



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE NEWTON CITY COUNCIL**

**108 N. Van Buren St**

**Newton, IL 62448**

**May 2, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER: Joshua J. Kuhl, Mayor
2. **In the absence of Mayor Kuhl, Attorney Heap called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.**  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Alderman Eric Blake.  
**Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Alderman Eric Blake.**
3. ROLL CALL: Rosetta York, City Clerk  
**Physically present: Gayle Glumac, Kaleb Wright, Larry Brooks, RJ Lindemann, Eric Blake and Marlene Harris**  
**Also present: Attorney William Heap, Treasurer Melissa Brooks and Clerk Rosetta York**

**Attorney Heap called for a motion to appoint Alderman Larry Brooks as Mayor Pro Tem for the May 2, 2023 meeting.**

**A motion was made by Lindemann, seconded by Harris to appoint Larry Brooks as Mayor Pro Tem for this meeting of the Newton City Council.**

**Ayes: Glumac, Wright, Lindemann, Blake, Harris**

**Nays: None**

**Abstain: Brooks**

4. ADOPT OR AMEND AGENDA: #6 add Jeanne Miller, Heather Wakefield and Belchers  
**Motion was made by Glumac, seconded by Lindemann, to adopt the amended agenda.**  
**Ayes: Wright, Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac**  
**Nays: None**
5. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of April 18, 2023.  
**Motion was made by Harris, seconded by Wright, to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2023 of the Newton City Council.**  
**Ayes: Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Wright**  
**Nays: None**
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS: Jeanne Miller, Heather Wakefield and Belchers

Jeanne Miller (17:04 minutes): She spoke about her property line on their lot in Five Aprils Crossing. She presented a written statement with photos. John Stone from Connor and Connor was present. The mayor said the Council would get back to the Millers.

**Mayor Kuhl arrived at 6:15.**

**At 6:19, Attorney Heap called for a motion to resend the appointment Alderman Larry Brooks as Mayor Pro Tem.**

**A motion was made by Blake, seconded by Wright to resend the appointment Larry Brooks as Mayor Pro Tem for this meeting of the Newton City Council.**

**Ayes: Blake, Harris, Glumac, Wright, Lindemann**

**Nays: None**

The Belchers, who are building a house on the Lot 12 in Five April Crossing next to the Miller's, reported there were 2 survey pins they could not find on Lot 12. The pins will be reset when they have the lot surveyed.

Heather Wakefield (8:15 minutes) reported grass clipping are being blown on the streets. People are not mowing their lawns. The City of Newton is full of trash. She read a list of streets where there are code violations and offered to read the code to the council. She asked if anyone is doing anything about these violations. Chief Britton said today Newton PD had issued 13 citations on those violations. The Mayor reminded everyone the City-Wide Cleanup will be May 19-20. People can call Newton PD to report violations and file a complaint.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS OR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:  
**Lindemann: Finance/Audit Committee Meeting Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 5:45 PM.**  
**Meeting called to order at 5:44 pm**  
**Discussed a TIF application for Taylor Kerner. It was recommended to award them \$5,000 of the project cost.**  
**Discussed a TIF application for 3B General Contracting. It was recommended to award them \$5,000 of the project cost.**  
**Meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm.**  
**R.J. Lindemann, Chairman**
8. OLD BUSINESS:
  - a. Discuss the draft copy of Demo application for reimbursement funds.



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The draft application was reviewed by all and sent to the law office to be put in an ordinance.

b. Discuss Water rates.

The 3 proposed water rate increases:

	Current \$\$	3% Increase	5% on Top 3 Tiers	Fixed rates
Residential	\$ 41,990.25	\$ 43,247.36	\$ 41,990.25	\$ 41,827.64
Commercial	\$ 16,915.25	\$ 17,422.65	\$ 17,659.86	\$ 18,138.34
Totals	\$ 58,905.51	\$ 60,670.01	\$ 59,650.11	\$ 59,965.97
Diff from Current		\$ 1,764.50	\$ 744.61	\$ 1,060.47
Increase over 1 yr		\$ 21,174.01	\$ 8,935.29	\$ 12,725.62
Percent change		2.91%	1.25%	1.77%

\*Based on random month in fiscal year

\*\*All Numbers and Calculations are Approximate

Current dollars are calculated using the current tier system

3% increase is all current tiers getting a 3% increase (residential and commercial) using current structure

5% increase is on any user that uses more than 10,000 gallons in a month using current structure

Fixed rate with minimum:

- Any user that uses less than 2,000 gallons will be charged the minimum fee of \$18.06 per 2,000 gallons.
- Any residential user that uses 2,000 gallons and above will be charged the minimum fee plus \$0.00903 per gallon used.
- Any Commercial user that uses 2,000 gallons and above will be charged the minimum fee plus \$0.00750 per gallon used.

The Council discussed the rates and decided to vote on 5% raise for the top 3 tiers.

c. Consider and act on a water rate increase

**Motion was made by Lindemann, seconded by Wright, to authorize water rate increase of 5% on the 3 top tiers of consumers of water effective May 1, 2023.**

**Ayes: Harris, Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann**

**Nays: Blake**

d. Consider and act on TIF application for Park Lanes.

**Motion was made by Brooks, seconded by Harris, to authorize TIF application for Park Lanes with a reimbursement of \$3,087.50.**

**Ayes: Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris**

**Nays: None**

e. Consider and act on TIF application for 3B General Contracting LLC.

**Motion was made by Lindemann, seconded by Glumac, to authorize TIF application for 3B General Contracting LLC with a reimbursement of \$5,000.00.**

**Ayes: Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Glumac**

**Nays: None**

**Abstain: Harris**

f. Consider and act on TIF application for Taylor Kerner.

**Motion was made by Harris, seconded by Glumac, to authorize TIF application for Taylor Kerner with a reimbursement of \$5,000.00.**

**Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Wright**

**Nays: None**

g. Consider and act on appointment of the Department Heads.

**The following Department Head appointments have been Made by Joshua J. Kuhl, effective May 1, 2023**

DEPARTMENT	HEAD
WATER TREATMENT PLANT & WATER WASTE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY	Tyler Weber
ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT	Brent Benefiel
STREETS& ALLEYS	Matt Tarr
PARKS & CEMETERY	Josh Ochs
POLICE DEPARTMENT	Brad Benefiel
UTILITY COLLECTIONS	Riley Britton
E.M. A.	Amy J. Tarr
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR	Doug Long
CITY TREASURER	John Stone
Economic Development Coordinator	Melissa Brooks
	Brian Muska

**Motion was made by Lindemann, seconded by Brooks, to authorize appointment of the Department Heads.**



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**Ayes: Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Wright, Brooks**

**Nays: None**

- h. Consider and act on the Department Head hourly wage increase.

**Motion was made by Glumac, seconded by Harris, to authorize Department Head hourly wage increase of \$.90 per hour, effective May 1, 2023.**

**Ayes: Blake, Harris, Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann**

**Nays: None**

**9. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Swear in newly elected officials.

**Aldermen – Mike Swick, Ward 1; Kaleb Wright, Ward 2; Larry Brooks, Ward 3  
Zoning Board –W. Tom Clark, Lanette Huddleston, Twyla Harvey and Kenneth Belcher**

- b. Seat new officials: **Mike Swick, Ward 1; Kaleb Wright, Ward 2; Larry Brooks, Ward 3.**

- c. Honor Marlene Harris for her service.

**The Council presented Alderwoman Harris with a plaque for her years of service. The Mayor thanked Alderwoman Harris for her service and her contribution to the community.**

- d. Consider and act on appointment of Committee Chairmen and committee members.

**Motion was made by Glumac, seconded by Wright, to authorize appointment of Committee Chairmen and committee members.**

**Ayes: Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake**

**Nays: None**

- e. Consider and act on Special Event Application for Newton Junior Woman's 5k run/walk/kid's fun run.

**Motion was made by Glumac, seconded by Wright, to authorize Special Event Application for Newton Junior Woman's 5k run/walk/kid's fun run, May 20, 2023.**

**Ayes: Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Swick**

**Nays: None**

- f. Consider and act on donating a Five April Crossing lot to a family victim of the recent tornado.

**Motion was made by Swick, seconded by Glumac, to authorize donating a Five April Crossing lot to a family victim of the recent tornado.**

**Ayes: Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Swick, Glumac**

**Nays: None**

**10. STATEMENTS:**

Council Members:

**Glumac:** She thanked Marlene for her service.

She appreciated the community's support for the Strong Girls and Boy group.

**Wright:** No Comment

**Brooks:** He called a Water/Wastewater Committee Meeting Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

**Lindemann:** I have nothing.

**Blake:** I'd like to thank Marlene and then welcome all the new people. Thank you all.

**Swick:** Thanks to Marlene for holding the fort down over in Ward One. I appreciate everything you've done. I know you've worked hard. Fasten your seat belts, I'm ready to get some work done.

**City Attorney:** No comments

**City Treasurer:** Thank you, Marlene, for your service. We appreciate everything that you've done for us.

**City Clerk:** Thanks Marlene. Welcome everyone.

**Mayor:**

- Thank you, Marlene, for your years of service and dedication, not only to this council, but to the citizens of Newton.
- Thank you to the past two zoning members who did not seek re-election. Congratulations to all the newly elected officials.
- Citywide cleanup on 19th and the 20th of May. If you need help hauling things reach out to the city police department or city hall. We will get somebody to help.

**11. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM**

**SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

**Water and Waste Water Committee Meeting Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM**



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12. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Litigation, potential litigation, sale of real estate, purchase of real estate and personnel.

**Motion was made by Blake, seconded by Glumac, to go out of open session and into closed session to discuss litigation, potential litigation, sale of real estate, purchase of real estate and personnel pursuant to the exceptions section of the Open Meetings Act pertaining to those areas of discussion.**

**Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Swick, Glumac, Wright**

**Nays: None**

**Open session suspended at 7:08 PM.**

**Motion was made by Swick, seconded by Glumac, to go out of closed session and back into open session.**

**Ayes: Lindemann, Blake, Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks**

**Nays: None**

**Open session resumed at 7:35 PM.**

13. Josh Kuhl announced that during closed session the council discussed litigation, potential litigation, sale of real estate, purchase of real estate and personnel.

14. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion was made by Lindemann, seconded by Swick, to adjourn the meeting.**

**Ayes: Blake, Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann**

**Nays: None**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.**

**Submitted by Rosetta M. York**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosetta M. York". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".