

Newton Town Council Meeting
March 4, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
Newton Town Hall, 51 South Center, Newton UT
Minutes

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Opening Ceremony – Kent Fabricius
3. Approval of January 2021 Minutes
4. Youth Council Update
5. Annexation proposal discussion by Kim Haws
6. Municipal Elections 2021
 - a. Cache County proposal for administration of by mail election
 - b. Convention System or Primary Election system discussion
7. Water Rate Increase Discussion
8. Sheriff and Animal Control contract expectation review
9. Rental Policy for new technology in training room
10. 2nd Quarter Financial Review
11. Report on Mayor/Council Member Assignments

NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION. Due to restrictions because of the COVID-19 virus, members and public may participate in the meeting electronically pursuant to UCA 52-4-207. Pursuant to the duration of the Utah Governor's Executive Order, Newton Town will hold an optional electronic participation meeting. Due to social distancing requirements public attendance at the Newton Town Hall may be limited.

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

Members present: Mayor Kevin Rhodes, Gordon Anderson and Kent Fabricius,.

Karla Ferguson (Recorder) Present electronically: Kathryn Rigby and Jed Woodward

Others present: Sarah Rigby, Kim Haws, Steve Griffin, Deputy Spence, Martin Empey and members of Newton Youth Council.

Others present electronically: Eric Dursteler and Justin Cooley

2. Opening ceremony conducted by Kevin Rhodes

3. The Newton Town Council February 4, 2021 meeting minutes was approved.

4. Youth Council Update – Ethan Ferguson reported that the youth council is still planning a leadership retreat in St. George. Possible service projects were discussed.

5. Annexation proposal discussion by Kim Haws - Kim Haws proposed to straighten the town boundary line across his property which is north of Highway 142 on the west side of 400 West. Kim would like to propose to annex a wider section along 400 West to the north boundary of 200 North. There was a discussion about the location of the Jones secondary water pipeline location on this property. Kim also proposed to include an easement for 100 North. Mayor Rhodes asked if there is currently enough property located within town boundaries for legal building lots. It was discussed that some of this property is within town boundaries but building lots would be narrow. Another question raised was about water runoff, especially from the dairy. It was discussed that an engineered plan should be done for the property for water runoff. Kim Haws asked if the Town Council would consider annexation before he does any more work on a petition of annexation. Mayor Rhodes asked Martin Empey what the Planning Commission's thoughts on annexation. Martin Empey said it makes sense to straighten the boundary line but wondered about the remainder parcel that wouldn't be annexed. Other concerns raised were water resources and providing culinary water for lots already in town. Infrastructure that would need to be done for the property to be developed was discussed. Martin Empey said they could discuss this at the next Planning Commission meeting but that the next meeting date has been moved. Kathryn Rigby expressed that straightening the border lines to allow enough for proper building lots makes sense but she is concerned because of the property that is already within town limits that will be

subdivided and providing culinary water for all of it. Mayor Rhodes said to go ahead and submit a petition for annexation.

Other business: Deputy Spence asked the Mayor if there were any concerns and said Sheriff Jensen will attend the Town Council meeting next month to discuss the new proposed contract. Gordon Anderson asked if there is a patrol area for animal control and if they patrol or just respond to calls. Deputy Spence discussed responding to calls, patrols and hours reported for law enforcement and animal control. The radar sign location was discussed.

6. Municipal Elections 2021 – The Cache County proposal to administer elections was reviewed. The ranked choice voting method was discussed. Karla Ferguson was asked to get more information on ranked choice voting. Mayor Rhodes would like to try ranked choice voting. The Town Council would like to have Cache County administer the 2021 election for us.

7. Water Rate Increase Discussion – Mayor Rhodes reviewed water data. Mayor Rhodes stated that the reason to increase water rates is to have money to replace transite pipe, repairs and encourage water conservation and use of secondary water for outside watering. Mayor Rhodes reviewed water meter sample data gathered last summer. Average resident costs compared with different water rate increases were discussed. Mayor Rhodes said an estimate for replacing the transite pipe is 1.6 million. Mayor Rhodes reviewed possible projections for covering costs with the proposed water rate increases. Expenses for the water system were reviewed. Eric Dursteler discussed other avenues for funding and possible grants. Jed Woodward discussed that the Utah division of drinking water would require us to increase water rates to qualify for grants and loans. Water rates from Trenton, Clarkston and Logan were compared. Water overage fees and secondary water were discussed. Mayor Rhodes suggested looking at increasing the rate to \$30 with \$1 charge per 1000 over. New auto water meters will allow overage to be monitored monthly. Council members were encouraged to talk to residents about water rates.

8. Sheriff and Animal Control contract expectation review – The new proposed contracts have been received. Sheriff Jensen will attend Town Council meeting next month to review the contracts. Mayor Rhodes expressed concern about the proposed increase in contracted hours which will increase the contract by \$1,500. The Council members were asked to review the contract.

9. Rental Policy for new technology in training room – Karla Ferguson proposed that a policy for use of the new large monitor in the training room be put in place. Currently the remote controls are in the library and a librarian has to set it up for use. Karla asked if the town should charge a fee to cover expenses of using the new system and should we look into a lock on the training room door to protect equipment. No decisions were made.

10. 2nd Quarter Financial Review – Kathryn Rigby reviewed the financial statements through December 31. Kathryn discussed some items to review by department. Kathryn asked Council Members to begin process of reviewing department budgets to be prepared to look at in depth in May.

11. Report on Mayor/Council Member Assignments – Mayor Rhodes reported the dog vaccination clinic was completed and well attended. Mayor Rhodes discussed the proposed RCUT intersection on Highway 23 and 30. The proposed intersection also includes an underpass for pedestrians and bicycles that was not discussed last month. Mayor Rhodes would like to keep talking to UDOT about adding an overpass instead. Gordon Anderson reported that the fire department did not receive the grant they applied for to purchase new breathing apparatus

(SCUBBA). The fire department will not purchase any new SCUBBA at this time. Kent Fabricius reported the contractor will begin painting the town hall hallway in a week or two. Kent would like to have the town engineer look at the town hall to get an idea about repairs that need to be done. Kathryn Rigby said the town ski night at Beaver Mountain will be March 9. Michelle Griffin does not want to do the Easter Egg Hunt this year. The annual town clean-up day will be on April 24. Jed Woodward would like to increase the water connection fee to cover the increase in parts costs. Jed will research what increase is needed and change the rate next month.

Minutes prepared by: _____
Karla R. Ferguson, Newton Town Clerk

Approval Date