The regular meeting of the Newton City Council was held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 10, 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 Tom Rowe provided the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3:  APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

That the Regular Minutes of the June 19, 2018 City Council meeting be – APPROVED

ITEM 4:  CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

That the Consent Agenda be – APPROVED

A. Tax Releases
B. Sewer Adjustments
C. Proclamation – Recreation and Parks Month
D. Consideration of Amendments to the Business Advisory Committee By-laws
E. Consideration of Appointments/Re-appointment to Boards and Commissions
F. Consideration to Waive Standby Fee for High School sporting Events
G. Consideration to Recognize the Donation of Surplus Equipment from Catawba County to Newton Police Department
H. Consideration of Lease Agreement with the State Employees Credit Union
I. Consideration of Change Order for Street Paving Projects
J. Consideration of ElectriCities Downtown Revitalization Grant
K. Consideration of NCDOT Grant
L. Consideration of Capital Project Ordinance to Establish Capital Project Funds
Council Member Jerry Hodge asked that Item 4L be moved from the consent agenda.

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

That Item 4L be Moved from the Consent Agenda.

(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 4L: Consideration of Capital Project Ordinance to Establish Capital Project Funds

The City of Newton periodically establishes capital project ordinances for endeavors that involve infrastructure/construction activities. In most cases, the duration of an infrastructure/construction project will extend from one fiscal year into another. Consequently, the adoption of a capital project ordinance allows the governmental entity to appropriate funds for the life of the project without the governing board having to reallocate funding on a fiscal year basis.

The Electric Distribution Automation Project was approved and appropriated within the operating budget as part of the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget in the amount of $184,050 which has been identified as a capital project. It has been the City’s practice to move those budgeted funds from the respective operating budget into a Capital Project Fund after the annual budget has been adopted.

The Downtown Streetscape Capital Project currently only reflects Phase I of the project. We would like to amend the Downtown Streetscape Capital Project Ordinance to include all phases of the project, recognize the change in funding source for the Amphitheater from Proceeds from Borrowing to Frank and Sue Jones Funds, and to appropriate the $10,000 ElectriCities Grant and the $75,000 NCDOT Reimbursement of Funds for the North Main Avenue portion of the project.

Motion to approve the following:

1) Budget Ordinance Amendment to establish Capital Project Funds for the Electric Distribution Automation Project and to amend the revenues and expenditures for FY 2018-2019.

2) Capital Project Ordinance Amendment for Downtown Streetscape Capital Project

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

That Capital Project Ordinance to Establish Capital Project Funds be – ADOPTED.

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

ITEM 6: Presentation

A. AWOP Award

Public Works and Utilities Director Dusty Wentz stated that the City of Newton Water Treatment Plant received the Area Wide Optimization Program (AWOP) Award. This award is supported by the NC Division of Environment and Natural Resources and Region 4 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The award was presented by the Mooresville Regional Office of the North Carolina
Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Water Supply Section. Mr. Wentz stated that all drinking water systems must meet strict state and federal drinking water standards. The goal of the AWOP program is to reduce the potential for bacteria in the water supply by meeting exceptional treatment criteria and producing water that meets a higher standard.

Mr. Wentz stated that of the 152 water plants operating in North Carolina, only 69 achieved the higher standard goals of the AWOP program. The State also recognized four facilities with the “Gold Star” honor, which is an award for systems that have received the N.C. Area Wide Optimization Award for 10 consecutive years. They are Newton, Lincolnton, Marion and Henderson-Kerr Lake Regional Water Authority. Mr. Wentz stated that the City of Newton has received the AWOP award every year since the program’s inception in 2002. Only Marion has received as many AWOP awards.

Mr. Wentz stated that receiving this award demonstrates the experience and the professional skill that the City of Newton Water Treatment Plant staff exhibit in the operation of the City plant.

City Manager Todd Clark congratulated Mr. Wentz and the Water Department on this achievement.

Mayor Stedman, on behalf of the City Council, thanked Mr. Wentz and his staff on a job well done.

**ITEM 7: Old Business**

A. Consideration of Bid Award for Phase I Streetscape Materials

Electric Operations Manager, Doug Wesson stated that staff requested sealed proposals for Streetscape electrical materials from four electrical distributors. Staff placed the advertisement in the newspaper on June 21st and received sealed bids back on June 29th for a public opening at 2:00pm.

Mr. Wesson stated that after reviewing all bids, staff recommends awarding Streetscape electrical material bids to three different Electrical Distributors based on the best pricing for specific materials. In compliance with state law the City must accept the most “responsive” and “responsible” bids. Below is the recommended award for each vendor:

1. Boarder States $177,618.92
2. Anxiter $13,509.96
3. TEMA $42,599.00
4. Wesco No Award

Total $233,727.88

Mr. Wesson stated that staff is recommends that City Council award the bids to three different bidders in the amounts as follows: Boarder States in the amount of $177,618.92, Anxiter in the amount of $13,509.96 and TEMA in the amount of $42,599.00.

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

That Bid Award for Phase I Streetscape Materials be – APPROVED.

**ITEM 8: New Business**

A. Consideration of Budget Amendment for Rehabilitation of Wasterwater Treatment Plant Tertiary Filters

Public Works and Utilities Director Dusty Wentz stated that the Clark Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant has two tertiary filters which are the final physical treatment processes in the facility. Their primary function is to remove any remaining floating or suspended solids from the water that were not removed from the previous process. Mr. Wentz explained that as part of the facility’s permitting, no floatable and
minuscule concentrations of suspended solids are allowed to leave the facility and flow into Clark Creek. These solids are monitored on a daily basis and are reported monthly to the Division of Water Resources.

Mr. Wentz stated that it has been over 20 years since the filters were rehabilitated. Currently, the filters need to be back washed quite often and staff can see that the measured depths of filter material including gravel, sand, and anthracite have significantly been reduced from the engineered design standard. Mr. Wentz stated that for the filters to efficiently remove the contaminants and keep the City in compliance with our state issued permit, the proper amount and configuration of filter media is required.

During the week of June 11, 2018, staff went out for quotes. The three quotes received are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contractor/Vendor</th>
<th>Quote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kemp Construction Inc.</td>
<td>$69,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suez</td>
<td>$144,678.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brushy Mountain Builders</td>
<td>$158,500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr. Wentz stated that staff recommends that the City Council entertain separate motions to approve the attached Budget Ordinance Amendment for the Rehabilitation Wastewater Treatment Plant Tertiary Filters (attached) and to award bid to Kemp Construction Inc. in the amount of $69,600.00, and hold a contingency in the amount of $7,000.

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

That Budget Ordinance Amendment for the Rehabilitation Wastewater Treatment Plant Tertiary Filters be – ADOPTED.

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

That Bid Award for the Rehabilitation Wastewater Treatment Plant Tertiary Filters be – APPROVED.

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

B. Consideration of Budget Amendment for Recycling Fee at the Mixed Recycling Facility

Public Works and Utilities Director Dusty Wentz stated that the first week of June 2018, staff received notification from the Municipal Recycling Facility (which is operated by Catawba County) that a $35/ton charge would be assessed on all recyclables delivered to the facility starting July 1, 2018. The MRF has not assessed any fee previously, and therefore, this fee was not included in the FY 2019 budget. Mr. Wentz stated that based on the amount of recyclables the City delivered to the MRF last year, we project a total cost of $15,000.

Mr. Wentz stated that staff was informed that the fee is due to the steep decline of scrapping / recycling prices resulting from volatility in the materials and metals market. The MRF hopes to eliminate or reduce the fee once the market stabilizes, but is unsure when that will occur. Mr. Wentz stated that all municipalities in the county are being assessed the same fee.

Mr. Wentz stated that the City does not charge a fee for recyclable collection.

Mr. Wentz stated that staff recommends that the City Council approve the attached budget ordinance amendment in the amount of $15,000 to fund fees from the Municipal Recycling Facility.
Upon motion duly made by Council Member Tom Rowe, seconded by Council Member Jerry Hodge, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That Budget Ordinance Amendment for Recycling Fee at the Mixed Recycling Facility be – ADOPTED.

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

C. Consideration of Purchase of Trolley

At this time, Mayor Stedman stated that she would like to discuss the possible purchase of a trolley for the city’s use. She stated that she thinks that it could be a good idea, and asked City Council members to weigh in.

Council Member Jerry Hodge stated that he thinks the idea is premature and ill advised to purchase without first studying the need.

Council Member Anne Wepner stated that conceptually she thinks it is a good idea but she would like to find ways to help fund it.

Council Member Ed Sain agreed, and said that right now the city has too much going on.

Mayor Pro Tem John Stiver stated that it could be one way of looking at a potential parking problem, and that he could see lots of good things involved. He also stated that he would like to know more about the costs and maintenance.

Council Member Jody Dixon said that he is not against it, but would like to look at it more.

Council Member Rowe said that he thinks the city should look at grants and the private sector to help with the costs.

Mayor Stedman stated that she would like a feasibility study; Mr. Clark asked if Council would like to have the study for the workshop in January. Mr. Rowe said that sounded good, and everyone agreed.

ITEM 9: City Manager’s Report

Meetings & Events

• July 12th - DNDA Merchants Mtg for Streetscape – The Loft @ Picket Fences – 8:30 am. – 9:30 a.m.
• July 18th - EDC Annual Meeting – Hickory Metro Convention Center 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
• July 19th - NCLM Regional Roundtable – Judges Riverside BBQ, Morganton – 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
• July 24th - NCMPA1 Board of Commissioners Meeting
• July 24th – Joint Community Meeting with Catawba County Concerning Water Line Projects – Balls Creek Elementary, 6:30 p.m.
• August 20-22, ElectriCities Conference

Other Projects

• Update on Lighting at Jacob Fork Park
• Electric Customer Service Survey
• Service Excellence University Makeup Date– Sept 7, 2018
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 a report on the Western Piedmont Council of Governments Policy Board and the Transportation Advisory Committee.

ITEM 11: Closed Session – Per North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4) and 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)(4) and 143-318.11(a)(5)

Motion was then made by Council Member Jerry Hodge, seconded by Council Member Anne Wepner to return to open session.

All ayes.

ITEM 11: Adjournment

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

That the Meeting be – ADJOURNED

_________________________________________
Anne P. Stedman, Mayor

_________________________________________
Amy S. Falowski, City Clerk