

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEWTON CITY COUNCIL

July 14, 2015 – 7 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Newton City Council was held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, 2015, at Newton City Hall.

PRESENT: Mayor Anne P. Stedman, Mayor Pro Tem Mary Bess Lawing and Council Members Wes Weaver, John Stiver, Robert C. Abernethy, Jr., and Tom Rowe

ABSENT: Council Member Wayne Dellinger

STAFF: City Manager Todd Clark, City Clerk Amy S. Falowski, Assistant City Manager Sean Hovis, 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 Wes Weaver gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made by Mayor Pro Tem Mary Bess Lawing, seconded by Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr., it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That the Regular Minutes of the June 16, 2015, City Council meeting be –
APPROVED

ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Upon motion duly made by Mayor Pro Tem Mary Bess Lawing, seconded by Council Member Tom Rowe, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That the Consent Agenda be – APPROVED

- A. Tax Releases
- B. Sewer Adjustments
- C. Consideration of Commission/Committee Membership Appointments:
Becky Stiver – Newton-Conover Auditorium Authority
Leslie Yount – Business Advisory Committee
- D. Consideration of Public Fee Structure for Public Events – Butts and Beans
BBQ Competition – American Legion Fairgrounds
- E. Consideration of Public Fee Structure for Public Events – 2015 Soldiers
Reunion Celebration Week Activities
- F. Consideration of Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization
Amended Memorandum of Understanding

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

ITEM 5: Special Presentation – Fire Department

Mayor Anne Stedman stated that this presentation would be postponed due to one of the recipients not being able to attend tonight's meeting.

ITEM 6: 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.

David Crouse stated that he would like to tell City Council about the Carolina Vines Event, Thursday Thunder, which was held for the first time this past Thursday. Mr. Crouse stated that there were over 100 people downtown and that there was a very good turn out that included families. He stated that the people were buying food from all the restaurants, and that stores such as the Dapper Daisy were able to stay open later and that they were very excited. Mr. Crouse said that he did not see any fighting, stumbling or public nuisances. Mr. Crouse stated that with all the talk of streetscape, and bringing a younger demographic downtown, he feels like this event is a very good thing and a great way to bring people downtown.

Mayor Stedman thanked Mr. Crouse for letting Council know that the event was successful and for sharing his experience. Mr. Crouse stated that the downtown is lovely and that there is lots of potential.

Mayor Anne P. Stedman asked if there was anyone else present that would like to speak. No one appeared.

ITEM 7: Old Business

- A. Consideration of Highway 16 Maintenance Agreement, Bid Award and the Related Budget Ordinance Amendment

Public Works and Utilities Director Dusty Wentz stated that at Council's direction, staff has moved forward with bidding for the Hwy 16 mowing. Mr. Wentz stated the bids were received on July 7, 2015.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Full Easement Mowing each occurrence)</u>	<u>Maintenance Mowing (each occurrence)</u>
Ingle and Son	\$2,950	\$3,650
Kip Robinson Landscape Design	\$820	\$1,000
S & S Lawnscape, Inc	Unqualified	Unqualified

Mr. Wentz stated the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) annually solicits bids for right-of-way mowing and awards contracts based on the most competitive bid. In consideration of the bidding process, the NCDOT has estimated a reimbursement of \$7,514.78 to the City of Newton which corresponds with the cost NCDOT would incur for two annual cuttings. Mr. Wentz explained that since the right-of-way has already been mowed once this season, there will only be one more full width

mowing this year at NCDOT's cost of \$3,757.39. Therefore, if the City enters into a maintenance agreement with NCDOT, the City would receive \$3,757.39 as a reimbursement for mowing this year.

Mr. Wentz stated that as noted above, the lowest bid the City received was from Kip Robinson Landscape Design. Mr. Wentz explained that based on his bid, the City staff expects additional maintenance could be performed this calendar year beyond the expectation of the NCDOT. City staff has also estimated the total cost of maintenance through the end of the current fiscal year (June 30, 2016). Mr. Wentz stated this estimate comes to \$7,640 which includes six (6) maintenance mowings and two (2) full width mowings. Although we do not know what the State reimbursement will be for 2016, the staff reasonably expects the same level of reimbursement on a per cutting basis.

Mr. Wentz also advised Council that the actual frequency of mowing is to be determined by the City, and that if dry weather persists, the mowing frequency can be reduced, or alternatively, if growing conditions become more optimal, the frequency can be increased.

Mr. Wentz stated staff has also recognized the likelihood that NCDOT may not reimburse all of the costs the City has incurred on or before the last day of the FY 2016 fiscal year, therefore the current budget may not be sufficient to cover all of the City's costs on June 30, 2016. Mr. Wentz stated that if the City Council chooses to enter the maintenance agreement with NCDOT, the staff requests that Council also consider a budget amendment in the amount of \$7,650 to ensure all costs will be covered on June 30, 2016.

Mr. Wentz asked Council to consider the maintenance agreement with NCDOT and, if approved, consider the attached budget amendment.

Council Member John Stiver stated that he thinks it will look a lot better.

Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr. asked if it would include the entire right of way. City Manager Todd Clark stated that it would.

Council Member Wes Weaver asked if NCDOT would mow one more time this year. Mr. Wentz said yes. Mr. Weaver said so that means we would pay more. Mr. Wentz stated that the cost includes March, April, May and June. He stated that the city will be reimbursed for July, August, September and October.

Mayor Stedman stated that this won't cost the city a penny. Mr. Clark stated that the city will be reimbursed for what is spent.

Upon motion duly made by Mayor Pro Tem Mary Bess Lawing, seconded by Council Member Wes Weaver, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That Highway 16 Maintenance Agreement with NCDOT be – APPROVED.

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

That Budget Amendment in the amount of \$7,650 to ensure all costs will be covered on June 30, 2016 be – APPROVED.

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

ITEM 8: New Business

A. Consideration of Resolution to Adopt the Unifour Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Assistant Planning Director Alex Fulbright stated that in conjunction with the Cities and Counties within the Unifour, the City has completed the process of drafting the **Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan**. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires that the City have a Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Fulbright stated that originally completed in 2014 and preliminarily approved by FEMA earlier this year, the Unifour Hazard Mitigation Plan assesses the vulnerability and risks posed to the area by natural hazards such as floods, tornadoes, high winds and winter storms, and includes recommended actions to help eliminate or reduce those risks. He stated that having a current FEMA-approved plan in place assures that Newton remains eligible for a range of state and federal disaster assistance, as well as pre-disaster hazard mitigation grant funds made available each year by FEMA on a nationally competitive basis.

Mr. Fulbright explained that the 2014 Mitigation Action items describe proactive steps the City is committed to take toward reducing risks posed by identified natural hazards. A description of each action item, hazard addressed, estimated cost and item priority, are detailed on these sheets

Mr. Fulbright stated The Hazard Mitigation Plan update was paid for through a FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant, and that grant funds were used to contract with a private consulting firm, AECOM, to assist in the process of ensuring the plan's compliance with new state and federal guidelines. FEMA has already reviewed the update and found all required revisions are adequate for preliminary approval.

Mr. Fulbright stated that Staff recommends City Council adopt the Unifour Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and the sections of the plan that are specific to the City of Newton.

Upon motion duly made by Mayor Pro Tem Mary Bess Lawing, seconded by Council Member Tom Rowe, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That the Unifour Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 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

- August 6-8 ElectriCities Annual Conference (50th Anniversary) at the Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort & Spa at Grande Dunes. Please let Amy know if you are interested.
- July 16th - EDC Annual Meeting at 11:45 at Hickory Metro Convention Center
- Customer Service Excellence Project – “Serving Hometown Hospitality” Update
- Main Street Program Coordinator – Update

Projects

- **Hwy 10 Installation Update**
- **Cline and D Street Manhole Project Update**
- **Ashe and 1st Manhole Project Update**
- **Demolition is slated to begin around the first of August**
- **WTP Tour with Energy United**
- **Sarstedt – Generator Update**

The WWTP Lab was awarded a Certificate of Excellence after this year's Pollution Proficiency Testing. This award indicates that all lab techs passed all aspects for proficiency.

ITEM 10: Questions and Comments from Mayor and Council

Council Member John Stiver requested that the City Manager, City Attorney and staff establish a procedure for running a City Council Meeting.

ITEM 11: Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Mayor Pro Tem Mary Bess Lawing, seconded by Council Member Tom Rowe, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That the Meeting be – ADJOURNED

Amy S. Falowski, City Clerk



Anne P. Stedman, Mayor