The regular meeting of the Newton City Council was held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 1, 2018 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 Jerry Hodge provided the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

That the Regular Minutes of the May 1, 2018 City Council meeting be – APPROVED

ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

That the Consent Agenda be – APPROVED

A. Tax Releases – April 2018

B. Sewer Adjustments

C. Consideration of Resolution to Write Off Uncollectible Accounts and the Related Budget Ordinance Amendment

(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. No one appeared.

ITEM 6: Presentations

A. Teen leadership

Mayor Anne Stedman presented welcomed this year’s Teen Leadership Groups. Five different groups gave presentations to City Council. Mayor Stedman thanked them all for their hard work and dedication to the program.
B. Bike Rack Design

Planning Director Randy Williams gave a brief presentation concerning the selected bike rack designs submitted to the City by Newton-Conover High School Art Students.

ITEM 7: New Business

A. Consideration of the Newton Rural Service District Contract with Catawba County

Fire Chief Kevin Yoder stated that the City of Newton Fire Department currently provides fire protection services to approximately 25 square miles of rural area adjacent to the City of Newton corporate limits. This area is referred to as the “Newton Rural Service District”. Chief Yoder stated that emergency services within the “Newton Rural Service District” are funded through a service district tax. The service district tax rate is currently 9.00 cents per $100 valuation. This fire tax generates approximately $450,000 of annual revenue.

Chief Yoder explained The “Newton Rural Service District Tax” is proposed to increase to 12.00 cents per $100 valuation. This increase will generate an additional $154,000. Chief Yoder stated that the request, if authorized by Catawba County, will be used for salary and benefits associated with six new positions within the Fire Department that are partially funded through a 2016 federal SAFER grant award. The proceeds from the grant are to be distributed over a three year grant period.

Chief Yoder stated that Catawba County has also requested additional services from the City including the addition of medical first response and rescue throughout the entire rural area. A modification to the rural service district contract is necessary if the City chooses to accept the added responsibility.

Chief Yoder stated that in consideration of the added responsibility for providing medical first response and rescue, Catawba County is offering a combination loan and grant for the purchase of a new rescue/hazardous materials truck with an estimated value of $900,000. Under the terms of this agreement, the County agrees to provide the City of Newton a loan at 0% interest and a grant equivalent to 25% of the purchase price of the apparatus. The City will make flat annual debt service payments to Catawba County for a term of 15 years for 75% of the cost of the apparatus. The loan amount for 75% of the cost of an apparatus valued at $900,000 is $675,000. The annual debt service payment on the $675,000 loan will be $45,000. The grant pledged by Catawba County is valued at $225,000. Chief Yoder explained that in the event the City or County terminates the service agreement prior to the maturity of the loan, the City will be responsible for repaying Catawba County the remainder of the outstanding loan debt with interest (6% interest) and refund a portion of the grant proceeds calculated on prorated basis over the 15 year term ($15,000 per year for the remainder of the term of the loan).

Chief Yoder stated that a proposed service contract has been drafted cooperatively between the City and County, including attorneys for both, for City Council review.

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

That the Newton Rural Service District Contract with Catawba County be – APPROVED

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

ITEM 8: City Manager’s Report

Meetings & Events

• May 17th – Retirement Lunch for Tim Dumire, 12:00 p.m., Public Works
**Next City Council Meeting June 5, 2018**

Public Hearing Scheduled for Adoption

**Other Projects**

- Town Hall Meetings
- Streetscape Revitalization Project Sign Boards Installed on Courthouse Square
- Electronic Utility Payment System
- Water and Sewer Connections for New Customers
- Christmas Ornaments
- Project Updates on Hwy 16 Water Extension
- Balls Creek and Buffalo Shoals Water Extension Projects

ITEM 9: 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 reports on the Tree Board, Business Advisory Committee and ElectriCities.

ITEM 10: Closed Session – Per North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(5)

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

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

Motion was then made by Council Member Ed Sain, seconded by Council Member Jerry Hodge to return to open session

All ayes.

ITEM 13: 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

__________________________________________
Anne P. Stedman, Mayor

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Amy S. Falowski, City Clerk