

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

March 19, 2013 – 7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Newton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

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

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

Mayor Anne P. Stedman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

ITEM 2: OPENING – Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr.

Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr. provided the invocation, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE March 5, 2013 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

That the Regular Minutes of the March 5, 2013 Regular City Council Meeting be –
APPROVED

ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

That Consent Agenda be – APPROVED.

- A. Sewer Adjustments – March 19, 2013
- B. Consideration of Commission/Committee Membership Appointments
- C. Consideration of Proclamation in Support of Early Childhood Education
- D. Consideration of Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation
- E. Consideration of Arbor Day Proclamation
- F. Consideration of Proclamation – “ Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week” – March 11-17, 2013

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

ITEM 5: **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)**

Mayor Anne P. Stedman asked if there was anyone present that would like to make any comments concerning agenda and non-agenda items. No one appeared.

ITEM 6: **Special Presentation – Teen Leadership**

Mayor Stedman introduced the students that made up this year’s Teen Leadership Newton Program. She explained that 12 students were from Newton-Conover High School, and 6 were from the Health/Science High School.

The groups were divided in three according to topics, and each group made a presentation to City Council.

Mayor Stedman thanked the Teen Leadership Newton group and stated that City Council and Staff appreciated their time and effort.

ITEM 7: **New Business**

A. Presentation – East Smart, Move More

Parks and Recreation Director Sandra Waters introduced Lori Wray, Chair of the Appearance Commission, and Amy McCauley of Catawba County. Ms. McCauley stated that “Eat Smart, Move More Catawba County” is a Catawba County Health Partner community coalition working to reduce obesity by improving access to healthy nutrition and physical activity across the county. She explained that they are a partner of “Eat Smart Move More North Carolina” which is a statewide movement with the same goal of healthy eating and physical activity wherever people live, learn, earn, play and pray.

Ms. Wray explained that the initiative would include the installation of three walking routes which all begin at Yount Park located at the corner of South College and East “A” Street. A one mile route will be confined to the downtown Newton business district. The other one mile route will direct walkers south from Yount Park to East Herman Street, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, then back to Yount Park. The two mile route will go north from Yount Park to East 11th Street, in North Newton, and then return back to Yount Park. She stated that each route will have a color code and follows current city sidewalks.

Ms. Wray stated that “Eat Smart, Move More” signs will be posted identifying each color coded route and be placed on city owned poles. A brochure explaining the Eat Smart Move More movement, safety tips, the health benefits of exercise and a map has been created, and that the brochures will be located at Yount Park in a clear container and attached to a city owned pole. She stated that brochures will also be distributed to the downtown merchants.

Ms. Waters recommended that the City Council approve three walking trails with signage in the downtown Newton Business District.

Mayor Anne Stedman asked when the signs would be placed. Ms. McCauley stated that they would be placed as soon as possible. Mayor Stedman stated that the city is in the middle of a wayfinding project, and that her only concern is continuity with these signs and the wayfinding signs. Ms. McCauley stated that they could make the signs conform.

Ms. Wray stated that the cost for the signs would be \$873, but there would be no cost to the city.

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

That Three Walking Trails with Signage in the Downtown Newton Business District be – APPROVED.

B. Consideration of Resolution to Adopt Capital Improvement Plan Fiscal years 2014-2018

Finance Director Serina Hinson presented the proposed Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Newton to City Council. City Manager Todd Clark explained that the Capital Improvement Plan, if adopted by Council, would become part of the budget process and would be a planning tool to aid in that process.

Council Member Mary Bess Lawing stated that she thinks that the municipal facilities need to be updated, but that she would like to see the Council Chamber be used only for business of the City of Newton, and not as a multi-purpose room. Council Member Wayne Dellinger stated that he would like to see the fixed chairs remain, and that he does not like the idea of a “collage” format for the Mayors’ pictures. Council Member Wes Weaver agreed with Council Member Dellinger concerning the pictures. Mr. Dellinger stated that he would like for staff to put some ideas together for City Council review. Council Member Lawing stated that she wants anything that is done to the Council Chamber to be approved by City Council. Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr. agreed.

Council Member Wayne Dellinger stated that he does not want the money that is set aside in the Capital Improvement Plan for the AMI spent unless this Board approves it.

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

That Resolution 7-2013 – To Adopt Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2014-2018 be – ADOPTED.

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

ITEM 8: City Manager’s Report

- Tonight (March 19) we have a team participating in the Red Hot Spelling Bee which benefits the Newton-Conover Education Foundation. Our team members are Tammy Bentley, Brandon Elrod, Garrett Gilbert and Angie Harris-Ramseur.
- Catawba County Chamber of Commerce – 2013 Economic Outlook Breakfast, Wed. March 20th, 7:45 a.m. Green Room – Todd, Mayor Stedman, Mayor Pro Tem Bill Lutz
- Manager’s Meeting Thursday, March 21 at noon at MSC – Todd, Sean
- Spring Cemetery Clean Up – started Monday and continues through Friday, March 22
- Arbor Day Celebration at 9 a.m. Friday, March 22 at City Hall
- Easter Egg Hunt at Southside Park – Sunday, March 24th
- WPCOG Policy Board Mtg – March 26th
- Town Hall Day – March 27th and Board of Directors Meeting
- Unity Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 18th and nominations for the Unity Award are being accepted (Unity Day will be combined with the city-wide yard sale in the morning and entertainment in the evening).

- Registration is open for ElectriCities Annual Conference at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, August 1-3
- ElectriCities Regional Meetings – April 4, Shelby – April 23, Concord – May 2, Statesville

ITEM 9: Questions and Comments from Mayor and Council

Mayor Stedman asked if there were any questions or comments from the City Council. There were none.

ITEM 10: Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting – ADJOURNED

Anne P. Stedman, Mayor

Amy S. Falowski, City Clerk

