

Newton Town Council Meeting
April 8, 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 – Anzl Rhodes
3. Approval of March 2026 Minutes
4. Public comment period open for items not on agenda (discussion only)
5. Newton Youth Council report
6. Semi quincentennial “250 Years” display for Newton Town Hall
7. Clarke Park - pickleball court sound barrier mats, extension of fence
8. CCCOG project for Center Street widening, Main Street to 100 South update
9. Town Clean-Up Day
10. Cache County proposed Fire/EMS plan
11. Review of Newton code
12. 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
 - 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: Helen Rigby, Sarah Rigby, and Jacob Ames with Forsgren Associates.

2. Opening ceremony conducted by Steven Jenkins

3. The Newton Town Council meeting minutes for March 5, 2026, were approved.

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

None

5. Newton Youth Council report

Not in attendance.

6. Semi quincentennial “250 Years” display for Newton Town Hall – Helen Rigby explained that Carol Milligan, Michelle Benson and herself have been doing the displays in the town hall. This year they would like to do “250 years” display and involve the community. Coloring pages for all to participate, every age. Community members should pick up a coloring page from the library, take home and color it and then bring it back to the library by July 1. They will also post a QR code that can be scanned and print out your own coloring pages. Helen discussed what other communities are doing for displays. Helen thinks the cost will be minimal for the display, about \$125 - \$150 for copies and banners. The budget for the displays has been under the Utah Humanities grant 10-43-340. The grant was used to purchase display cables and clamps to hang artwork. They plan on having a banner 3’ x 6’ printed to display. Helen described a “250 years” trivia game available for purchase from Amazon that would be fun to play at the town celebration. Brandon Taylor will pass on the information to the town celebration committee. Helen also

explained that she and Carol Milligan are 87 and 86 years old and are slowing down and need someone else to take over doing the displays in the town hall. The “250 years” display will be left up for a year. **Anzl Rhodes made a motion to approve a budget of \$150 for the “250 years” display. Steven Jenkins seconded the motion. All Newton town council members approved.**

7. Clarke Park - a) pickleball court sound barrier mats, extension of fence – Anzl Rhodes said he got another quote for extending the pickleball court fence for \$6,100. The second quote is from Custom Fence and is \$3,000 less. They would leave the 6-foot fence and add a 4-foot extension fence on top, welded to the poles. Anzl and Craig spoke with users of sound damping mat, and they felt they worked well. Other sound damping materials and bids were discussed. The bid for the recommended sound damping mat is \$5,187. The proposed security camera for the pickleball courts was discussed because the sound damping mat will block the view of the court. The camera will need to be placed on a light pole, and this will increase the cost. Steven Jenkins will talk to Alltech about the camera and get more information. **Anzl Rhodes made a motion to approve the fence extension bid of \$6,100 and the sound mat purchase of \$5,187. Steven Jenkins seconded the motion and all Town Council members approved.**

8. CCCOG project for Center Street widening, Main Street to 100 South update – Jacob Ames with Forsgren and Associates discussed that 6 contractors bid on the Center Street project and 4 contractors met the requirements and qualifications. The bid tabulation results were presented. Forsgren and Associates recommends going with the low bid from Staker Parsons for \$261,164. Jed Woodward explained that the CCCOG grant would fund \$205,000 of the project and the remainder would be the responsibility of the town. The higher cost includes parking and sidewalk. If the parking and sidewalk are removed from the project, then it would need to be rebid. The town is required to put in an 8% match for the grant. The engineer fees can also be used to meet match requirements. The timeline is 120 days and they must maintain access to the fire station. The contractor felt they could complete it before the town celebration if they are able to start in May. Four trees would need to be removed. Two of those trees are dead or dying. **Jed Woodward made a motion to accept the low bid from Staker Parsons. Anzl Rhodes seconded the motion and all Town Council members approved.** Jacob Ames will inform Staker Parsons of the bid award and schedule a preconstruction meeting.

9. Town Clean-Up Day – The date of April 25 was determined for town clean-up day. Having a dumpster for a week from the Monday before was also decided. Potential projects were discussed. Tennis courts will need to be cleaned off prior to painting lines. Brandon Taylor will meet with Karla to review details and projects.

10. Cache County proposed Fire/EMS plan – Mayor Craig Rigby explained meetings and studies that have been ongoing with the Cache County Fire District. Cache County executive George Daines has been concerned with the double taxation of Logan, North Logan and Providence with the Cache County Fire District. Those cities provide their own fire protection services but also pay into the Cache County Unified Fire District. Unincorporated Cache County does not pay at all into the fire district. Smithfield and Hyrum do not want to participate in a Cache County Fire District but would like to continue contracting their fire services to other communities. Cache County is proposing disbanding the county fire district and each community would then oversee their own fire departments and funding. A new mill levy to fund fire departments is being proposed. The town council discussed the different proposed mill levies. The size of Newton’s fire district would stay the same, but we would then receive money from the unincorporated properties that we cover. The proposed levy could also be used to fund a contract with another community’s

fire department to provide service. We could also have an interlocal agreement to provide back-up services. Craig explained that some communities are looking into disbanding their departments and contracting with other communities for fire protection services. With the dissolution of Cache County fire district it will be difficult for smaller communities to afford new equipment and vehicles. We would also not have county personnel or training from the county fire district. Craig said Newton may not have a choice because the larger communities don't want to be part of the unified fire district. This seems to be the option that the county is pursuing. Levy amounts were again reviewed. Mayor Rigby asked that questions or concerns be emailed to him before he attends the meeting with the county next month.

Other business: Kathryn Rigby said the town council will need to decide if we will consider increasing the property tax rate next month. The town budget will also need to be looked at next month for the budget hearings in June.

11. Review of Newton code – Newton code missing sections were discussed. References to other sections of Newton code were reviewed. Craig is still looking into infractions for the animal code

11. Report on Mayor/ Council Member Assignments

Craig Rigby reported that he followed up with Bonnie Hamlin about removing junk from town right-of-way and off her property. She has a dumpster there and said she is working on it. Steven Jenkins reported that he has opened the outside restrooms and plans on turning on the water to the pavilion and replacing the water heater. Steven asked if the thistle in the town rights-of-way could be sprayed and discussed problem areas. Jed Woodward will investigate and see if Cache County could do spraying. Greg Jorgensen arrived at the meeting and Craig said he would talk to him about the planned mill levies. Jed Woodward reported that the street mowing tractor has been purchased and can be picked up. Craig will follow up on the tractor. Anzl Rhodes reported that he does not have a new planning commission member yet and will present another name next month. Anzl said the neighbors asked if the pickleball courts could be closed at 8:00 p.m. until the sound mats are put up. The light timer needs to be adjusted so it shuts off correctly. Anzl will put up a sign for temporary hours. Kaaren Hodgson Davis offered to do a plan for native plantings at Clarke Park for drought resistant plants. Anzl will ask her to work with Rollie Griffin on plans. Brandon Taylor said the Easter Egg hunt went well and the youth council helped with it. Carrie Milligan said the youth council would like the town to have a bunny costume for the easter egg hunt to take pictures with. Brandon Taylor will ask Michelle Griffin if she still has a bunny suit. Brandon will work with Karla for town clean up day sign up sheets. The town celebration has a bid for bounce house rentals, and it is more and they may need to increase wristband costs. Brandon will have celebration committee get a bid from bounce-4-kids for bounce house rentals and labor. The celebration committee meets next week, and Brandon will have them talk about fireworks and "250 years" celebration. Jed Woodward reported the springs are running lower with Birch at 250 gpm and Looslie-Buttars at 40 gpm. The reservoir is at 40%. This will cut use by more than half. The secondary water meters have begun to be installed block by block.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Minutes prepared by:

Karla R. Ferguson, Newton Town Clerk

Approval Date