

Newton Town Council Meeting
November 3, 2022, 7:00 P.M.
Newton Town Hall, 51 South Center, Newton UT
Minutes

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Opening Ceremony – Mike Benson
3. Approval of October 6, 2022, Minutes
4. “Merry & Bright” committee update
5. Water Committee report and recommendations
6. Review impact of new water rate
7. First quarter financial review
8. Fraud risk assessment review
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: Sue Petersen, Annette Benson, Sarah Rigby, Gordon Anderson, Jeremy Cooley, Dave Jenkins, Terrie Jenkins, Ms. Jenkins, and Del Vance

Electronic attendance by ZOOM: Eric Dursteler

2. Opening ceremony conducted by Mike Benson

3. The Newton Town Council meeting minutes for October 6, 2022, were approved.

4. Merry & Bright” committee update – Sue Petersen and Annette Benson discussed preparations for holiday lights. They received a bid to hang lights and take down on the large pine tree for \$1,290. Donations from the town celebration received for holiday lights was \$1,035. An additional few hundred dollars in donations have been received since then. The committee plans to spend \$200 to \$300 on replacement lights. Last year’s donation money was used to refurbish the street light swag. The tree lighting is planned for November 30 at 6:00 p.m. They would like to use the town sound system. Jed Woodward will arrange for Rocky Mountain Power to help put up the road swag. Power for the lights was discussed. Jed Woodward volunteered to work with Craig Petersen in hanging the lights on the large pine tree and not pay for it to be done. The Newton Youth Council will also help hang lights. Annette would like to look into playing holiday music at night. Brett Petersen asked if the town needed to investigate taking over setting up the holiday display. Mike Benson suggested developing a long-term plan for budgeting and adding to the display each year.

5. Water Committee report and recommendations – Del Vance discussed the review by the water committee for drilling a test well at the recommended sight. Two bids for a test well were received. Both bids were for an 8” at 200 feet test well. Bids came in at \$27,050 and \$35,000 for a test well. The test well would include testing the quality of water and the flow. The Town Council discussed what flow rate would need to be at to develop the well. Bids were discussed. Jed Woodward made a motion to accept the low bid from High Plains Drilling and proceed with the test well. Kent Fabricius seconded the motion. Discussion was requested. It was discussed that this is a good option to develop more water. Mike Benson will inform Clarkston’s Mayor of our intent to drill a well. Eric Dursteler discussed what steps are taken in drilling a test well. Terrie Jenkins asked if the test well would lift the water connection moratorium. It was discussed that after finding out the quality and quantity of water from the test well then they may lift the moratorium. Terrie Jenkins asked if the Town Council would then consider an additional water tank to store water.

Mike Benson discussed the current water tank capacity and levels. Del Vance discussed an idea the water committee is exploring in diverting water during the winter to the reservoir for storage and use in helping secondary water. Brett Petersen reviewed that the water committee is looking at water sources, water transportation, and water storage and putting together a long-term plan for all. Del Vance reviewed the study completed on the Loosle-Buttars spring and why a test well is being done in that area. Eric Dursteler discussed that Newton could qualify for a 0% interest loan/grant with the State Division of Drinking Water. **The motion to accept the low bid from High Plains Drilling and proceed with the test well was approved by all council members.**

6. Review impact of new water rate – Jake Christiansen reviewed water data from last month with 117 meters read and 43 of those had over 10,000 gallons used or 36% had overage. Jake Christiansen reviewed water usage data and revenue increase. Del Vance discussed historical water usage data. Jake Christiansen suggested to continue to review water usage numbers and keep in mind how it is affecting some agricultural businesses. Brett Petersen suggested looking at agricultural zoning and different water rate for agricultural businesses. Mike Benson suggested researching other communities water rates and variances for agricultural. Brett Petersen reviewed the goals for increasing the water rate are water conservation, tiered rate to qualify for state funding and to increase revenue to pay for water projects. Brett suggested that we continue to review data to see if we are meeting those goals. Mike Benson discussed auto-read meters importance to review data. Jed Woodward discussed that he is working with Neptune to make sure we are receiving data from the meters already installed. Water rates with variances were discussed. Kathryn Rigby read the current water code on establishing water rates. Del Vance plans to work on more data for comparisons. Mike Benson will contact Lewiston, Richmond and Hyrum for their water rates. Brett Petersen will contact Logan City. It was requested to put on the agenda next month water rate review and a variance for dairies.

7. First quarter financial review – Kathryn Rigby reviewed first quarter financial statements. Kathryn Rigby discussed items that would be adjusted for last fiscal year end.

8. Fraud risk assessment review – Kathryn Rigby explained that the fraud risk assessment is done yearly for the audit to help the town identify risks and potential problems that should be addressed. Mike Benson read each question and the Town Council and Kathryn Rigby helped answer the fraud risk assessment questions.

9. Report on Mayor/Council Member Assignments

- Mayor Benson – Animal Control/Administration/Nuisance/Parks
- Jake Christiansen – Library/Special Events/Youth Council
- Kent Fabricius – Buildings/Land Management
- Brett Petersen – Planning/Fire Dept./EMS
- Jed Woodward – Water/Streets

Mike Benson will follow up on clearing the clouded title by contacting Hickman Title. Mike Benson plans to follow up on nuisance complaints. Mike will send a follow-up letter on a complaint for dead calves being left out to decompose. Mike Benson reviewed that the sprinklers at the park have been turned off. Mike asked Jed Woodward to arrange for one last mowing of the street rights-of-way for the season. Mike Benson would like to follow up with residents leaving items on the street right-of-way. Mike Benson discussed the garbage collection interlocal agreement is still being worked on by attorneys and there will be changes in representation on the board. Brett Petersen reported that the Planning Commission is continuing to work on the items assigned to review. Jake Christiansen reported that the library will have Santa visit on November 30 at 6:30. They plan to turn on the holiday lights at 6:00. The library had 50 kids and 19 adults attend the Witches Story Time. The Newton Youth Council had 84 people attend the scare house on Friday

night and more than that on Saturday night. Jake is planning the town employee appreciation dinner for a date in December and will invite the water committee also. Kent Fabricius reported that he is working on winterizing the pavilion and restrooms at the park. Kent is also looking into purchasing locking cabinets for the pavilion. Kent Fabricius said the snowblower for the town hall needs to be worked on. Mike Benson said he will continue to help scrap snow for the town hall. Jed Woodward plans to keep working on installing the auto-read meters. Mike Benson suggested to plan on applying for CCCOG funds next year for road projects.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

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

Approval Date