

Newton Town Council Meeting
August 13, 2025, 7:00 P.M.
Newton Town Hall, 51 South Center, Newton UT
Minutes

Agenda

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Opening Ceremony – Jed Woodward
3. Approval of July 1, 2025, Minutes
4. Town Celebration Review
5. Pickleball Courts update
6. Formation of Clarke Park design committee
7. Water Project discussion – future planning for replacement of transite pipe
8. Comcast franchise agreement renewal
9. 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: Craig Rigby, Miles Stewart, Ellie Yeates and Sarah Rigby.

2. Opening ceremony conducted by Jed Woodward.

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

5. Pickleball Courts update – The construction of the new pickleball courts were discussed. There are concerns about vandalism. The town council discussed padlocking the gates but decided against that at this time. Signage for the courts was discussed. Other signs regarding vandalism or park closed at dark signs were discussed. Concerns about branches being broken at the park were discussed. It was determined that Brett Petersen will write up a message to be published with concerns over vandalism. The pre-construction meeting for the pickleball courts was reviewed. In that meeting a change order was agreed upon to adding lighting with a timer for a total \$29,289 to the project.

6. Formation of Clarke Park design committee – Mayor Mike Benson discussed his desire to have a plan for future development of Clarke Park. Mayor Benson proposed to form a Clarke Park design committee to propose future development of the park. Mike has received an offer for donation of trees for the park, and he would like to have a plan in place before trees are planted. Mayor Benson would like the committee to also recommend priority on the projects proposed. Michelle Griffin has volunteered to seek funding for projects. Council members suggested asking Craig Petersen, Susie Maughan and Kevin McBride to serve on the committee. Mike Benson will ask them to serve on the committee and come next month with suggestions for the park.

7. Water Project discussion – future planning for replacement of transite pipe – Mike Benson would like to investigate replacing old water line pipe in sections and determine how much could be replaced each year. Water leaks were discussed. The location of the transite pipe and prescribed easements were discussed. The pipe to be replaced would be from the Birch springs complex, north of Clarkston then tied into the Loosle-Buttars spring water line (installed in 1996) just south of Clarkston.

The transite pipe replacement has been placed on the Utah master plan for water projects list so it will be eligible for funding. It was discussed that the pipeline runs through Clarkston and if the location of the pipeline is changed new easements would need to be obtained. It was determined to ask the water committee to make a plan for the replacement of transite pipe.

8. Comcast franchise agreement renewal – The proposed franchise agreement renewal was reviewed. **Jake Christiansen made a motion to accept the renewal franchise agreement with Comcast. Steven Jenkins seconded the motion. All in attendance approved the motion.**

4. Town Celebration Review – Kathryn Rigby reviewed the income and expenses from the town celebration held in July. There are still expenses to come in and reconciliation to be completed for credit card charges. The Friday night fundraiser dinner with Pizza Stop served over 600 pizzas. They donated their proceeds of \$3,000 towards new playground equipment. The breakfast put on by Jed Woodward and friends also raised about \$1,037 for playground equipment. The town celebration was well attended. Mike Benson has received a request to add a volleyball pit to Clarke Park especially for the town celebration volleyball tournament.

Other business: A youth council update was given by Miles Stewart and Ellie Yeates. Mike Benson expressed gratitude for the youth council's help and for conducting the flag ceremony at the town celebration. Miles requested the use of the building (17 West Main) for the youth council's scare house again this year. The youth council has opened applications for new members for this year.

9. Report on Mayor/Council Member Assignments

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

Jake Christiansen asked Sarah Rigby to report on the library. Sarah said they finished the summer reading program and had 70 participants. They earned \$407 at the book sale during town celebration and \$359 in phone book sales. Steven Jenkins reported he had a plumber fix the metal building outside restrooms and the water fountain at Clarke Park. The garbage cans will cost \$169 to clean. Jake Christiansen will ask the youth council if they want to do it as a fundraiser. The Fire department has asked if the town will buy LED lights for the metal building and north fire bay. The fire department will install the fixtures. The cost of purchasing the fixtures will be \$449. Steven discussed the need to bore a line to the playground to run cable for a security camera. Using existing conduit was discussed. The Town Council discussed installing a security camera at Clarke Park for the pickleball courts. Steven will find out more information about using the radio antenna or the Comcast line for security cameras. Jed Woodward reported he is working on a purchase agreement with the USDA to purchase a used tractor for lawn mowing. The old tractor will need to be towed and declare it surplus to sell. Jed reported that the chip seal on 7 blocks has been completed. Jed reported that we still have water but next year will be very tough unless we have a very wet winter. We will need to watch water levels to see if water restrictions will need to be enforced. Brett Petersen reported that the Planning Commission is still working on an animal ordinance. They are also looking at other sections of existing code about animals and trying to compile it together. Craig Petersen with the "Merry & Bright" group would like to purchase a storage container to store holiday decorations. Karla Ferguson asked if spider webs on the

outside of the town hall could be cleaned off. Steven will ask the fire department to hose off the town hall during a training exercise.

The regular meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by:

Karla R. Ferguson, Newton Town Clerk

Approval Date