

Newton Town Council Meeting
September 2, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
Newton Town Hall, 51 South Center, Newton UT
Minutes

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Opening Ceremony – Gordon Anderson
3. Approval of July 15 public hearing and August 2021 Minutes
4. Youth Council Update
5. Town right-of-way discussion – Gordon Anderson
6. Town employee wage increase
7. Report on Mayor/Council Member Assignments

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

Members present: Mayor Kevin Rhodes, Gordon Anderson, Kent Fabricius, and Jed Woodward. Karla Ferguson (Recorder) Kathryn Rigby attended meeting by phone.
Others present: Sarah Rigby, Reid Smith and Martin Empey.

2. Opening ceremony conducted by Gordon Anderson

3. The Newton Town Council July 15 public hearing minutes were approved. The August 2021 Minutes was approved with clarifications.

4. Youth Council Update – not in attendance.

5. Town right-of-way discussion – Gordon Anderson asked for the item to be on the agenda. Gordon looked at problem areas in town where residents are landscaping right next to the road. Gordon Anderson spoke to a member of the Hyrum Council to determine how they handle problems like this. Hyrum sends out a letter about the problem and to inform the resident that if the road right-of-way needs to be accessed then it can be demolished. Also, Hyrum decreased their road right-of-way from 99 feet to 66 feet. There was a discussion about decreasing Newton's right-of-way requirement. It was determined the Town Council is not interested in pursuing decreasing the right-of-way at this time. Mayor Rhodes asked Gordon Anderson and Myron Benson to send areas of concern to the Mayor for him to follow up with. A reminder about town right-of-ways should be put in the town newsletter.

6. Town employee wage increase – It was discussed that the last employee hourly wage increase was done in 2016 when the wage was increased from \$8 an hour to \$9 and if the wage was already \$9 it went to \$10. Mayor Rhodes discussed that because of cost of living increases he would like to increase employee wages. Budgets for Fire and First Responder departments were reviewed. Mayor Rhodes said he had already for this fiscal year increased his department's budgets by 20% for salaried employees wage increases. Budgets and proposed increases were discussed. Mayor Rhodes recommends each council member look at and analyze their budget for an increase to \$12 an hour. This will be put on next month's agenda to approve an increase to \$12 an hour for fire and first responders wage and to be determined for other departments.

7. Report on Mayor/Council Member Assignments – Kent Fabricius reported that there is still standing water on farm land. Jed Woodward and Kent Fabricius will look at it to determine what to do. Kent replaced the sensor for the outside town hall lights. Gordon Anderson reported that the Fire department received the SCBA units from Smithfield. The fire department will be purchasing 5 more masks for them. Gordon Anderson reported that he attended the Cutler Hydroelectric meeting. The information he received from that meeting is that Rocky Mountain Power would like

to use more power generation on Bear River during the winter months and would drop the water level by 1 ½ feet. Rocky Mountain Power would let the water fill back up for spring and summer months. It was determined that the town would most likely abandon the pump on the Bear River for the farm land because of the new West Cache pipeline. Gordon Anderson tried to speak with the State Division of Wildlife Resources about quagga mussel inspection and controlled camping for Newton dam. Gordon received information for another person to contact and he will follow up with them and get more information to share. Jed Woodward reported on small water pipe line leaks that need to be investigated and fixed. Sunrise Engineering will begin meeting with Jed to start setting up a plan on replacing water meters with auto read meters.

Other business: Kathryn Rigby invited Reid Smith to Town Council to discuss concerns with security and safety at the Town square. Reid Smith described that an attempt to grab his daughter was made behind Newton Town Hall on the handicap access ramp on August 30. His daughter got away and came into the Newton Library. Cache County Sheriff was called and is investigating. Reid expressed concern that behind the Town Hall is a blind spot and needs surveillance cameras. Surveillance cameras and signs indicating surveillance is in affect were discussed.

Reports continued: Mayor Rhodes reviewed an agreement with Young Livestock for water from the Birch springs. Jed Woodward discussed that Young Livestock pumps water for livestock but it is not working. Young Livestock plans to dig up the end of their pipe and raise it. Mayor Rhodes reported that he met with Logan Mayor Holly Daines and Issa Hamud about a proposed change for the North Valley landfill. Logan would like to change the conditional use from the county for construction waste to go directly to the North Valley landfill rather than to the transfer station first. The trucks would have to have a permit first and it would be for the large construction projects. Trucks would run during business hours and it would be done on a project by project basis. They assured Mayor Rhodes that they do not accept waste from outside Cache County. Logan has shut down most of the Logan landfill and most garbage is now being brought to the North Valley landfill. The Newton Town Council did not have input for the proposal. Mayor Rhodes will follow up with the Clarkston Mayor to see if they are okay with it. Council members were asked to think about ideas for an employee appreciation dinner or gift certificate and town newsletter items are due October 7.

Meeting adjourned.

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