

Newton Town Council Meeting
June 5, 2025, 7:00 P.M.
Newton Town Hall, 51 South Center, Newton UT
Minutes

Agenda

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Opening Ceremony – Steven Jenkins
3. Approval of May 1, 2025, Minutes
4. Youth Council update
5. Cache County Sheriff Department Presentation – Sheriff Jensen
6. Interlocal Agreement for Dispatch Services proposed fee increase. a) Resolution 2025-01
7. Pickleball Courts. a) Notice of Award for Construction of Pickleball Courts
8. Budget Review
9. Public hearing amending the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget
10. Acceptance of amended 2024-2025 budget
11. Public hearing for proposing the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget
12. Acceptance of proposed 2025-2026 budget
13. Property Line Adjustment Agreement – 51 South Center/76 South 100 West
14. Report on Mayor/Council Member Assignments

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

Mayor Mike Benson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor Mike Benson, Jake Christiansen, Steven Jenkins, Brett Petersen and Jed Woodward. Electronic attendance by Zoom: none

Karla Ferguson (Recorder) and Kathryn Rigby (Treasurer)

Others present: Brian Low, Lt. Bartchi, Ottis Bartlett, Eric Dursteler, Lee Woodley, Brittney Woodley, Dave Jones, Carrie Milligan, and Sarah Rigby.

2. Opening ceremony conducted by Steven Jenkins.

3. The Newton Town Council meeting minutes for May 1, 2025, were approved.

4. Youth Council update – Carrie Milligan reported for the Newton Youth Council on the parades that they plan on attending this summer being Clarkston, Lewiston, North Logan and Newton. The theme for the float is a construction theme. They are still working on a trailer and may borrow a flat bed trailer for the parades. The youth council plans to sell cotton candy and popcorn at the town celebration. The youth council will also do the flag ceremony at the celebration. The youth council can also be used as volunteers to serve lunch. They are planning a retreat for the end of summer. Carrie requested ideas for the youth council for a service project.

5. Cache County Sheriff Department Presentation – Lieutenant Bartchi with Cache County Sheriffs Department discussed the proposed 2025-2026 fiscal year contract that will have increased hourly rate. The rate will increase from \$52.35 to \$56.00 hourly. The new contract will be \$11,368.00. The number of hours will remain the same. Lt. Bartchi reviewed the calls and service provided. Mayor Mike Benson asked with a single year contract if they expect an increase next year also. Lt. Bartchi said that it is not known at this time, but they will evaluate over the next year. The animal control contract is up for renewal next year. Dave Jones complained about speeding on 400 West. Speeding on different streets was discussed.

Brett Petersen made a motion to approve the proposed contract. Jake second the motion. Jed Woodward asked to read the contract and did.

Roll call vote:

COUNCILMEMBER	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mike Benson	X			
Jake Christiansen	X			
Steven Jenkins	X			
Brett Petersen	X			
Jed Woodward	X			

PASSED by the Town Council of Newton, Utah, this 5th day of June, 2025.

6. Interlocal Agreement for Dispatch Services proposed fee increase. Brian Low with Logan Dispatch was in attendance to answer questions regarding the interlocal agreement. Mayor Mike Benson asked what reserve money is being used for. Brian Low said the money is being held to be able to become its own special district separate from Logan City. Brian will provide a memo signed by Logan that the fund balance is for dispatch and will stay with the dispatch center when or if they leave Logan City. The rate increase is effective July 1. Brett Petersen asked for clarification on the rate increase. Brian Low explained that in the first year the rate will increase from \$3.00 to \$3.30, equal to a 10% increase, and then increase 3% each fiscal year for four more years to a finished rate of \$3.71 per household on July 1, 2029.

a) Resolution 2025-01 – Brett Petersen made a motion to accept the proposed interlocal agreement for dispatch services proposed fee increase. Mike Benson second the motion. Roll call vote:

COUNCILMEMBER	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mike Benson	X			
Jake Christiansen	X			
Steven Jenkins	X			
Brett Petersen	X			
Jed Woodward	X			

PASSED by the Town Council of Newton, Utah, this 5th day of June, 2025.

7. Pickleball Courts. a) Notice of Award for Construction of Pickleball Courts – Eric Dursteler discussed that Newton was awarded this year \$110,000 to go towards Pickleball courts. This goes with the previously awarded \$45,000 RAPZ grant and \$20,000 donation. Available funding is \$175,000. Newton's capital project funding is also available. Eric Dursteler reviewed the previously done bid tabulation from February 2025. Eric Dursteler discussed that he talked with contractors that bid. Raymond Construction said they would still honor their bids. Northend Builders would not be able to do the project this year. The location of the new pickleball courts was discussed. The concerns discussed were having to tear out existing courts, finding a new location for ice rink, proximity to residence, and costs for new lights. Mike Benson reviewed the possibility of building new courts at Clarke Park and the benefits of developing Clarke Park into more of a park than just underused soccer fields. Eric Dursteler discussed that it will be cheaper to locate the courts in a new location. Cody Bartlett arrived at the meeting and said his preference was to keep the location of the ice rink where it is mainly for lights, water and Zamboni storage and locate the new courts elsewhere. Brett Petersen asked if foliage could be planted to dampen sound and minimize noise for residents close to Clarke Park. Eric Dursteler reviewed what other communities have planted to dampen sound and down facing lighting on timers. Eric Dursteler suggested accepting bid option #4 from Raymond construction for \$176,000, add lights to the project that will cost approximately \$12,000 and gravel for parking along Center Street. The location of the drain field at Clarke Park will need to be determined before the exact location of pickleball courts but the town council would like to place them side by side close to the restrooms at Clarke Park.

Jake Christiansen made a motion to accept the bid option #4 from Raymond Construction for \$176,775.50. Steven Jenkins second the motion.

Roll call vote:

COUNCILMEMBER	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mike Benson	X			
Jake Christiansen	X			
Steven Jenkins	X			
Brett Petersen	X			
Jed Woodward	X			

PASSED by the Town Council of Newton, Utah, this 5th day of June, 2025.

8. Budget Review– Kathryn Rigby reviewed the budget expenses and revenues through April 2025. Kathryn reviewed revenue, expenses and any changes to budgeted items. Adjustments needed for the budget due to increases or decreases or grants received were reviewed.

9. Public hearing amending the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget - Mike Benson opened the public hearing. No public comments were made. This public hearing was closed.

10. Acceptance of amended 2024-2025 budget - Brett Petersen made a motion to accept the amended fiscal year budget from \$671,150 to \$616,405. Jake Christiansen seconded the motion. Roll call vote:

COUNCILMEMBER	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mike Benson	X			
Jake Christiansen	X			
Steven Jenkins	X			
Brett Petersen	X			
Jed Woodward	X			

PASSED by the Town Council of Newton, Utah, this 5th day of June, 2025.

11. Public hearing for proposing the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget - Mike Benson opened the public hearing. No public comments were made. This public hearing was closed.

12. Acceptance of proposed 2025-2026 budget - Kathryn Rigby explained the expenses are greater than revenue due to playground equipment purchase from the capital project fund. An explanation will be submitted to the State of Utah for the difference with the posted budget. **Jake Christiansen made a motion to accept the proposed fiscal year budget for 2025-2026 of \$761,567. Brett Petersen seconded the motion. Roll call vote:**

COUNCILMEMBER	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mike Benson	X			
Jake Christiansen	X			
Steven Jenkins	X			
Brett Petersen	X			
Jed Woodward	X			

PASSED by the Town Council of Newton, Utah, this 5th day of June, 2025.

13. Property Line Adjustment Agreement – 51 South Center/76 South 100 West – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints just contacted us with an updated property line with adjustments requested by the Town Council. Because it was just received Eric Dursteler hasn't had a chance to review it. Eric will review it to make sure it has an easement for the water meter

antenna on the ball diamond light tower. It was discussed that the power panel needs to be separated. Jed Woodward asked about an easement for the drain field for the metal building. The exact location of the drain field is needed. Steven Jenkins discussed a new panel for the tennis court lights with a separate light switch instead of shutting on and off breakers. It was discussed that a timer may need to be added so the lights can't be turned on after a certain time. Mike Benson will investigate costs for a new power panel and discuss getting separate power panels with the church.

14. Report on Mayor/Council Member Assignments

- Mayor Benson – Animal Control/Administration/Nuisance/Parks
- Steven Jenkins – Buildings/Land Management
- Brett Petersen – Planning/Fire Dept./EMS
- Jed Woodward – Water/Streets

Mike Benson discussed enforcing right-of-way codes to clean up town property. Steven Jenkins asked about weeds and if we would spray. Right-of-way code was reviewed. Mike would like to start with the obvious nuisances, such as junk. Problem areas were discussed. Mike would like to start sending out letters to property owners to clean up. Jake Christiansen reported that the town celebration committee has met. They have some questions like who is going to do breakfast and an alternative other than fireworks. Jake will ask the Fire Department if they are interested in making the breakfast as a fundraiser. Brett Petersen reported that Debbie Rashal has agreed to be on the Newton Planning Commission. Brett asked about getting the code books updated. Karla Ferguson reviewed the bid from last year from American Eagle Publishing. Karla will get an updated bid to codify books and put it on next month's agenda. Mike Benson has talked to other Mayor's about rumors that say Cache County is doing away with volunteer fire stations. The new county fire chief starts July 1. Mike will follow up with the new fire chief after he takes office to gather information on whether the county would be interested in building a fire station in Newton. Next month's meeting falls on July 3. Council members would not be able to attend because of the holiday. It was decided to change July's meeting to Tuesday, July 1 at 7 pm. Jed Woodward reported there is a leak in the water line above Clarkston in a field. It is 6-inch transite pipe there. Jed plans to dig it up and clamp it. A scrub coat on 300 South will be done and chip seal will be done in July. Eric Dursteler reported that we submitted replacing the water line at a cost of 4.8 million to the State of Utah water projects list. Replacing the water line will cost 5.7 million.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Karla R. Ferguson, Newton Town Clerk

Approval Date