

Newton Town Council Meeting
July 1, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
Newton Town Hall, 51 South Center, Newton UT
Minutes

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Opening Ceremony – Mayor Rhodes
3. Approval of June 2021 Minutes
4. Youth Council Update
5. Final plan, subdivision of one lot into two, about 250 East 200 South, parcel 13-034-0066, Martin and Nancy Empey
6. Newton Reservoir Exhibit – Helen Rigby
7. Water conservation
8. Fireworks restrictions
9. Report on Mayor/Council Member Assignments
10. Closed meeting to vote on Newton Outstanding Citizen

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

Members present: Mayor Kevin Rhodes, Gordon Anderson, Kent Fabricius, Kathryn Rigby and Jed Woodward. Karla Ferguson (Recorder)

Others present: Sarah Rigby, Martin Empey, Dave Jones, Flo Jones, Myron Benson, Brent Sharp, Clair Christiansen, Jeff Benson and Von Brown

2. Opening ceremony conducted by Mayor Rhodes

3. The Newton Town Council Junes 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

4. Youth Council Update – Kathryn Rigby reported that the youth council has updated the town float and will help with town celebration.

5. Final plan, subdivision of one lot into two, about 250 East 200 South, parcel 13-034-0066, Martin and Nancy Empey – Martin Empey reviewed the proposed division of his lot into two lots. He discussed that an easement will be on the proposed lot 2 to have access to the back of lot 1. **A motion to approve the Empey final subdivision plan was made and all in favor.** The subdivision was signed by Mayor Rhodes and attested by Karla Ferguson. Martin Empey will have the subdivision recorded with the Cache County Recorder's office.

6. Newton Reservoir Exhibit – Helen Rigby – Helen discussed the planned exhibit for the Newton Town Hall for the 150th anniversary of Newton dam. Helen showed choices for a large picture of the Newton reservoir to be framed and displayed. Helen asked about framing options and if the Town Council would like the picture to be a permanent display. The Town Council agreed to however the Newton Arts and Humanities committee would like to display it. The committee is also doing an art show in conjunction with the exhibit and plans to change the display every 6 months or so.

7. Water conservation – Mayor Rhodes discussed water tank levels and that spring levels are dropping a gallon a minute per week. Secondary water was discussed. Newton dam is currently at 45%. Mayor Rhodes asked Clair Christiansen on what is the data on piping the secondary water compared to ditch loss. Clair says the Newton Water Users Association thinks we are saving 30% from evaporation with the pipe. Mayor Rhodes feels citizens are being responsive in conserving water. Mayor Rhodes would like drought response actions in the newsletter. Ideas on notifying citizens for limiting or stopping their outdoor water use were discussed. Brent Sharp expressed

concern because he thinks 15 houses are being built and what will we do about water in the future. Mayor Rhodes discussed the water study we currently are doing and the installation of auto read water meters through a matching grant from the Bureau of Reclamation. Mayor Rhodes feels the auto read meters will give us a better idea of what is being used and quick notification for leaks. Flo Jones asked if there are plans to do a zebra mussel inspection at the dam. Clair Christiansen responded that the Bureau of Reclamation has no plans to do inspections. Gordon Anderson plans to do research on if better management of camping, inspections and a ramp fee could be done at Newton Dam. Secondary water metering was discussed. It was discussed that a letter explaining secondary water should be given to builders when getting a building permit. Mayor Rhodes discussed that once we are able to auto meter culinary water then we will have the necessary information to change water rates.

8. Fireworks restrictions – Mayor Rhodes read a statement from Fire Chief Greg Jorgensen on considering not doing personal fireworks. For the town celebration it is always dry by July 24 so they will make sure they are cautious and douse fireworks completely when completed and have the fire department on standby. Jeff Benson has purchased the fireworks for the town celebration. It was discussed that they won't ban fireworks but make citizens aware they are responsible for costs to fight a fire caused by fireworks. Citizens will be encouraged to bring their fireworks to the ball diamond on July 3 to light them.

9. Report on Mayor/Council Member Assignments – Jed Woodward reported that 8 blocks of chip seal on the roads has been completed. Clair Christiansen asked when the new intersection of 200 East 200 North will be done. Mayor Rhodes explained that we are working with the Cache County Council of governments for funding for that intersection and it will be a joint project with Cache County. We will hold a public hearing on July 15 to meet the requirement for funding. They plan to have an engineered drawing for the intersection at the public hearing. Dave Jones asked if the second radar sign can be installed on 400 West. Jed Woodward said he needs a pole to install it and will probably install it on the south end of 400 West after the 35 mph sign. Jed agreed to install two poles on 400 West so he can change the location of the radar sign. Kathryn Rigby reviewed the town celebration schedule. Kathryn completed the federal COVID impact survey for funding. Newton will receive approximately \$96,000 that can be used for infrastructure. Mayor Rhodes would like to use the funding on the culinary water system. Gordon Anderson reported that the Planning Commission has concerns with phase 2 of Newton Hills subdivision. Gordon wonders when we can put a moratorium on building permits for concerns on water. Dave Jones asked about a dark sky ordinance. Gordon explained that the Planning Commission has looked at that but is currently working on updating the subdivision ordinance. Brent Peterson asked what is the venue for us to chime in as a resident and where do we come to let our voices known. Mayor Rhodes answered that informally you can talk to any council member and formally if you want a decision made on something it needs to be on the agenda. Brent Peterson expressed that a lot of development is happening really quick and he is concerned that it isn't being controlled. Kent Fabricius had Dave Jenkins repair the mortar on the Town Hall corners and is still looking for someone to do the stucco repair. Kent will work on the ballot drop box location on the north east corner of the town hall that will be ADA accessible. Mayor Rhodes reported that contracts have been signed with Cache County Sheriff for law and animal control. Mayor Rhodes signed along with Trenton and Clarkson a 10 year lease for \$1 for farm land owned by the three towns at the spring distribution box. Clair Christiansen says that wasn't the deal when initially signed. Clair discussed the lease agreement. The lease for the Looslie Buttars spring parcel 15-039-0014 was also discussed and a new contract for that lease needs to be done.

10. Closed meeting to vote on Newton Outstanding Citizen – Meeting was closed to vote on Newton outstanding citizen. In attendance: Mayor Kevin Rhodes, Gordon Anderson, Kent Fabricius, Kathryn Rigby and Jed Woodward. Karla Ferguson (Recorder)

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

Approval Date