

AGENDA

CITY OF NEWTON



November 1, 2016

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NEWTON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

November 1, 2016
7:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order – Mayor Anne P. Stedman**
2. **Opening – Council Member Tom Rowe**
3. **Approval of Minutes from the October 18, 2016 Regular Meeting**
4. **Comments from the Public: (PERSONS WANTING TO MAKE A PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN IN WITH THE CITY CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING):**
5. **Workshop – Parks and Recreation Master Plan**
6. **Questions and Comments From Mayor and Council**
7. **Closed Session to Consult with City Attorney – G.S. 143-318-11(3)**
8. **Adjournment**

PERSONS WANTING TO SPEAK ON AN AGENDA ITEM MUST SIGN IN WITH THE CITY CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING. PERSONS WANTING TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING MUST CONTACT THE CITY MANAGER AT LEAST SEVEN WORKING DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING.

The City of Newton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of its services as charged by the City Council of the City of Newton. All meetings are held in accessible facilities. Any person with a disability needing special accommodations should contact Teresa Laffon, ADA Coordinator, at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

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

October 18, 2016 – 7 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Newton City Council was held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at Newton City Hall.

PRESENT: Mayor Anne P. Stedman, Mayor Pro Tem John Stiver, and Council Members Tom Rowe, Jerry Hodge, and Jody Dixon

ABSENT: Council Members Wes Weaver 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 Council Member Jerry Hodge, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem John Stiver, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That the Regular Minutes of the October 4, 2016 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 Jerry Hodge, it was RESOLVED:

That the Consent Agenda be – APPROVED

- A. Sewer Adjustments
- B. Consideration of Budget Amendment to Recognize Previously Accepted Grant Funds
- C. Consideration of Budget Ordinance Amendment – \$1000 contribution to the Police Department
- D. Consideration of a Budget Ordinance to Establish Capital Project Fund for Westside Drive Sewer Rehabilitation Project
- E. Consideration of Budget Ordinance Amendment – Repairs to Wastewater Pump

(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.

Mr. Jason White a resident of 6th Street thanked council for putting off this issue of stop signs on 6th Street until people could come to the meeting. He stated that since the stop signs have been placed on 6th Street the volume of traffic has decreased and has slowed down. He stated that residents were very grateful. Mr. White stated that he would like to keep them all on 6th Street. He stated that he felt like the residents did what they were supposed to do by signing a petition and bring it to the Planning Board. He stated that he felt like removing the signs would be catering to people that only use 6th Street as a pass through, and that City Council should not doubt the city's staff and Planning Board recommendations. Mr. White stated that the stop signs were the best resolution for the problem and that taking them away would increase the risk

Mayor Stedman thanked Mr. White for his well thought out statement.

William Wallace stated that he was happy with the results of the stop signs.

Mr. Mike Houston stated that all the neighbors feel the same way, and feel like it promotes a family neighborhood.

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

ITEM 6: **Presentation – Taylor Dellinger, Western Piedmont Council of Governments**

- A. Consideration of Resolution Authorizing the Rural Economic Development

Taylor Dellinger, Western Piedmont Council of Governments, gave a presentation concerning Newton Demographics and Economic Data Profile.

ITEM 7: **New Business**

- A. Consideration of a Street Naming Request for an Existing Road on the Catawba County Government Center Campus

On October 5, 2016 the Planning Department received a letter from Catawba County requesting that an internal access road be named "Government Drive". Mr. Fulbright stated the access road intersects Radio Station Road just west of Southwest Blvd and is also access off of Southwest Blvd.

Mr. Fulbright stated the access road requested to be named was built when the County Government Center was established in the late 70's and there is no record of this access road ever being officially named. Mr. Fulbright said the access road is maintained by Catawba County and is entirely on their property so no other property owners are impacted by this request.

Mr. Fulbright explained that in accordance with Section 86-14 of the city code, City Council may change the names of streets and roads within the jurisdiction of the city. Mr. Fulbright stated that it is the Newton Planning Department's recommendation that the City Council approve the request made by Catawba County to name their existing internal access road "Government Drive".

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

That Street Naming Request for an Existing Road on the Catawba County Government Center Campus – Government Drive be – APPROVED.

B. Consideration of Resolution Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures

Police Major Tim Hayes stated that in the 2016-2017 FY budget Newton City Council approved \$315,300 to purchase and equip (6) new vehicles for the Newton Police Department. Once financing has been arranged by the finance department, ordering of new vehicles takes place in late January or early February of the following calendar year using borrowed funds. Major Hayes said the current estimated delivery time for patrol vehicles is between 90 – 120 days, sometimes later depending on disruptions, pushing back delivery to May or June. This time frame does not include vehicle up-fitting requiring an additional 30 - 60 days.

Major Hayes stated that some frontline vehicles are experiencing mechanical failures that have removed some of them from service. He stated that the concern of the police department is that mechanical failures will continue to increase in the future placing an additional strain on police resources and that it is the desire of the police department to pre-order vehicles and equipment necessary to install and up-fit vehicles for duty with an “Intent to Reimburse”. He explained that by using this option, the current expected delivery date for pre-ordered vehicles is February of 2017. Vehicles could be up-fitted and placed into service prior to June 30, 2017 pending no supply or installation issues. Major Hayes stated this option would reduce the current burden placed on the police fleet for the short term until additional vehicles can be purchased in future years.

Major Hayes recommended that City Council adopt the Intent to Reimburse resolution authorizing the Newton Police Department to purchase (6) vehicles and equipment to include installation and complete up-fitting.

Mayor Stedman asked if the police department could piggy back with another department like the fire department sometimes does. Major Hayes stated that police vehicles are purchased on state contract and that is basically the same.

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

That Resolution Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures be – ADOPTED.

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

C. Consideration to Accept Asset Inventory and Assessment Grants, Resolutions and Related Budget Ordinance Amendments

Public Works and Utilities Director Dusty Wentz stated that in June of this year, Council authorized staff to submit two Asset Inventory and Assessment grant applications to the State, one for the water systems and one for the sewer system. Those applications were both successful, and the State has offered grant funding for both in the amount of \$150,000 each (\$300,000 total) with a 10% match (\$30,000).

Mr. Wentz stated that the work on the water system will include, among other things, location of a 16” water main along Northwest Blvd. (including connections to adjacent mains), and recommendations for valve placement or replacement to allow staff to isolate the 16” main as needed for repairs. He said the work on the sewer system consist of flow monitoring in manholes, CCTV cameraing, and smoke testing to identify possible sources of inflow and infiltration for the middle section of the gravity collection system.

Mr. Wentz stated that staff has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select the best qualified engineering firm to complete this work and anticipates selection of a firm in the next four weeks and for the engineering work to begin immediately following.

Mr. Wentz requested that separate motions be made for the following:

- a) Council approve the attached resolution accepting the State Reserve Grant for the Water Asset Inventory and Assessment; and,
- b) Council approve the attached resolution accepting the State Reserve Grant for the Wastewater Asset Inventory and Assessment; and,
- c) Council approve the attached budget ordinance amendment.

Council Member Jerry Hodge asked if a benefit would be that the water wouldn't have to be turned off all over. Mr. Wentz said yes that we should be able to isolate lines along 321 for water.

Mayor Stedman asked how affective AMI is at finding leaks. Mr. Wentz stated moderate. He said the new meters are much more accurate.

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

That the Resolution Accepting the State Reserve Grant for the Water Asset Inventory Assessment be – ADOPTED.

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

That the Resolution Accepting the State Reserve Grant for the Wastewater Asset Inventory and Assessment be – ADOPTED.

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

That the Budget Ordinance Amendment be – ADOPTED.

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

ITEM 8: **Old Business**

A. Consideration of Stop Signs on 6th Street

Mayor Stedman stated that the stop signs on 6th Street were brought up at the last City Council Meeting and she would like to have a discussion with Council about it now.

Council Member Tom Rowe stated that he made the request that the stop sign between Spring and N Frye be removed because the distance between that one and the next one is not enough. He said that he opposed it when it was done and I made the motion because he knew it was time to do something. He said people are saying there are too many stop signs.

Council Member Jerry Hodge stated that Mr. White mentioned staff recommendation. He asked what staff has to say. Planning Director Randy Williams stated that he can't answer about traffic count and

speeds. He said that increasing stop signs should decrease traffic and speed. Council Member Jody Dixon stated that on the recommendation of Planning Commission City Council placed three signs.

Council Member Jerry Hodge stated that Mr. White said signs were worthy of the inconvenience, and that he is considering that while also trying to increase walkability and safety. He stated that he feels three signs in such a short distance is difficult. Mr. Hodge said he feels three is too many and that perhaps two is sufficient.

Mayor Pro Tem John Stiver stated that he supports the three stop signs. Mr. Dixon agreed and stated that he agrees with the Planning Commission's recommendation and City Council's action that was voted on previously.

Mr. Rowe stated that no one wants children to get hurt, and that 6th is a public street. He said that many people have complained to him that there are no other streets where you can only go 300' before a stop.

Council Member Tom Rowe made the motion to remove the stop sign at Spring and 6th Street. Council Member Jerry Hodge seconded the motion. With Council Members Tom Rowe and Jerry Hodge voting in favor, and Mayor Pro Tem John Stiver and Council Member Jody Dixon voting against; Mayor Stedman broke the tie and voted AGAINST removing the stop sign at Spring and 6th Street.

ITEM 9: City Manager's Report

Meetings & Events

- October 19th – Streetscape Project Demonstration ends that afternoon
- October 19th – BAC Business Appreciation Night, 5:30 p.m.
- October 21st – Chili Cook-off at Fire Department Headquarters, 11:30 a.m.
- October 22nd – Fall Yard Sale at Southside Park, 6:30 a.m.
- October 22nd – Night Crawl 5K downtown, 7:30 p.m.
- October 23-25th NCLM Annual Conference, Raleigh
- October 24th – Leaf collection will begin and last until Friday, January 13th, 2017
- October 26th – North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1 Board of Commissioners Meeting
- October 29th – Halloween Spooktacular, 5-8:00 p.m.
- October 30th – Gospel Singing in the Park at Southside Park, 2:30-7:30 p.m.
- November 2nd – Ribbon Cutting at Country Corner Second Time Around, 1908 North Rankin Ave, 12:00 p.m.
- Pedestrian Plan Project Survey - There is a link on the city's website about the plan and has a link to a survey
- Update on Catawba County Strategic Plan

- Two workshops in November:
 - November 1st at 6:00 p.m. – Parks & Recreation Master Plan
 - November 15th at 5:30 p.m. – Scott Millar, Economic Development

ITEM 10: Questions and Comments from Mayor and Council

Mayor Anne P. Stedman asked if any Council Members would like to make any comments.

Council Member Jody Dixon gave an update on the Auditorium and the upcoming Fall Gala. He also talked about the success of the Folk Art Preview and the upcoming Cinema Social.

Council Member Jody Dixon stated that sometimes when conducting business it is easy to get lost in what's going on. He stated that people wonder where the money goes. He stated that this meeting just saw \$1.5 million dollars go by with \$334,000 on grants. He stated that Council is going to keep working hard for the citizens.

ITEM 11: Adjournment

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

That the Meeting be – ADJORNED

Amy S. Falowski, City Clerk



Anne P. Stedman, Mayor