

Newton Town Council Meeting
September 7, 2023, 7:00 P.M.
Newton Town Hall, 51 South Center, Newton UT
Minutes

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Opening Ceremony – Brett Petersen
3. Approval of August 3, 2023, Minutes
4. Presentation by Little Lambs Foundation - Proclamation declaring September 18-24, 2023 National Diaper Need Awareness Week
5. Water data review
6. Water meter temporary moratorium
7. Junius Hansen, lot division, 360 West 100 South, preliminary plan
8. Fee Schedule update – Water connection \$3,000, auto-read antenna replacement \$40, manual water meter reading \$50
9. Farmland lease agreement review and approval
10. Report on Mayor/Council Member Assignments

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members present.

Members present: Mayor Mike Benson, Jake Christiansen, Kent Fabricius and Brett Petersen. Karla Ferguson (Recorder) and Kathryn Rigby (Treasurer)
Electronic member attendance: Brett Petersen and Jed Woodward
Others present: Eric Dursteler, Terrie Jenkins, David Jenkins, Levi Jenkins, Robert Morales, Anzel Rhodes, Lee Woodley, Tom Pitcher, Marissa Draper, and Kevin Rhodes.
Youth Council members were also present at the beginning of the meeting.
Electronic attendance by Zoom: Sarah Rigby, and Gordon Anderson.

2. Opening ceremony conducted by Jake Christiansen

3. The Newton Town Council meeting minutes for August 3, 2023, were approved.

Youth Council Update – Garrett Phillips, New Mayor for the youth council, gave an update on the Newton Youth Council. They now have 21 members including 9 new members this year. They would like approval to use the building on 17 West Main Street for a scare house fundraiser for the youth council.

4. Presentation by Little Lambs Foundation - Proclamation – Julie Cook, Family Resource Outreach Manager for Little Lambs Foundation, gave a presentation on statistics on needs and services provided by Little Lambs Foundation in providing diaper, wipes, comfort kits and Teen parent programs. Jake Christiansen read the proclamation concerning National Diaper Need Awareness week of September 18 – 24, 2023. All approved in support of proclamation.

5. Water data review – Eric Dursteler presented information on the water flows from the Loosle-Buttars spring. The water flow for this spring has increased this summer. Eric Dursteler reviewed data for this spring from 2018 to 2022 with the new data for 2023 added in. The Utah state average is 800 gallons per connection per day that Eric has used for the capacity worksheets. That is the average to use unless more accurate local data is available. Eric said the good news is there is an increase for this spring, and we are beginning to collect more accurate data from the new auto-read meters. In worksheets on capacity Eric Dursteler has also estimated increased capacity by removing town and LDS church properties for sprinkling systems to be moved to secondary water. Mayor Benson asked Eric Dursteler based on that data, if water connections for

a set number of homes could be opened while we continue to collect water data. Eric Dursteler said yes it would be okay to open it for 5 new water connections while we still gather data. Jake Christiansen expressed concern that this was an exceptionally big water year which caused water use to be down, and flows increased and that this is not an average year. Eric Dursteler reviewed state average and 2023 water flow data. The Loosle-Buttars test well was discussed that it might decrease water flow from the spring but that a secondary water source is needed.

6. Water meter temporary moratorium – The number of water connections that could be added to the system now while collecting more water data was discussed. Eric Dursteler suggested no more than 5 connections for new homes be added to the system at this time and collect data through to the spring run off next year (6 months) to determine capacity. Encouraging water conservation and finding secondary water available to those that don't have it was discussed. Mike Benson read the proclamation allowing for five new connections for new home construction only.

“The Newton Town Council hereby proclaims, effective September 7, 2023, that due to the scarcity of water in the Newton Town water system water conservation measures shall continue. Furthermore, applications for new potable water connections to the Newton Town water system will be limited to five connections for new home construction.

Applications for new water connections shall be limited to those issued a building permit for new home construction to address the scarcity of water by limiting the connections to the Newton water system. Said limitation of five connections shall be in effect until the regularly scheduled May 2024 Newton Town Council meeting. At that time, the Newton Town Council will reevaluate the scarcity of water to determine appropriate further action.” Jake Christiansen made a motion to accept the proclamation as read. Brett Petersen seconds the motion. Roll call vote:

Jake Christiansen – yes

Mike Benson – yes

Brett Petersen – yes

Kent Fabricius – yes

Jed Woodward - yes

7. Junius Hansen, lot division, 360 West 100 South, preliminary plan – Brett Petersen explained this had been presented to the Newton Planning Commission and they have reviewed the preliminary plan. Anzel Rhodes explained the plan is to divide the lot into two lots with the lot with the existing house will be .66 of an acre and the remaining lot with be 1.2 acres. The proposed lots meet all frontage and lot requirements. **Jake Christiansen made a motion to accept the preliminary plan for the Junius Hansen lot division. Kent Fabricius seconded the motion. All approve.**

8. Fee Schedule update – Water connection \$3,000, auto-read antenna replacement \$40, manual water meter reading \$50– It was discussed that 3 to 5 auto-read water meter antennas have been damaged by residents since they were installed. It was discussed who is responsible for paying for damaged antennas. Jed Woodward reviewed the increased costs for parts. It was purposed to increase the proposed auto-read antenna fee to \$50 to cover the installation cost. Jake Christiansen will post reminders to residents to watch out for and take care of the antenna. **Jake Christiansen made a motion to accept the new fee schedule with the addition of an auto-read water meter antenna replacement fee of \$50, manual water meter reading fee of \$50 and increase the water connection fee to \$3,000. Kent Fabricius seconded the motion. All approve.**

9. Farmland lease agreement review and approval – Kent Fabricius discussed edits made to the proposed lease agreement. An indemnity clause was also added. The agreement is for 13 acres instead of the entire 14.2-acre property because of the Loosle-Buttars spring test well. All town council members agreed with the proposed lease agreement. Kent Fabricius will have the tenant Wayne Godfrey and Mayor Benson sign the agreement.

10. Report on Mayor/Council Member Assignments

- Mayor Benson – Animal Control/Administration/Nuisance/Parks
- Jake Christiansen – Library/Special Events/Youth Council
- Kent Fabricius – Buildings/Land Management
- Brett Petersen – Planning/Fire Dept./EMS
- Jed Woodward – Water/Streets

Mike Benson reported that the garbage collection consortium is working with the attorney on an ordinance that changes collection service to the Cache Waste Consortium Area. Mike Benson said that Young Brothers Livestock will be selling the property surrounding the Birch Springs water complex area. Young Brothers would like a new agreement for water rights before they sell the property. Mayor Hidalgo from Clarkston is working with them and the attorneys on a new agreement for Clarkston, Newton, and Trenton to agree with. Mayor Benson is working on the right-of-way nuisance letter. Mayor Benson would like to address the Center Street property and Stephen Griffin's property that overlap. Mayor Benson will arrange for a survey to be completed to fix this mistake. Jake Christiansen reported that he will begin arranging for the town dinner to take place in November or December. Kent Fabricius is still waiting for an invoice from Alltech for camera installation. The bid has been increased to include 7 cameras, wire, and a 16-channel switch. The extra camera is to cover the ballot box. Kent hopes to approve it and get it installed in October. Kent Fabricius asked for ideas for projects for the town square for a service project that will be done on September 16. Cleaning, painting the tennis court backboard, and weeds were discussed. Jed Woodward discussed that the Young Brothers Livestock properties water line from the Birch Springs needs to be fixed. Jed suggested that should be included in the agreement. Jed discussed that concrete piles from the Jones secondary water line replacement project still need to be cleaned up. Jed will follow up with Newton Water Users Association about taking care of it. Also, because of the Jones line replacement project, asphalt on 400 West needs to be patched and should be done by the contractor. Brett Petersen reported he has spoken to Gordon Anderson about grant writing. Brett would like to form a committee to start work on a fire station design and to look for funding. The need for a complete water impact fee study was discussed.

The regular meeting adjourned.

Minutes prepared by: _____
Karla R. Ferguson, Newton Town Clerk

Approval Date