MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEWTON CITY COUNCIL
September 19, 2017 – 7 p.m.
The regular meeting of the Newton City Council was held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at Newton City Hall.

PRESENT: Mayor Anne P. Stedman, Mayor Pro Tem John Stiver, and Council Members Jerry Hodge, Wes Weaver, Jody Dixon, Tom Rowe and Robert C. Abernethy Jr.

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
Mayor Pro Tem John Stiver provided the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Upon motion duly made by Mayor Pro Tem John Stiver, seconded by Council Member Jody Dixon, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That the Regular Minutes of the September 5, 2017 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. Consideration of Budget Ordinance Amendment – Totaled Police Vehicle
C. Consideration of Budget Ordinance Amendment to Recognize Contributions and Authorize Expenditures for Carbon Monoxide Detectors
D. Consideration of Commission/ Committee Membership Appointments – Planning Commission – Roberta Coulter
E. Proclamation – Fire Prevention Week

(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.
ITEM 6: New Business

A. Consideration of Budget Ordinance Amendment for System Betterment Project Grant

Electric Division Supervisor Doug Wesson stated that the city has budgeted $60,000 in the FY 2018 budget for an electric system distribution study to be completed this fiscal year. Mr. Wesson stated the staff also learned that ElectriCities has budgeted funds for NCMPA1 participants in the amount of $5,000 for System Betterment Projects such as: Distribution Improvements, Distribution Audit, Smart Grid, Load Management, Cyber Security, Rates, Cost of Service, Billing, Energy Efficiency and others.

Mr. Wesson stated that an application for these funds was filed on June 23, 2017 for expenses related to a Distribution Audit. On June 26, 2017 the City was awarded $5,000 for this project. Mr. Wesson explained this grant award will allow the city to complete the distribution audit which was not included in the original project scope. The total amount of money including the grant award for the project will be $65,000 and the only criteria for the grant is that funds have to be spent in calendar year of 2017 and on the project described in the reimbursement form.

Mr. Wesson stated that staff recommends recognizing funds from ElectriCities to the 2017-2018 Electric Fund Revenues and amending the 2017-2018 Electric Budget Operation Expenditures under Engineering to appropriate $5,000.

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

That the System Betterment Project Grant be – ACCEPTED.

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

That Budget Ordinance Amendment for System Betterment Project Grant be – ADOPTED.

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

B. Consideration of Resolution for 2017 Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Public Works and Utilities Director Dusty Wentz stated that the City has contracted with WR-Martin, an engineering consultant, to prepare an application for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) grant and loan cycle this fall. He stated that approximately 2,515 feet of 8” clay sewer and 11 manholes along and adjacent to W. A St. between N. Ashe and N. Spring are in extremely poor condition. This section of gravity sewer is part of the W. A St rehabilitation project that also includes the water system, electric system, streets, and sidewalk rehabilitation. Mr. Wentz stated that funds from the NCDOT are only applicable to water system, streets and sidewalks rehabilitation, and that a grant from the CWSRF would fund the sewer system rehabilitation.

Mr. Wentz explained that WR-Martin will only prepare and submit the application, the preliminary engineering report (PER) and other design/engineering work will be completed by Alta, the consultant
contracted for the West A. St. Project. The application deadline is September 28th, and staff does not expect to have the contract with Alta executed by the deadline.

Mr. Wentz stated that Mr. Dennie Martin, consultant at WR-Martin, has reviewed information collected by staff and feels that the section of gravity sewer along and adjacent to W. A St. is the most eligible for principle forgiveness (grant eligible) of all the gravity sewer system in the Streetscape Project corridor. The percentage of the grant and participation by the City will be determined during the application review process and dependent upon State funds available and other qualified applications.

Mr. Wentz stated that at this time, a preliminary cost estimate is not available, but will be developed along with the PER. The Resolution does not require a cost estimate to be included.

Mr. Wentz stated that staff is requesting that council approve the resolution and seek financial assistance through the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund for the Gravity Sewer Replacement portion of the W. A St Rehabilitation Project.

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

That Resolution for 2017 Clean Water State Revolving Fund be – ADOPTED.

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

ITEM 7: City Manager’s Report

Meetings & Events

- September 20th – 23rd North Carolina League of Municipalities Annual Conference
- September 26th – WPCOG Policy Board Meeting – Catawba County Agricultural Resources Center 6:00 p.m.
- September 29th – Police Department Drive-by Grab & Go lunch 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- October 7th Folk Art Festival, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- November 15th – 18th National League of Cities, City Summit - Charlotte

Newton 101 Information

- Session 3 (Sept. 21): Newton City Hall. Participants will tour City Hall including the Administration, Police, Human Resources, Planning, Information Systems and Finance departments. They also will learn more about the city’s electric distribution system, as well as other Public Works services and facilities.
- Session 4 (Sept. 28): Public Safety at Fire Department Headquarters. Citizens will learn about the fire and police departments and the many ways they work to protect and serve the citizens of Newton.
- Session 5 (Oct. 5): Finance, Human Resources and Information Systems at the Historic Newton Depot. Participants will learn about the inner workings of municipal government finance, personnel, and information systems.
- Session 6 (Oct. 12): Newton Parks and Recreation and Planning at the Newton Recreation Center. Participants will learn about the many activities and resources offered at the Newton Recreation Department. This session also will explore the Planning Department and economic development projects.
- Session 7 (Oct. 19): Graduation at Newton City Hall. Participants will enjoy a brief social event, followed by a question-and-answer session with the Mayor, City Council, City Manager and Department Heads. Each participant will receive a certificate of completion at the final session.
Other Projects

- Update on Public Art Commission
- Westside Drive Sewer Project Update
- Marketing and Branding Project Update
- Meeting with BB&T Concerning Streetscape
- Hwy 16 Update

ITEM 8: Questions and Comments from Mayor and Council

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

Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr. thanked Collette Touchette for helping him and for keeping everyone motivated. He stated that the Appearance Commission has awarded Yard of the Month three times and also the Soldiers Reunion “most patriotic” award to both businesses and residents. He stated that Carolina Vines is the business that won, and Rev. Rick and Virginia Reid are the residents that won. He said that as a follow up, the group has talked to the Tree Board concerning the Tree Ordinance. Also the commission has discussed bike racks with the DNDA and they have been discussing fencing at the cemetery on NC 16 and landscaping of the Zanders Lot. One new member has been approved to the commission with two members pending approval.

Council Member Wes Weaver stated that recently the driveway at Fedex was discussed and that he would like an update. Also he stated that putting council meetings live on the internet has been discussed several times, and that he feels that this would be a good way to keep citizens informed. Mayor Stedman asked exactly he is proposing. Mr. Weaver stated that the meetings should be put online live, and that council needs a better way to show the public the meetings. Mr. Abernethy stated that it helps with community involvement. Mr. Weaver stated that Mr. Abernethy has been proposing this for years.

ITEM 9: Closed Session – Per North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(4) and 143-318.11(a)(5)

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

That City Council enter CLOSED SESSION per General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(4) and 143-318.11(a)(5)

Motion was then made by Council Member Wes Weaver to return to open session, seconded by Council Member Jody Dixon. All Ayes.

ITEM 10: Adjournment

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

That the Meeting be – ADJOURNERED

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Anne P. Stedman, Mayor

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Amy S. Falowski, City Clerk