

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

March 4, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Newton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Newton City Council Chamber.

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

STAFF: City Manager Todd Clark, City Clerk Amy S. Falowski, Assistant City Manager Sean Hovis, City Attorney John Cilley, Public Information Officer Julie Chang, City Department Heads and members of the management team

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Anne P. Stedman

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

ITEM 2: OPENING – Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr. and Boy Scout Troop 250

Council Member Robert C. Abernethy led the opening prayer and along with Boy Scout Troop 250 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE February 18, 2014 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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 February 18, 2014 City Council Meeting be –
APPROVED

ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

That Consent Agenda be – APPROVED.

- A. Sewer Adjustments
- B. Consideration of Appointment to the Western Piedmont Council of Governments – Tom Rowe
- C. Consideration of Resolution – Certificate of Achievement Newton-Conover High School Men’s Wrestling Team State 2A Dual-Team Champions
- D. Consideration of Street Closing and Fee Schedule for Newton Conover Rotary Car Show
- E. Consideration of Re-Appointments to Planning Commission – Donnie Setzer, Melinda Travis, and Jim Smith

(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 anyone present would like to make any comments concerning non-agenda items.

Jerry Hodge, Business Advisory Chairman, stated that he was very pleased with the turn out at the Business Advisory Committee's annual meeting. He stated that city staff was instrumental in the success of the meeting, and that he felt like it is something they can all be proud of.

Mr. Hodge also wanted to point out that he was in attendance at the Council/Staff Workshop and that he wants Council to know that we are all in this together, and that there are resources out there willing to help on projects if needed.

Mayor Anne Stedman thanked Mr. Hodge for all his hard work on the Committee, and for all he does in the community. Council Member Wes Weaver stated that it was a great opportunity to speak with business leaders, and for business leaders to speak to each other. Mayor Pro Tem Mary Bess Lawing stated that everything went well and that she learned many things from these local business leaders. Mr. Hodge stated that he would like for the people of Newton to be more forward thinking.

Reverend Paul Fitzpatrick, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, stated that he would like to publicly thank the city and employees that did an excellent job during the recent snow storm.

Reverend Fitzpatrick also stated that he would like to see Newton be a "coulda town" instead of a "gonna town". He stated that the new Fire Headquarters will have an immediate impact on the town and that he would like to see other projects have similar impacts.

Mayor Stedman also thanked Public Works for the fine job they did during the snow storm, and said they had gone out of their way to scrape state roads for local businesses, and that she and Council really appreciated it.

ITEM 6: **New Business**

A. eUtilities Presentation

Finance Director Serina Hinson presented City Council and citizens with a brief presentation concerning the eUtilities feature that is now available on line for use. Ms. Hinson stated that citizens could access the site from the City of Newton's web page.

B. Consideration of Resolution to Adopt Capital Improvement Plan

Finance Director Serina Hinson stated that City staff has prepared a 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which balances projected revenues and expenditures based on financial forecast and assumptions with the City's long-range financial capacity.

Ms. Hinson reminded Council Members that an overview of the 5-Year CIP for Fiscal Years 2015- 2019 was presented to them on February 17, 2014 at the Annual Council Workshop, and that they had just received a more in-depth review of the CIP prior to tonight's meetings to discuss the infrastructure needs with the financial capacity of the City.

Mayor Stedman asked if this, per Council's discussion at the CIP workshop, defers the Smart Grid portion of the CIP until a future presentation. Ms. Hinson stated that it could. Todd Clark, City Manager, stated that when City Council is prepared to take action on the CIP that only the first year is actually adopted of the five year plan.

Council Member Dellinger stated that he thought that the Smart Grid portion would be tabled until there is a presentation made to City Council. City Attorney stated that this was his understanding. Mayor Stedman stated that this is just to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan. Projects will still be brought to City Council as has been done in the past.

Council Member Robert C. Abernethy stated that he would like to confirm that this CIP is being approved as long as it is understood that it is just for the first year, and that he is not voting for the proposed rate increases for water/sewer in the future, and that the smart grid be talked about more.

Mayor Stedman asked Council if they were prepared to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan.

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

That Year One of the Capital Improvement Plan - with any Rate Increases and the Smart Grid Program to be Discussed with City Council Prior to their Implementation be ADOPTED.

Mayor Pro Tem Mary Bess Lawing asked if these items would be discussed at budget time. Mr. Clark stated yes that is the time for that discussion that the 3% increase is part of the budget, not the CIP.

ITEM 7: City Manager's Report

- NLC Meeting in DC Sunday, March 9th - Wednesday, March 12th
- Unity Day – Sunday, May 18th Newton Conover Auditorium
- Fourth Annual Chili Cook-off 3/21 at 11:30 – Need three judges
- City has been awarded Tree City USA for the third year in a row
- Teen Leadership will tour ZF Lemforder next Thursday, March 13th – **and please let Amy know if you would like to attend.** Teen Leadership will be presenting to Council at the next City Council Meeting, March 18, 2014 (meeting will be held at 1924 Courthouse)
- Tour of Catawba Nuclear Plant
- Central March Madness basketball Tournament – March 10-13 at Central Rec on S. Ervin Ave.
- Men's Spring Fling Softball Tournament – March 22 at Jacob Fork Park
- The Human Relations Council is accepting Unity Award nominations. The Award recognizes a Newton resident, business or industry that has contributed to racial and cultural harmony in the City of Newton. The deadline to submit a nomination is Monday, April 28. For nomination forms visit newtonnc.gov or contact PIO Julie Chang.
- Easter Egg Hunt – 2 p.m., Sunday, April 13 at Southside Park
- Budget Calendar has been provided
- Workshop Visioning Reports have been provided
- Update of Fire Department Construction
- City Council Meetings will be relocated to the 1924 Courthouse starting with the March 18th meeting and continuing through the end of April. (April 1st and 15th)
- Innovate Catawba Update (handouts)
- Snow Creek Project, Hickory Sand
- Shannonbrook Phase III, CK Contracting – starting next week
- Street sweeper is out of commission
- New Storage building at Public Works, Denver Construction – grading has begun

ITEM 8: Questions and Comments from Mayor and Council

Mayor Anne P. Stedman asked if any Council Members would like to make any comments. There were none.

Council Member John Stiver stated that in the future he would like to hear a detailed streetscape vision and that he would like for Chief Yoder to provide the costs associated with Medical First Responders.

ITEM 9: **Closed Session to Consult with Attorney – G.S. 143-318-11(a)(5), G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)**

Upon motion duly made by Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr., seconded by Council Member Tom Rowe, it was unanimously RESOLVED: that the City Council enters CLOSED SESSION per G.S. 143-318-11(a)(5), and G.S. 143-318-11(a)(6).

City Council returned to REGULAR SESSION.

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

That The City Manager’s Contract be Honored as Written and that his Base Salary be Raised Accordingly Effective with his Hire Date of February 20th.

ITEM 10: **Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Mayor Pro Tem Mary Bess Lawing, seconded by Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr. the meeting was ADJOURNED.

Anne P. Stedman, Mayor

Amy S. Falowski, City Clerk

