

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEWTON CITY COUNCIL**

August 4, 2015 – 7 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Newton City Council was held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 4, 2015, at Newton City Hall.

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

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 Tom Rowe 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 July 14, 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. Sewer Adjustments – August 4, 2015
- B. Consideration of Commission/Committee Membership Appointments:
Lance A. Sellers – Economic Development Corporation
Mike Curtis – Business Advisory Committee
- C. Consideration of Budget Ordinance to Recognize Governor’s Crime Commission Grant Funds for CAD 2 CAD
- D. Consideration of Budget Ordinance to Recognize Governor’s Crime Commission Grant Funds for Body Worn Cameras
- E. Consideration of Budget Ordinance to Recognize U.S. Department of Justice Grant Funds for 50% of the Cost of Bullet Resistant Body Armor Replacement
- F. Consideration of Budget Ordinance to Carry Forward Outstanding Purchase Orders

- G. Consideration of Budget Ordinance to Establish Capital Project Funds and to Amend Revenues and Expenditures for FY 2016
- H. Consideration of Budget Ordinance Amendment – Engineering for City Sidewalks and Streets Assessment
- I. Authorization for Fireworks Display – Hickory American Legion Fair Association

(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 made a presentation to Wayne Dellinger and Tom Rowe for fifty years of membership in the North Carolina State Firemen’s Association.

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. No one appeared.

ITEM 7: Old Business

- A. Streetscape Presentation – Allison Platt

Allison Platt of Allison Platt & Associates gave a presentation to City Council of the Newton Streetscape Improvements & North Newton Master Plan.

Mayor Stedman asked if along with a bond referendum, if the city could go after grants. Ms. Platt stated that Goldsboro tried once or twice and needed the help of elected representatives.

Planning Director Randy Williams stated that there are good things in this plan and that it features a connector to the Government Center. He said that there was some concern about the loss of parking spaces. Mr. Williams stated that overall there would only be a loss of 13 spaces. Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr. stated that the loss of spaces is important and asked if there would be parallel parking everywhere. Mayor Stedman stated that the parallel spaces would be larger. Mr. Abernethy stated that some people that park at H&W Drug can’t park parallel, and can’t walk long distances. Mr. Abernethy also asked Ms. Platt if all the lighting at the Court House would be preserved and used. Ms. Platt stated that they would be and that new pulls would be added. Council Member Dellinger asked where four of the lights would be moved to. Ms. Platt stated that they would be moved to the Court House side.

Council Member Wayne Dellinger stated that there is a problem with parking from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Ms. Platt stated that a bigger problem would be no business downtown, no outdoor dining, and no trees or lights. She stated that the city could try to find land owners to obtain more parking. Mr. Dellinger stated that people will not walk. Council Member Wes Weaver stated that he enjoyed the presentation and that the city needs to address parking either way. Ms. Platt stated that having a parking problem is a good thing. Council Member Tom Rowe asked if there was a way to leave some angled parking. Ms. Platt stated that it doesn’t make sense to her. Council Member John Stiver stated that he would hate to see the plan killed because of 13 parking spaces.

City Manager Todd Clark asked Ms. Platt what the next steps should be for the city. Ms. Platt stated that to get to the final form, adopting the plan would be the first step. She stated that adopting the plan will not cost the city anything and that it is needed to apply for future grants. Mayor Stedman stated that she would like for everyone to study the plan more and that staff would bring it back at a later date.

B. AMI (Smart Metering) Update

Public Works and Utilities Director Dusty Wentz gave a brief update on AMI (Smart Metering). Mr. Wentz stated that there has been a lot of progress made as far as the installation of meters. He stated that things were going well so far and that soon data would be transferred in to the web. City Manager stated that customer service was helping get the word out and Finance Director Serina Hinson stated that 50% of customers come in for service payment, and that they were receiving information at that time. Mr. Wentz stated that electric and water meters will not be changed at the same time and that they will be staggered. He said that the older the meter is, the longer it will take to switch it out. Mayor Stedman stated that she didn't realize how much had been done already. Mr. Wentz thanked Information Systems and Finance for all their help.

ITEM 8: **New Business**

A. Consideration of Culvert Replacement – South Brady Ave and Herman Street

Public Works and Utilities Director Dusty Wentz stated that on Tuesday, July 7th, 2015, PWU received a report from a resident on Brady Ave. of a sink hole in a residential yard. Inspection of the sinkhole revealed a failure and collapse of a 12" clay pipe culvert at this location. He stated this failure has a high probability of causing a partial road collapse and an increasingly large sinkhole on private property in the immediate future.

Mr. Wentz stated the Streets and Storm water division placed cones and tape around the sinkhole as a safety measure while monitoring the sink hole, and that rain on the afternoon and evening of July 27, 2015 indicated that the storm water from the city culvert directly upstream caused the sinkhole to grow.

Mr. Wentz stated that given the time requirement for replacement and other duties, PWU forces cannot reasonably schedule an emergency replacement of the culvert. He explained that as a result CK Contracting was asked to provide a quote for replacement, which is attached. CK Contracting is standing by to replace the culvert this week.

Mr. Wentz recommended that City Council approve contract with CK Construction for replacement of the existing storm water culvert and drop inlet at the intersection of Herman St. and Brady Ave. for the estimated cost of \$32,500 (\$27,500 with a \$5,000 contingency); and approve the Budget Ordinance Amendment related to the emergency replacement of the stormwater culvert at Herman St. and Brady Ave.

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

That the Contract with CK Construction for Replacement of the Existing Stormwater Culvert and Drop Inlet at the Intersection of Herman St. and Brady Ave. for the Estimated Cost of \$32,500 (\$27,500 with a \$5,000 contingency) Plan be – APPROVED

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

That the Budget Ordinance Amendment Related to the Emergency Replacement of the Stormwater Culvert at Herman St. and Brady Ave. be – ADOPTED

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

B. Consideration of Budget Ordinance to Recognize 911 Tax Funds from the NC 911 Board

Police Chief Don Brown stated that in January of 2014, the North Carolina 911 Board adopted the recommendations of the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Funding Committee to allow funding of secondary PSAP's. By statute the City of Newton is considered a secondary PSAP and Catawba County is considered a primary PSAP. Chief Brown explained this means 911 calls are dispersed from a central site to the appropriate municipality for service. Chief Brown stated that funding is derived from a 911 tax placed on all wireline and wireless phones in North Carolina per General Statute § 62A-44 and disbursed to primary PSAP's.

Chief Brown stated certain conditions such as an Interlocal Agreement approved by both the primary and secondary PSAP must be approved and signed and given final approval by the NC 911 Board. Chief Brown stated that in August of 2014 an agreement between Catawba County and the City of Newton was signed agreeing to terms of disbursement funds. The agreement was submitted to the 911 Board and approved. Chief Brown explained that the City of Newton began receiving quarterly disbursements from Catawba County in September of 2014.

Chief Brown stated City Council is advised that a new fund needs to be created to recognize revenue the city receives and for all subsequent expenditures related to PSAP funding. This is necessary to prevent funds from being comingled.

Chief Brown asked City Council to adopt the budget ordinance amendment to utilize 911 fund balance and authorize the expenditure appropriation in the Police Department operating budget.

City Manager Todd Clark stated that Chief Brown has worked hard on this project and that this will be similar to the Federal Asset Seizure Fund.

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

That the Budget Ordinance Amendment Related to utilize 911 Fund Balance and Authorize the Expenditure Appropriation in the Police Department Operating Budget 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
- August 21st – Retirement for Officer Kyle Jenks, 11:30 a.m. in the Gantt Room
- September 24th – Event with Energy United, Taylorsville, Troutman at Water Treatment Plant 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Newton 101 Begins September 10th and runs every Thursday for seven weeks, ending October 22nd
- Strategic Growth Plan

- Water Shortage Response Plan
- Report on Electric Department
- Full Width Mowing of Hwy 16 Has Been Completed
- Report on Alliance for a Prosperous North Carolina
- Report on Meeting with Catawba County Homebuilders Association
- Presentation on the City Website
- Remaining City Council Meetings for 2015

September 1st and 15th
 October 6th and 20th
 November 10th and 24th
 December 8th

Projects

Cline and D Street Manhole - Complete.
 Ashe and 1st St Manhole – Complete

ITEM 10: Questions and Comments from Mayor and Council

There were none

ITEM 11: Closed Session – 143-318.11(a)(3)

Upon motion duly made by Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr., seconded by Council Member Wes Weaver, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That the City Council enter CLOSED SESSION per G.S. 143-318-11(a)(3)

Council Member Wes Weaver made the motion to go back into open session, which was seconded by Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr. All Ayes.

ITEM 12: Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Council Member Wes Weaver, seconded by Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr., it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That the Meeting be – ADJOURNED

Anne P. Stedman, Mayor

Amy S. Falowski, City Clerk

