

Newton Town Council Meeting
May 5, 2022, 7:00 P.M.
Newton Town Hall, 51 South Center, Newton UT
Minutes

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Opening Ceremony – Jed Woodward
3. Approval of April 13 and 21, 2022 Minutes
4. Youth Council Update
5. Request by amateur radio operators – Greg Fabricius
6. Request to preserve open space – Heidi Hodgson
7. Water Rate Discussion
8. Water Impact Fee Study
9. Report on Mayor/Council Member Assignments

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

Members present: Mayor Mike Benson, Jake Christiansen, Kent Fabricius, Brett Petersen and Jed Woodward. Karla Ferguson (Recorder) and Kathryn Rigby (Treasurer)

Others present: Kevin Rhodes, Sarah Rigby, Dell Vance, Greg Fabricius, Carrie Milligan, David Salisbury, Catherine Maughan and Eric Dursteler

No electronic attendance by ZOOM

2. Opening ceremony conducted by Jed Woodward

3. The Newton Town Council meeting minutes for April 13 and 21, 2022 were approved.

4. Youth Council Update – Carrie Milligan reviewed that the Youth Council helped with the Town Clean-up Day. The Youth Council is planning an end of the school year party. Carrie asked if it was okay still for the youth council to ride the town float and attend 3 to 4 parades this summer. The youth council will inspect the float and determine if it needs to be redecorated.

5. Request by amateur radio operators – Greg Fabricius discussed amateur radio operators with 13 licensed H.A.M. operators within Newton limits. The Newton Town Hall emergency operation center was established in 1990 with the local radio operators. The emergency operation center is used as a back up communication center in case of emergency. Greg discussed incidents when the operation center was used to relay emergency dispatch information. The old emergency operation center computer and radio are too old to hold and transfer data. The radio group has an individual willing to donate a computer, but they need a monitor. Sarah Rigby said that the library has a surplus monitor that they could donate. Greg Fabricius requested that the Town purchase a new radio. Greg presented two options for radios with their pros and cons. There was a discussion on incident command and communication with the emergency operation center. Greg explained that this is a separate function from the fire and EMS departments. The cost for the preferred radio including an emergency power source will be about \$600. Jed Woodward made a motion to approve the purchase of the discussed radio with emergency power source. Brett Petersen seconds the motion, and all council members approve the purchase. Kathryn Rigby will review the budget and work with the Mayor in determining where the purchase should be applied to the budget.

6. Request to preserve open space – Heidi Hodgson not in attendance, agenda item deferred.

7. Water Rate Discussion – Kevin Rhodes and Dell Vance gave an update on the work the water committee has completed. Dell Vance shared water data that has been compiled on water use

and supply. David Salisbury discussed options to capture water and more water reserves. David Salisbury discussed locations where to investigate more water sources. Kevin Rhodes discussed funding options, impact fees and possible ARPA grants. Options to capture more water were discussed. Also discussed was the option to re-do valves to allow pumping water from the Bear River to Newton Dam over the winter to store water. A formal proposal for a study to investigate water sources around the existing Loosle-Buttars spring will be submitted. A new tiered water rate system was discussed. The new auto-read meters will need to be installed prior to initiating a tiered water rate. Incentives and options to conserve water were discussed. It was discussed that with low secondary water sources our culinary water system will see a bigger impact this summer. Base water rates and overage water rate options were discussed. Jed Woodward said that 80% of the meters are only using 20% of the water so overage rates should be increased and decrease the gallons allowed for the base rate. Brett Petersen suggested only increasing the overage rate and next summer when we have more water meter data then we could increase the base rate. Structing of water rates was discussed. Secondary water and renting water shares were discussed. Jed Woodward discussed that state legislation now requires all secondary water meters to be metered by 2030. It was decided to hold a public hearing next month and present options for a water rate increase and then the town council will set a new water rate.

8. Water Impact Fee Study – not completed yet, agenda item deferred.

9. Report on Mayor/Council Member Assignments – Mayor Benson reported that he plans to meet with Kevin Rhodes to review the park sprinkler system.

Jake Christiansen thanked everyone for their help with the town clean-up day. They were able to put 100 yards of playground bark down around the equipment. The town celebration committee has begun meeting. The chairs are Cole and Jenny Richards and the co-chairs are Brock and Kate Call. The library plans to do a fundraising dinner Friday night of the celebration. The celebration will be held July 22 and 23.

Kent Fabricius reported that he will open the outdoor restrooms. Kent is still researching information about the farmland lease for land by the Loosle-Buttars spring. Kent asked about pulling out the water pump at the farmland by Bear River. It was decided that he will leave the pump in place for now. Brett Petersen had nothing to report.

Jed Woodward reported that construction has started for the rebuild of the 200 North 200 East intersection. Eric Dursteler explained the grading to take place in the rebuild and moving the water line. Jed Woodward discussed that secondary water is ready to be turned into the system and asked that we let everyone know to get prepared. Outside water time of day and watering on odd and even days was discussed. East of Center Street should water on even days and west of Center Street should water on odd days. It was discussed that we may need to look into quadrant watering days to help with water pressure. The water in the secondary system right now is overflow from the culinary and is not reservoir water.

Kathryn Rigby handed out budgets to the council members and asked them to review their department budgets and then meet with Kathy in the next couple of weeks to go over their budgets.

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