could easily be made to the existing traffic flow structure.

Interim Chief Hays stated that staff recommends the stop sign at the intersection of Trial Place and Constitution Avenue be changed to a yield sign. Staff also recommends two stop signs be added to County Center Drive, one to be located on County Center Drive at the intersection of Constitution Avenue traveling west and one located on County Center Drive at the intersection of Constitution Avenue traveling east.
Council Member Tom Rowe asked how many citizens have complained. Interim Chief Hayes stated that two citizens have complained. Mr. Rowe stated that he is 100 percent against changing the intersection. Council Member Ed Sain stated that he has gone out and looked three times, and that he agrees with Mr. Rowe. Mr. Rowe said that there are some bushes and a tree there that could be trimmed for visibility.

Mayor Stedman stated that this could be revisited by Council in the future if needed.

**ITEM 9: City Manager’s Report**

**Meetings & Events**

- Feb 5-8 – City Council/Staff Workshop 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
  - BAC Workshop
- Feb 13 – Catawba County Chamber of Commerce Shareholders and Investors Meeting, Hickory Metro Convention Center – 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Feb 15 – Breakfast with the Stars – Western Steer, 7:00 a.m.

**Other Projects**

- Leaf Collection ends January 18th
- CIP
- Budget
- Annual Audit
- AVAC at Central Recreation
- Update on Fire Dept. Heavy Rescue Vehicle Purchase
- Star Awards
- Water/Sewer Rate Study
- Update on 20th Street
- High School Intern
- Valley Drive Line Replacement
- Streetscape Meeting with Downtown Businesses

**Employee Updates**

- Patrick Moore, Landscaper with the Parks and Recreation Department, attended and successfully completed the National Recreation and Park Association course. Patrick is now a Certified Public Playground Safety Inspector
- Greg Moser, Maintenance Worker with the Parks and Recreation Department, completed a 132 credit hour course and received a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education/Agricultural Professional Services and secondary major in Plant and Soil Science
- Sgt. Jason Hill, with the Police Department, received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Arizona State University with a major in history and minor in religious studies

**ITEM 10: Questions and Comments from Mayor and Council**

Mayor Stedman asked if there were any questions or comments from City Council.

Mayor Pro Tem John Stiver gave a report on the Tree Board and ElectriCities.
ITEM 11:  Closed Session – Per North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4), 143-318.11(a)(5)

Upon motion duly made by Council Member Jerry Hodge, seconded by Council Member Ed Sain, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That City Council enter CLOSED SESSION per General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4), 143-318.11(a)(5)

Motion was then made by Council Member Jody Dixon, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem John Stiver to return to open session.

All ayes.

ITEM 12:  Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Mayor Pro Tem John Stiver, seconded by Council Member Jody Dixon, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That the Meeting be – ADJOURNED

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Anne P. Stedman, Mayor

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Amy S. Falowski, City Clerk