Newton Town Council Meeting
May 7, 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 – Jed Woodward
3. Approval of April 2026 Minutes
4. Public comment period open for items not on agenda (discussion only)
5. Newton Youth Council report
6. Cache County Sheriff Office presentation
7. CCCOG project for Center Street widening, Main Street to 100 South
8. Property Line Adjustment Agreement for 51 South Center/76 South 100 West review
9. Consideration of tax rate and budget review
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, Anzl Rhodes, Brandon Taylor and Jed Woodward Absent: Steven Jenkins. Electronic attendance by Zoom: None
Karla Ferguson (Recorder) and Kathryn Rigby (Treasurer)
Others in attendance: Garrett Phillips, Emma Buck, Rhys Ferguson, Sarah Rigby, Greg Jorgensen, Joe Plainer, Michelle Plainer, Rod Rounds and Eric Dursteler and Jacob Ames with Forsgren Associates.

2. Opening ceremony conducted by Jed Woodward

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

4. Public comment period open for items not on agenda (discussion only)
Rod Rounds introduced himself as the new owner of a 30-acre parcel adjacent to Newton's north boundary along 200 North. Rod Rounds is going to request rezone from Cache County to RU2. Cache County requires an endorsement letter from the town for access to the new 200 North road. Rod Rounds also discussed possibly requesting annexation from Newton. Rod Rounds asked to be on the agenda next month for approval to access 200 North. Joe Plainer asked for an update on the pickleball court sound damping measures. Anzl Rhodes and Craig Rigby explained that purchase agreements have been made for extending the fence on the north of the pickleball courts to 10 feet and installation of a sound damping mat.

5. Newton Youth Council report
Garrett Phillips thanked the town council for their support. Emma Buck and Rhys Ferguson reviewed the leadership conference at USU the Youth Council attended. The youth council plans to redecorate the town float and attend Clarkston, Lewiston, Newton and maybe Hyde Park parades this summer. The youth council will have a closing social for graduates on June 12. The youth council also plan to do the flag ceremony at the town celebration and sell cotton candy. The

youth council will start to accept new applications at the end of July. Brandon Taylor asked if the youth council could help with getting more youth involved with helping with the town celebration. The town celebration committee will work on some ideas with the youth council.

6. Cache County Sheriff Office presentation – Lieutenant Bartschi introduced himself and presented the proposed contract for 2026-2027. The contract presented was different than the contract previously emailed to the town council members. Hours of service and patrol hours were reviewed. Lieutenant Bartschi explained Newton had 508 hours of service and paid for 297 contracted hours this last fiscal year. The new contract will not increase the contracted hours but will increase the hourly rate. The animal control contract is up for renewal next year. The proposed law enforcement contract will be a 3-year contract till 2028-2029. Current contract rates were reviewed. The new contract will have a total increase of $1,100. **Anzl Rhodes made a motion to accept the proposed law enforcement contract. Brandon Taylor seconds the motion. All town council members approved.**

7. CCCOG project for Center Street widening, Main Street to 100 South – Jacob Ames with Forsgren and Associates discussed the pre-construction meeting that was held yesterday with the contractor, Staker Parsons. The plan is to start next week on the project and be done by the town celebration. Jed Woodward agreed to arrange an encroachment permit with UDOT and to take the trees down that need to be removed. The contract for the construction was signed.

8. Property Line Adjustment Agreement for 51 South Center/76 South 100 West review – Eric Dursteler, town engineer, reviewed the latest edition of the property line adjustment. The line was adjusted so that the town's septic drain field from the metal building is on town property. There is an easement for the water antenna on the ball diamond light pole. The church plans on separating the power panel and placing a new power panel for the ball diamond lights on the church property. **Brandon Taylor made a motion to approve the final plat for the lot line adjustment. Jed Woodward seconds the motion. Jed Woodward said we also need an agreement for the irrigation water line that goes through the town line to the ball diamond. A separate irrigation line and meter needs to be installed for the ball diamond. All Town Council members approved.**

9. Consideration of tax rate and budget review – Craig Rigby explained that due to the proposed changes with Cache County fire district and a new tax rate he does not want to consider a tax rate increase this year. The Cache County fire district proposed funding was discussed. Kathryn Rigby handed out to the town council members a budget worksheet with the current fiscal year and a detail ledger for each department. The budget will be reviewed in detail next month. Kathryn reminded the town council that a property tax increase is needed to show why the increase is needed and what the money is being used for. Kathy plans to contact each town council member and review their department budget with them before next month's meeting. **Jed Woodward made a motion not to consider tax rate increase this year. Brandon seconds the motion. All approve.**

10. Cache County proposed Fire/EMS plan – Mayor Craig Rigby explained the latest proposal to fund fire departments is for a county property tax increase of .236 or .346. The .346 increase for an average home would be about $40 yearly. Newton would get about $25,000 of that for the fire department. Cache County fire district would still operate for training and administration. Craig explained in the short term it would cover department expenses, but it would not be enough to purchase equipment like a fire engine. The larger communities like the plan but it will be difficult for the smaller communities. The final proposal has not been decided yet, but Newton may not

have much say because of our smaller population. Greg Jorgensen asked what other cities are planning on doing with their fire departments. Craig explained that many of the larger cities will opt out of participating with the Cache County fire district because they already fund their own fire departments from a tax rate. Greg Jorgensen asked the town council to not do away with the current portion that is put into the fire department and add the proposed portion from the fire district to save up for a building or equipment. Craig Rigby discussed budget, funding and that smaller communities may need inter-local agreements for fire service. Craig explained that there are still a lot of questions and ideas being proposed. Steven Griffin said even if we pay more to keep the fire department it helps lower your insurance cost to have a fire department close.

11. Review of Newton code – Anzl Rhodes investigated adding to sections 11-9-13. Those suggested changes were reviewed and discussed. Also reviewed were suggestions made by Eric Dursteler for changes to code 11-12-14. Anzl will incorporate Eric's input and update references to the Newton Town Code. Craig asked that the code changes be ready for public hearing in August.

12. Report on Mayor/ Council Member Assignments
Craig Rigby reported that Nicole Kunzler has given notice of her resignation and we posted for a new assistant clerk. We have 3 applicants and will interview them next week.
Steven Jenkins reported that the fire department would like to install a door opener on the south fire bay door. Brandon Taylor said the town celebration committee would like to do fireworks as part of the town celebration. They would like to do fund raising for fireworks and help with the fireworks display on July 4th. If they can't do both then they just want to do the fireworks at the town celebration. Costs of fireworks and donations were discussed. Last year we received $1,500 from Sinclair and the town donated $1,000 towards fireworks. Brandon will talk to Jeff Benson about donations and fireworks costs. The celebration committee would like to do an America 250 trivia challenge on Friday night and would like suggestions on an emcee. The youth council is planning to coordinate on the town float and parades. The town clean-up day projects went well with a lot of youth groups continuing to complete some of them.
Jed Woodward reported that we purchased and received the street mowing tractor. Jed plans to get a new battery for it and then get the street rights-of-way mowed.
Anzl reported that sod was put around the pickleball court and new cement pad. Anzl has arranged for the tennis court lines to be painted. Jed discussed that there may be extra pulverized asphalt from the center street project that could be used for parking at the pickleball courts. Anzl made a motion that Calvin Kremin be appointed to serve on the Newton planning commission. Jed Woodward seconded the motion and all council members approved.

Other business: Steven Griffin approached the town council and said he would like the town council to consider annexing his property, parcel 13-027-0003, north of the highway on 400 West, and match the town boundary south of the highway on 400 West. Water concerns were discussed. The petition for annexation consideration was asked to be put on next month's agenda.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Minutes prepared by:

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Karla R. Ferguson, Newton Town Clerk Approval Date