The regular meeting of the Newton City Council was held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, 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 Ed Sain provided the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3:  APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

That the Regular Minutes of the March 19, 2019 City Council meeting be – APPROVED

ITEM 4:  CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Jerry Hodge asked that Item G be moved off the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

That Item G be on the Consent Agenda be – REMOVED for Further Discussion

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

That the Consent Agenda be – APPROVED

A.  Tax Releases

B.  Sewer Adjustments

C.  Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month

D.  Proclamation – Telecommunicator’s Week

E.  Consideration to Receive Donated Communications Center Consoles – Police Department

F.  Consideration to Adopt a Budget Ordinance Amendment to Recognize Donation – Police Department

G.  Consideration to Approve Easement – Duke Energy - Moved
ITEM G: Consideration to Approve Easement – Duke Energy *Moved From Consent

Public Works and Utilities Director Dusty Wentz stated that city staff has been working with Duke Energy since February of this year to extend service to a home that is currently under construction in the vicinity of 3275 Mt. Olive Church Road. The new home will be served by Duke Energy, but Duke needs an easement from the City of Newton. Mr. Wentz explained that this is not a customer choice situation and the City needs to work cooperatively with Duke Energy by granting the easement. In order to facilitate service, Duke needs to pull power from an existing transformer at a wastewater pump station owned by the City which is located at 3275 Mt. Olive Church Road. Consequently, a deeded easement is required by Duke Energy.

Mr. Wentz stated that as with the existing transformer, the easement will be 10 feet on either side of the power line as installed. An exhibit is attached showing the proposed work. The requested deed of easement is also attached. All documents have been reviewed by our city attorney.

Mr. Wentz stated that staff recommends City Council approve the attached Deed of Easement for the Mayor’s signature.

Council Member Jerry Hodge asked if there would be an impact of easements on property within the city limits. He asked how water/sewer would be impacted by easement to electric utility and how it being outside the city limits how the county might impact other easements and utilities. City Manager Todd Clark stated that this is on Mt. Olive Church Road for a residential customer served by Duke Energy, not in urban area. No density of homes would be impacted by existing service. Mr. Hodge stated that he just wanted to bring it up because it was mentioned in a workshop 4 years ago.

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

That the Deed of Easement from the City of Newton be – APPROVED.

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.

Carolyn Deal stated that she lives in Startown ad that she would like to know if there is any plan to extend sewer in to that area. She stated that the annexation happened nearly 26 years ago and that she has garbage pickup, one light, and excellent police service but she feels like there should be a plan for sewer.

Mayor Stedman thanked Ms. Deal for her questions, and explained that it is and has been an ongoing discussion and that getting to all unserved citizens is a goal of City Council.
ITEM 6:  Presentations

A. Presentation to the Catawba County Historical Museum

Mayor Stedman and City Council presented a piece of a wooden water pipe, which was uncovered during the streetscape project, to the Catawba County Historical Museum. Planning Director Randy Williams and Mayor Stedman also thanked Randy Walker, Newton Fire Department Battalion Chief, for helping to preserve the water pipe by treating it.

B. Catawba County Library – Suzanne White

Library Director Suzanne White presented a PowerPoint highlighting recent happenings at the Catawba County Library.

ITEM 7:  Old Business

A. Consideration to Accept the Asset Inventory and Assessment Technical Grant

Public Works and Utilities Director Dusty Wentz stated that in April 2016, Staff applied for and received two $150,000 ($300,000 total) grants for investigation of the water and sewer systems. The city’s match was $15,000 for each ($30,000 total). The North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (NCDENR) require Council formally adopt the reports once they are concluded.

Mr. Wentz stated that the water system grant study investigated the locations of the 16” water main located along Northwest Boulevard from W. 15th street to Boundary Street. The objective of this study was to locate “lost” connections with other sewer mains and possible existing valves that had been covered or paved over. Investigation was completed using ground penetrating radar and some small onsite excavation (“potholing”). Mr. Wentz stated that this study was created after a break in the water main near AC Little Rd necessitated shutting down the water system for approximately 24 hours. The study did locate several connections to other water mains and inoperable valves. Staff has created a Capital Improvements Project to insert valves to allow isolation of the 16” water main.

Mr. Wentz stated that the sewer system grant study investigated sources of infiltration and inflow (I & I) in the western basin. He explained the study included smoke testing, dye testing and sewer camera investigation. Several smaller issues were found and have been corrected in house, and the W. 15th and Greenway Sewer repair projects were created from the findings of this study.

Mr. Wentz stated that once both reports are accepted by council, Staff will forward the meeting minutes containing the council motions to the state and close out both grants.

Mr. Wentz recommended that the Council accept, in two separate motions, the Asset Inventory and Assessment Grant Water System Report and the Asset Inventory and Assessment Grant Sewer System Report.

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

That the Asset Inventory and Assessment Grant Water System Report be – ACCEPTED.

Upon motion duly made by Council Member Jody Dixon, seconded by Council Member Tom Rowe, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That the Asset Inventory and Assessment Grant Sewer System Report be – ACCEPTED.
ITEM 8:  New Business

A. Downtown Newton Development Association – Shannon Johnson
   - Annual Report

Main Street Coordinator Shannon Johnson presented the Downtown Newton Development Association’s Annual Report to City Council.

   - Downtown District Change Recommendation

Ms. Johnson requested that City Council consider an expansion of the downtown Newton district. The current district encompasses an area between Little’s Carburetor Shop and South to D. St.; also from Ashe Ave. to Brady Ave.

Ms. Johnson explained that the DNDA is recommending that the district stay the same from North to South (Little’s to D. St.) but expand from the railroad tracks on the East side of downtown to Northwest Blvd/Business 321. She explained that this will increase the service area for the DNDA’s Main Street programming which will allow more possible businesses, infill lots, and expansions.

Ms. Johnson requested that City Council decide whether to authorize the expansion of the downtown business district as requested by Shannon Johnson of Downtown Newton Development.

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

That the Expansion of the Downtown Business District as Requested by the Downtown Newton Development be – AUTHORIZED.

B. Consideration of Budget Ordinance Amendment and Bid Award for Lime Slaker

Public Works and Utilities Director Dusty Wentz stated that the Clark Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant has two lime feed and slaking system. Lime is used to control the PH in wasted sludge. Once the sludge is at a certain consistency and PH, it is transported to local fields where it is land applied.

Mr. Wentz explained that the North Carolina Department of Quality land application requires that sludge will need to be at a certain PH level before land applying. He stated that not meeting requirements for land applications will prompt fines and environmental problems.

Mr. Wentz stated that the number one (1) lime slaking unit is forty-five (45) years old and no longer operational. Staff has rebuilt and replaced parts for both lime feeders over the past years. Replacement of this equipment was included in the 2019 CIP.

Mr. Wentz stated that staff requested pricing for the replacement of the lime slaking unit at the City’s Waste Water Treatment Plant. The request was for a single vendor to sell and install the unit as a turnkey installation. Staff received three (3) proposals from this request. Only two (2) vendors were able to do a turnkey installation. The other would only sell, but not install.
Three quotes were received.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contractor/Vendor</th>
<th>Quote</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kemp Construction Inc.</td>
<td>$179,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rota-Tech</td>
<td>$119,241.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrick</td>
<td>Nonresponsive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr. Wents stated that Rota-Tech is the lowest responsive bidder at $119,241.00. Adding $11,900 for contingency, the total amount for replacing the number one (1) lime slaking unit is $131,141.00.

Mr. Wentz requested that City Council award replacement of the lime slacker to Rota-Tech in the amount of $119,241 and approve the attached budget ordinance amendment.

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

That the Bid for the Replacement of the Lime Slacker to Rota-Tech in the amount of $119,241 be – AWARDED.

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

That the Budget Ordinance Amendment be – ADOPTED.

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

C. Consideration of Budget Ordinance Amendment – 20th Street Storm Water Rehabilitation Project

City Manager Todd Clark stated that City Staff has been working with NCDOT over the last twelve months to address a severe flooding problem on East 20th Street in Newton. The issue involves a network of storm drains that are maintained by NCDOT and an associated drainage system located on two abutting parcels of land, which are both under private ownership.

Mr. Clark stated that in order to address flooding on 20th Street during heavy rain events, the City has worked with NCDOT and the private property owners to develop a solution to the problem which includes a financial contribution to the rehabilitation of the storm drain system in the area. The two abutting property owners have made financial contributions of $2,500 each for a total private contribution of $5,000. In the spirit of cooperating with NCDOT and working with the two property owners, the staff recommends a financial contribution of $25,000 from the City of Newton.

Mr. Clark explained that if City Council authorizes the attached budget amendment, NCDOT will move forward with final engineering plans and specifications for the project. NCDOT will also be responsible for bidding, contracting and administrative oversight of the entire project.

Mr. Clark stated that staff recommends approval of the proposed budget amendment in the amount of $25,000.

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

That the Budget Ordinance Amendment in the amount of $25,000 be – ADOPTED.

(Ordinances, Resolutions and Proclamations are hereby referenced and on file in the Office of the City Clerk)
ITEM 9: City Manager’s Report

Meetings & Events

- April 18th - Celebration of Parks and Recreation Employees Event, Recreation Center Lower Parking Lot – 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- April 18th Compost will be given out Free to Public 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. This will continue Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays until all is gone
- April 25th – WPCOG Annual Meeting – 6:00 p.m., Hickory Metro Convention Center
- April 27th – Spring Litter Sweep – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Starting at Westside Park
- April 27th – Public Art Commission Plein Air Paint Out – 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Starting at Wisk & Barrel, Wet Paint Art Show starting at 3:00 p.m. at Wisk & Barrel
- May 2nd – WPCOG Mayors/Chairs/Managers Meeting, Rock Barn Country Club & Spa – 6:00 p.m.
- May 14-16 – NCLM CityVision Conference, Hickory
- May 15th – Key Accounts Luncheon, Old Post Office Play House – 11:00 a.m.
- May 22nd – Public Works Equipment Rodeo, Southside Park – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Budget Workshops, All Will Begin at 5:15 p.m. – Council Chamber

*May 7, 2019 City Council Meeting – Presentation of Budget

May 13, 2019
May 15, 2019
May 16, 2019

*If needed

*May 20, 2019
*May 21, 2019
*May 22, 2019

Other Projects

- Splash Pad Update
- Streetscape Project Update/Amphitheater Construction
- Website Project
- Greenway Extension
- Teen Leadership (April)
- Valley Drive Waterline
- Newton-Conover Schools Job Fair
- Central Rec HVAC Update
- Fire Heavy Rescue Truck Update
- Valley Drive Waterline Update
- Tree Trimming – 2nd Week of May
- Sewer Projects Update
- Heavy Rescue Truck Update
- Fence at Main Cemetery
ITEM 10: Questions and Comments from Mayor and Council

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

Council Member Jerry Hodge gave reports on the Western Piedmont Council of Governments Policy Board and the MPO Transportation Advisory Board.

ITEM 11: Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Council Member Jody Dixon, seconded by Council Member Jerry Hodge, 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