

Newton Town Council Meeting  
February 5, 2026, 7:00 P.M.  
Newton Town Hall, 51 South Center, Newton UT  
Minutes

Agenda

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Opening ceremony, prayer or thought – Craig Rigby
3. Approval of January 2026 Minutes
4. Public comment period open for items not on agenda (discussion only)
5. Newton Youth Council report
6. Clarke Park - a) pickleball court sound barriers (b) design ideas, survey results and funding
7. Property Line Adjustment Agreement for 51 South Center/76 South 100 West review
8. COG award for Center Street widening, Main Street to 100 South
  - a) power installation (b) design, drain lines, sidewalk and gutter (c) bid
9. Review of Newton code
10. Report on Mayor/ Council Member Assignments
  - Mayor Rigby – Animal Control/Administration/Nuisance
  - Steven Jenkins – Buildings/Land Management/Library/Fire Dept.
  - Anzl Rhodes – Planning/Clerks/Parks
  - Brandon Taylor – Special Events/Youth Council
  - Town Celebration Vice Chairs
  - Jed Woodward – Water/Streets

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

Mayor Craig Rigby called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Craig Rigby, Steven Jenkins, Anzl Rhodes, Brandon Taylor and Jed Woodward

Absent: None. Electronic attendance by Zoom: None

Karla Ferguson (Recorder) and Kathryn Rigby (Treasurer)

Others in attendance: Eric Dursteler, Rollie Griffin, Sarah Rigby, Emily Zaugg, Cody Bartlett, and members of Newton Youth Council.

**2. Opening ceremony** conducted by Craig Rigby.

**3. The Newton Town Council meeting minutes for January 8, 2026, were approved.**

**4. Public comment period open for items not on agenda (discussion only)**

Michelle Plainer said she doesn't like paying for a dog license every year, she would like to pay for multiple years at once. Michelle asked if dog licensing could be changed from yearly to correspond with rabies vaccination due dates.

**5. Newton Youth Council report**

Nothing to report at this time.

**6. Clarke Park - a) pickleball court sound barriers (b) design ideas, survey results and funding** – Roland Griffin discussed issues with sound barrier mats: the mats would not be tall enough with the existing fence and that spectators could not watch pickleball matches outside of the fence. The line of sight and the need to have the sound barriers ten feet tall to be the most effective was discussed. Different options for sound barriers and cost per foot were discussed. Roland Griffin reported that they would like to plant 27, 25-gallon trees at Clarke Park at a cost of \$6,075 (\$225 each) from Cove Meadow Farms. Susie Maughan has applied for a "Tree Utah" grant that would cover \$2,500 if approved. To save expenses, the trees would be planted by volunteers. The Clarke Park committee proposes a walking path around Clarke Park with the trees

planted by the path. The walking path would cost about \$30,000. It would have a 4" road base compacted and 3" asphalt at 5' wide. The cut would be 7' wide and compacted for the walking path. The committee would like to apply for RAPZ funding for the path. Roland said they would like to plant trees in March or April before it gets too hot. They would have Gaylen Maughan help them mark sprinkler lines and heads before digging. The 25-gallon trees will require a 3-foot hole for planting. The trees will be planted 7' away from the proposed walking path and at least 13' from the property lines. Roland would like to arrange for a large auger to dig holes. It was discussed that an employee or volunteer would need to water the new trees weekly. Roland would like to seek donations from residents to help fund improvements. Plans for future development of the park include: a pavilion, playground, and parking. A parking lot on the .5-acre parcel was discussed. Roland said the cost for the town will be about \$3,600 for purchase of the trees if we get the "Tree Utah" grant. It was discussed that the yearly population allocation from RAPZ funding is about \$2,000 for Newton. **Brandon Taylor made a motion to approve \$3,600 for the purchase of trees for Clarke Park. Jed Woodward seconds the motion and all Town Council members approve.** Mayor Rigby clarified the motion to spend \$3,600 is contingent on receiving the grant of \$2,500. The funding from RAPZ population allocation will also be used. Jed Woodward discussed the need for a secondary water hose bib in the center of Clarke Park to help water trees. Roland discussed drip irrigation from 5-gallon buckets that could be used for each tree. No motorized vehicles will be allowed on the walking path and signage should be posted. Brandon Taylor asked if we should only plant half of the trees because of the drought. Roland said it will be about the same amount of work, but they will eliminate two trees that are planned in the middle to keep the soccer field until other items are installed. The phone line running overhead through Clarke Park will cost \$6,800 to decommission the line. The mayor asked what the survey results were regarding improvements for Clarke Park. Roland didn't have the results, but he knew they had at least 30 responses and all were in favor of trees and a walking path. The mayor would like more information on the sound mats for the Pickleball courts. Anzi Rhodes will get cost estimates for extending the fence to 10 feet. Jed Woodward has 3 metal picnic tables to donate. Roland discussed installing a 16' x 30' cement pad with the metal tables installed on the pad and a sidewalk to the courts. Cody Bartlett offered to donate labor to install the cement pad. Jed Woodward discussed where sprinkler lines are located around the pickleball courts. Jed will meet with Gaylen Maughan and Roland to determine location of sprinkler lines and where a cement pad could be located. Cody Bartlett estimates that cement would cost about \$1,500 and gravel about \$500. Mayor Rigby said the town council will need to look at the budget to determine what could be spent this year on improvements.

**7. Property Line Adjustment Agreement for 51 South Center/76 South 100 West review –** Eric Dursteler reviewed the history on the lot line adjustment. The lot line adjustment came about to separate the ball diamond to only being on the church parcel. After we presented an easement for the drain field the Church came back and said they weren't aware the drain field was for our building and so they will adjust the proposed lot line, so the entire drain field remains on the town property. The power for the ball diamond will still need to be separated from the tennis court power panel. And an easement for the water antenna on the ball diamond light pole is still needed. Jed Woodward discussed the location of the secondary water lines and the need for a new secondary water line separate from the town's line. The Church office asked if we would share in the cost for separating utilities, but the town council discussed that the town paid for the installation and would not pay for the separation. Craig Rigby will follow up with the Church that the town will agree to the proposed property line just south of the dug out and north of the town's drain field. **Anzi Rhodes made a motion to accept the proposed lot line adjustment. Steven Jenkins accepted and all approved.**

Jed Woodward discussed that the secondary water valves will be on the town property and an easement is needed for valves and water line. Jed Woodward will work with Eric Dursteler to describe the location.

**8. COG award for Center Street widening, Main Street to 100 South** – Eric Dursteler reviewed that a sidewalk and gutter have been added to the plan. An ADA ramp has been added to the sidewalk corner by the veteran’s memorial. Eric discussed the culvert running under the highway and the need to work with UDOT for drainage issues. Jed Woodward discussed that the current culvert leads to nowhere and the need for drainage on the North side of highway. Jed discussed the possibility of installing a drain box at the post office corner and tying into the old drain line under Center Street. It was discussed to pull the curb and gutter proposed back to match the west side of the block. It was discussed to separate curb and gutter to be able to move the sidewalk further to the west. The need for a storm drain was discussed. Jed Woodward reviewed that the existing drain line is on the East side of Center Street and is 8’ deep but he only knows the location of one manhole. Eric Dursteler reviewed that they could tie the gutter into the drain line. The location of poles on the west side of Center Street was discussed. Jed Woodward will follow up with Comcast to see if those poles are still needed because he thinks it was for an old cable line not in use. Eric Dursteler will have the plans drawn as discussed and present them to the County for approval.

**9. Review of Newton code** - Anzl Rhodes reported that the Planning Commission wants new code books. Karla Ferguson discussed that we had begun working with American Eagle Publishing to codify Newton’s code and update it, but it will take a couple years. A few years ago, Terri Rhodes began formatting Newton code and reviewing it for compliance with Utah code. Terri has now completed all chapters except for Chapter 4 with the changes made in 2024 for Waste Management. Karla will send out the code format for town council to review, if there are no changes then a public hearing and formatting changes will be adopted next month.

**10. Report on Mayor/ Council Member Assignments**

- Mayor Rigby – Animal Control/Administration/Nuisance
- Steven Jenkins – Buildings/Land Management/Library/Fire Dept.
- Anzl Rhodes – Planning/Clerks/Parks
- Brandon Taylor – Special Events/Youth Council
  - Town Celebration Vice Chairs
- Jed Woodward – Water/Streets

Craig Rigby reported that he will get more quotes on sound barrier mats for the pickleball courts and Anzl will get quotes for extending the north side fence to 10 feet.

Steven Jenkins reported that we received one applicant, Chelsea Breeze, for the janitor position. Chelsea has been filling in for Dan Jeppsen since he quit. Steven offered the job to Chelsea and she accepted. The Fire Department has received a new fire truck, donated by Northrop Gruman. It is a 1987 diesel that can hold more personal in the cab. The Fire Department is looking into donating their oldest fire truck to another fire department. The library is switching computer systems because of the state library. It will take some time to enter all books into the new system. The library received the quality library award from the state.

Brandon Taylor reported that he is still working on finding vice chairs for the town celebration. Town ski night will be held March 3 at Beaver Mountain. New this year at Beaver Mountain is the requirement for all participants to have RFID cards. Brandon will work to get information out to everyone on how to do that. Brandon plans to meet with Jake Christiansen to get information and arrange the Easter Egg hunt. Aaron Cotheran has done a volunteer fireworks show on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. He requested help from the town with the cost. The Town Council should consider doing

either fireworks for the town celebration or help with the cost for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. It was discussed it is the 250-year celebration for the country, and we should maybe do fireworks this year for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Brandon will have the celebration committee consider it. There is also a request for the Newton Green Canyon students to have a fundraising booth at the celebration to raise money for the marching band to go to nationals. The celebration will be on July 24 and 25 this year. Anzi Rhodes has identified projects at the park to do for town clean- up day. The Planning Commission has 3 terms that are coming up and are working on putting all references to animals in one area of the code.

Jed Woodward discussed the cement at the pavilion by the south sidewalk is upheaved. Jed said the corner needs to be ground down. Jed said the town council has also discussed putting gravel around the pavilion to cover the dirt areas under the trees. The water tank in the pavilion needs to be replaced. Jed said he locked the breaker box at the tennis court because the breakers were shut off, which shut off power to the water meter reader antenna. The lock is a number 23 key. We will wait for the ball diamond lights to be removed from the breaker to make changes to the breaker box and locking switches.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Minutes prepared by:

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Karla R. Ferguson, Newton Town Clerk

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Approval Date