



**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE NEWTON CITY COUNCIL**  
**108 N. VAN BUREN St.**  
**NEWTON, IL 62448**  
**December 2, 2025**

- **Public Stakeholders Meeting for the Energy Transition Community Grant**  
**Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 5:45 PM.**

1. CALL TO ORDER: Joshua J. Kuhl, Mayor  
**Mayor Joshua Kuhl called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.**
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Mayor Joshua Kuhl  
**Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Mayor Joshua Kuhl**
3. ROLL CALL: Maggie McDonald, City Clerk  
**Physically present: Gayle Glumac, Kaleb Wright, Larry Brooks and Mike Swick**  
**Also present: Treasurer Melissa Brooks and City Clerk Maggie McDonald**  
**Absent: Alderman RJ Lindemann, Alderman Eric Blake and Attorney William Heap**
4. ADOPT OR AMEND AGENDA: (Amend: Add Potential Litigation to Executive Session)  
**Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to adopt the amended agenda.**  
**Ayes: Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Swick**  
**Nays: None**
5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES of November 18, 2025.  
**Motion was made by Kaleb Wright, seconded by Larry Brooks, to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2025 meeting of the Newton City Council.**  
**Ayes: Wright, Brooks, Swick, Glumac**  
**Nays: None**
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: **None**
7. COMMITTEE REPORTS OR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:
  - Water and Wastewater Committee Meeting on Monday, November 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

**Water and Waste Water Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, November 24, 2025 6:00 PM – 7:38 PM**

Attendees: Joshua Kuhl, Gayle Glumac, Larry Brooks, Melissa Brooks, Mike Swick, Maggie McDonald, Tyler Weber, Brent Benefiel and Carson Brown

Meeting began at 6:00 PM.

- The chlorine generator in the water plant is needing upgrades. Tyler will be adding this maintenance project in next year's budget plan.
- After amendments to the Enterprise Zone last year, incentives are now available for residential projects over \$10,000. One of the incentives is the waiving of the water and sewer connection fees. If a property owner would request the water meter to be removed from a property, and decide later they want to have water back to the property, the Enterprise Zone incentive that waives the water connection fees will not apply. The owner will be liable for the cost of the water connection installation and fees.



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- There have been misunderstandings on homeowner responsibilities when it comes to sewer line maintenance. The Newton City Municipal Code states in Chapter 38-6-24 Cost Borne by Owner: *“All costs and expenses including labor and material incidental to the installation, connection and maintenance of a lateral sewer line shall be borne by the owner(s). The owner(s) shall indemnify the City from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by the installation, connection and maintenance of the lateral sewer lines. This section shall apply even where the lateral sewer line runs under a public street, public right-of-way, or public easement.”*
- The city requires an annual backflow prevention device inspection report. These need to be on file with the city. The department has had trouble retrieving all these reports in a timely manner. Necessary action will need to be taken if we continue to not receive these forms.
- Tyler will be getting with the city engineers on an estimate to continue water service along 925<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- The committee discussed budgeting for a new water meter system. Our current meters will be losing support and phasing out by 2028. Tyler will be gathering more information, numbers and different scenarios on how the city can budget for a new system.
- The City of Newton’s Sewer Plant was nominated for Plant of the Year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Submitted by: Mike Swick - Chairman

**8. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Consider and act on authorizing a final project for the Energy Transition Community Grant Application.

**Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to authorize a final project for the Energy Transition Community Grant Application. (These funds will finish the pickleball courts at Peterson Park and help paint the pool at the Newton Aquatic Center.)**

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

**Nays: None**

**9. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Consider and act on passing Ordinance 25-15 the Annual Tax Levy.

**Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to pass Ordinance 25-15 the Annual Tax Levy.**

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

**Nays: None**

- B. Consider and act on authorizing the Abatement Certificate for the Aquatic Center Facility.

**Motion was made by Kaleb Wright, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize the Abatement Certificate for the Aquatic Center Facility.**

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

**Nays: None**

- C. Consider and act on authorizing the city attorney to proceed with vacating the alley running North and South from Reynolds St. to Curtis St. between Stevens St. and Walnut St. in Anna Stevens Subdivision.



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**Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize the city attorney to proceed with vacating the alley running North and South from Reynolds St. to Curtis St. between Stevens St. and Walnut St. in Anna Stevens Subdivision.**

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

**Nays: None**

- D. Consider and act on authorizing the city attorney to proceed with vacating the alley running East and West between Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11 and Lots 6 & 12 in Anna Stevens Subdivision.

**Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize the city attorney to proceed with vacating the alley running East and West between Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11 and Lots 6 & 12 in Anna Stevens Subdivision.**

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

**Nays: None**

- E. Consider and act on authorizing the closure of the Eagle Trail River Walk on December 4, 5, 6 and 7, 2025, due to second firearm deer season.

**Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to authorize the closure of the Eagle Trail River Walk on December 4, 5, 6 and 7, 2025, due to second firearm deer season. (The Old Mill Bridge WILL BE OPEN)**

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

**Nays: None**

- F. Consider and act on authorizing the Special Event Application submitted by the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce for their annual Christmas on the Square Festival and Parade on Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 2:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Parade begins at 6:00 PM.

**Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to authorize the Special Event Application submitted by the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce for their annual Christmas on the Square Festival and Parade on Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 2:00 PM – 8:00 PM.**

**Parade begins at 6:00 PM.**

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

**Nays: None**

**10. STATEMENTS BY:**

**Glumac:** With all the snow we have gotten, everyone please drive carefully. It's been pretty slick out there and sometimes the kids don't always pay attention. Everyone please stay cautious.



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**Wright:** Thank you to all the city guys for clearing the roads.

**Brooks:** Appreciate the guys clearing the roads.

**Swick:** Appreciate the guys getting out and taking care of the roads and city hall.

**City Treasurer:** Thank you to the guys for clearing the parking lot and sidewalks at city hall and keeping us all safe here. The Lights in the Park are very nice. We have taken my granddaughter through a few times and she loves it. Also, if you didn't make it to Ste. Marie's Whoville Event you missed a nice event there as well.

**City Clerk:** No comments.

**Mayor:** Major thank you to our city workers, especially Matt, Lane and Garrett, for all the work on Lights in the Park. All the volunteers that decorated the Old Mill Bridge again this year. Everything looks absolutely stunning! Also, thank you to those throughout the community that decorate for the holidays. It sure does help brighten up the season.

Thank you to all the city workers that were involved with the concrete work around city hall with the steps, sidewalk, retaining wall and parking spaces. Turned out absolutely amazing and things look great. I really commend our guys for the amount of work they have gotten done over these last thirty days.

In light of some recent happenings that have come up within the city regarding sewer lines, I want to reiterate what our City Municipal Code states in regards to residents' responsibilities. Chapter 38-6-24 Cost Borne by Owner: *"All costs and expenses including labor and material incidental to the installation, connection and maintenance of a lateral sewer line shall be borne by the owner(s). The owner(s) shall indemnify the City from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by the installation, connection and maintenance of the lateral sewer lines. This section shall apply even where the lateral sewer line runs under a public street, public right-of-way, or public easement."* In Laymen's terms, each homeowner and/or business owner is in charge of their sewer running from their structure to where it attaches to our main and then goes into a man hole. From there, the city is responsible for everything after. This would only include our city sewer mains, manholes, etc. Now, with that being said, in times we have went out and inspected residential sewer lines if all proper attachments are within that sewer line. If you do not have a clean out, we will not do anything. At the same time, if there is something that needs fixed, it is the responsibility of the owner to contact a licensed plumber to do the work. We as a city do not offer any residential sewer work. I hope this helps clear things up. If you have any further questions, please contact city hall.

I would also like to ask everyone to keep Raymond Reynolds in your thoughts and prayers.

**11. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: December 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM**

**SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** Personnel Committee Meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Mike Swick, to go out of open session and into closed session to discuss personnel, sale of real**



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**estate and potential litigation to the exceptions section of the Open Meetings Act pertaining to those areas of discussion.**

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

**Nays: None**

Open session suspended at 6:19 PM.

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

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

**Nays: None**

Open session resumed at 6:55 PM.

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

**13.ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to adjourn the meeting.**

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

**Nays: None**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.**

Submitted by:  
Maggie McDonald  
City Clerk