



UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE NEWTON CITY COUNCIL
108 N. VAN BUREN St.
NEWTON, IL 62448
January 20, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER: Joshua J. Kuhl, Mayor
Mayor Joshua Kuhl called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Alderman Kaleb Wright
Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Alderman Kaleb Wright
3. ROLL CALL: Maggie McDonald, City Clerk
Physically present: Gayle Glumac, Kaleb Wright, Larry Brooks, RJ Lindemann and Mike Swick
Also present: Attorney William Heap, Treasurer Melissa Brooks and City Clerk Maggie McDonald
Absent: Alderman Eric Blake
4. ADOPT OR AMEND AGENDA: AMEND: Add John Stone to Public Comments.
Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by RJ Lindemann, to adopt the amended agenda. (Adding John Stone to Public Comments)
Ayes: Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Swick
Nays: None
5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES of January 6, 2026.
Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2026 meeting of the Newton City Council.
Ayes: Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Swick, Glumac
Nays: None
6. APPROVAL OF BILLS & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:
Alderman Lindemann reviewed the pre-pays in the amount of \$70,621.12 and the bills and accounts payable earlier today and makes a motion to approve the pre-pays and authorize payment of the bills and accounts payable in the amount of \$75,872.33. Kaleb Wright seconded the motion.
Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Swick, Glumac, Wright
Nays: None
7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: **John Stone:** John Stone gave updates on a couple projects we have going on in town. Eskers is done with the concrete work at the pickleball court. Conduit is installed. We will be going out for fencing and painting bids next.
John has been in contact with IDOT about the upcoming resurfacing project that will be coming though Newton. Clerk Maggie McDonald will contact IDOT to determine what formal notification the City needs to file in order to participate in improvements when this project takes place.
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS OR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:
 - Personnel Committee Meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes January 7, 2026 6:00 PM – 8:15 PM



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Present: Joshua Kuhl, Gayle Glumac, Kaleb Wright, Larry Brooks, RJ Lindemann, Melissa Brooks, Eric Blake and Mike Swick

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

- The committee moved to go out of open session and into closed session to discuss personnel. Mike Swick makes the motion, Gayle Glumac seconds.
- Gayle Glumac made the motion to go out of executive session and back into open session, RJ Lindemann seconds.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Submitted by: **Mike Swick - Chairman**

- Electric Committee Meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Electric Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 14, 2026 6:00 PM – 6:47 PM

Present: Gayle Glumac, Kaleb Wright, Larry Brooks, Mike Swick, Melissa Brooks, Maggie McDonald, Amy Tarr and Matt Tarr

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

- Matt Tarr updated the committee on how Lights in the Park went this season. Wind was the only real factor they had to battle over the months. The committee discussed a few improvements for next year. We received over \$4,000 in donations this season. Light displays are currently on sale and Matt may be looking in to getting something new out there for next year. Setup date for next year will be November 2, 2026. Lights will run November 21, 2026 through January 4, 2027.
- Matt gave updates on the System Study, Circuit D Upgrade and the Fast Forward InfraRed Testing. Hope to have the system study report back, bid packets for the Circuit D Upgrade out for review and submitted, and the Fast Forward Reporting all done by the end of February maybe into March.
- The Electric Department has less than 600 Vision Meters left to install to get all our residents upgraded to the new electric meter system.
- Amy Tarr shared information with the committee regarding 2026 legislative changes and updates to residential solar arrays, net metering and interconnection agreement. She also expanded on Matt's comments regarding the Vision meters. Because the City was forward thinking and invested in these smart meters, we are prepared to read meters based on demand and time of usage if Springfield mandates that change in the future. Finally, the City has requested a copy of updated model language for net metering policy from IMUA. We hope to have that before June 1, 2026.
- There was discussion of a need for an electric energy attorney. The committee gave consensus for Matt to begin researching on this topic.
- Matt has received two quotes for work at the intersection of Jackson and Jourdan due to a semi accident. Two PO's will be on the agenda. One for the street light and one for concrete work. These will be reimbursed by insurance.
- Two employees from the Electric Department and one employee from the Park Department will be attending Pesticide Training in February.
- The committee discussed a company called Mobotrex. Matt has been experiencing problems at the Morgan St. light intersection. Mobotrex offers preventative maintenance check on our stoplights. They will check all three intersections. A percentage of the cost is reimbursed back to us by IDOT making the total cost \$1,187.50 to complete these maintenance checks and locate the problems. This will then be done annually.
- Matt would like to look into getting a Grid Monitoring System. This helps find problems within the lines, read currents, voltage, power factors, etc. We will be researching grant options for this.
- The Pole Use Agreement with Frontier is still under review. Hope to have that finished up and executed in the near future.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.



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Submitted by: **Gayle Glumac – Chairman**

9. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Consider and act on authorizing the disbursement of funds to CCW Properties for Demolition Reimbursement Application submitted for 1007 & 1009 Fairground in the amount of \$11,000.

Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize the disbursement of funds to CCW Properties for Demolition Reimbursement Application submitted for 1007 & 1009 Fairground in the amount of \$11,000.

Ayes: Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks

Nays: Lindemann

- B. Consider and act on authorizing the disbursement of funds to CCW Properties for the Demolition Reimbursement Application submitted for 901 Menke, Unit 2, in the amount of \$9,000.

Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to authorize the disbursement of funds to CCW Properties for the Demolition Reimbursement Application submitted for 901 Menke, Unit 2, in the amount of \$9,000.

Ayes: Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks

Nays: Lindemann

- C. Consider and act on authorizing the disbursement of funds to CCW Properties for the Demolition Reimbursement Application submitted for 903 Menke in the amount of \$9,000.

Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Mike Swick, to authorize the disbursement of funds to CCW Properties for the Demolition Reimbursement Application submitted for 903 Menke in the amount of \$9,000.

Ayes: Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Swick

Nays: Lindemann

- D. Consider and act on authorizing the city to seek bids for mowing.

Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by RJ Lindemann, to authorize the city to seek bids for mowing.

Ayes: Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Swick

Nays: None

10. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Consider and act on authorizing Kenneth Belcher's Letter of Resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals.



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Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to authorize Kenneth Belcher's Letter of Resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Ayes: Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Swick, Glumac

Nays: None

- B. Consider and act on authorizing the appointment of Benjamin Borgic to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Mike Swick, to authorize the appointment of Benjamin Borgic to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Swick, Glumac, Wright

Nays: None

- C. Consider and act on authorizing the appointment of Jacque Cowger to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Mike Swick, to authorize the appointment of Jacque Cowger to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Ayes: Lindemann, Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks

Nays: None

- D. Swear in appointed officials.





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- E. Consider and act on authorizing the disbursement of funds to Getlz Properties for the Dumpster Reimbursement Application submitted for 206 N. Jackson St. in the amount of \$2,500.

Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize the disbursement of funds to Getlz Properties for the Dumpster Reimbursement Application submitted for 206 N. Jackson St. in the amount of \$2,500.

Ayes: Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann

Nays: None

- F. Consider and act on authorizing the city attorney to proceed with easements for sewer line behind Reynolds St. and Maple St. (This is a new main extension that will give those residents a new option to tap in to.)

Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by RJ Lindemann, to authorize the city attorney to proceed with easements for sewer line behind Reynolds St. and Maple St.

Ayes: Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann

Nays: none

- G. Discuss Beacon AMA Water Meter Reading System.

With our current water meter reading system phasing out support by 2028, the Water Department will be transitioning a new meter reading system. Tyler Weber and Amy Tarr have been reviewing and analyzing the new system and what it offers to our residents and businesses. After several discussions and extensive review, the council is in consensus that the new system will result in greater efficiency, cost savings, and overall better customer service to our water customers. The meters come with a 10-year warranty. The total purchase amount will be split and paid for out of the Waters 25-26 and 26-27 fiscal year budgets. Moving forward, the annual program fee will be split between Water and Wastewater Departments.

- H. Consider and act on authorizing the purchase of the Beacon AMA Water Meter Reading System in the amount of \$277,664. The total amount will be split between fiscal year budgets 25-26 and 26-27.

Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize the purchase of the Beacon AMA Water Meter Reading System in the amount of \$277,664. The total amount will be split between fiscal year budgets 25-26 and 26-27.

Ayes: Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Swick

Nays: None



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- I. Consider and act on authorizing to advertise for two summer maintenance positions.

Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to authorize advertising for two summer maintenance positions.

Ayes: Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Swick, Glumac

Nays: None

- J. Consider and act on authorizing a Chamber of Commerce Membership Contribution.

Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize a one-time Chamber of Commerce Membership Contribution in the amount of \$2,500 to be paid fiscal year budget 26-27.

Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Swick, Glumac, Wright

Nays: None

- K. Consider and act on authorizing to send one employee from the Park Department and two employees from the Electric Department to Pesticide Training in Collinsville, Illinois on February 18 & 19, 2026. Total cost is \$70.00 per person plus milage and allowable expenses.

Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to authorize sending one employee from the Park Department and two employees from the Electric Department to Pesticide Training in Collinsville, Illinois on February 18 & 19, 2026. Total cost is \$70.00 per person plus milage and allowable expenses.

Ayes: Lindemann, Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks

Nays: None

- L. Consider and act on authorizing Mobotrex to conduct a preventative cabinet maintenance and CMU Testing on our stop lights at the intersections of Morgan, Jackson and Van Buren Streets. Amount is \$950 per intersection. We will be reimbursed a percentage of the cost, making the total amount due \$1,187.50.

Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize Mobotrex to conduct a preventative cabinet maintenance and CMU Testing on our stop lights at the intersections of Morgan, Jackson and Van Buren Streets. Amount is \$950 per intersection. We will be reimbursed a percentage of the cost, making the total amount due \$1,187.50.

Ayes: Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann

Nays: None

11. STATEMENTS BY:

Glumac: Everyone stay warm out there. Bye bye to all us Bears fans.



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Wright: No comments.

Brooks: No comments.

Lindemann: Presented the utility adjustments.

Apologize for being forceful in prior conversation. I deeply care about the integrity of the City. On that note, regarding line items 8A, 8B, and 8C., I am deeply disappointed in the Mayor. These should have never been put on the agenda.

Swick: City Hall is experiencing leaks throughout the new guttering that was installed. Crawford Guttering provided a quote for repairs. We are waiting on a couple more quotes and will revisit this at the next council meeting.

City Attorney: I am a very proud resident of the State of Illinois for 56 years. I was raised in Indiana, went to Indiana University, go Hoosiers! I also love my bears, and that's too bad.

City Treasurer: Presented appropriation changes:

Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to authorize the three (3) following appropriation changes:

General Fund:

1. Police to move \$7,000 from Contingency Fund (9000-23) to Publishing (5220-23).
2. Police to move \$1,000 from Contingency Fund (9000-23) to Miscellaneous Expense (7000-23).
3. General Administration to move \$3,000 from Contingency Fund (9000-27) to Building Repair (5630-27).

Ayes: Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Swick

Nays: None

City Clerk: 4 PO's

1. Wastewater PO#11 to Lakeside Equipment Corporation for the Micrologix 1400 Motherboard in the amount of \$2,985. This controls the fine screens at the sewer plant.

Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize the Wastewater Department PO#11 to Lakeside Equipment Corporation for the Micrologix 1400 Motherboard in the amount of \$2,985. This controls the fine screens at the sewer plant.

Ayes: Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann

Nays: None

2. Electric Department PO#39-30 to Smithenry Trenching to remove sidewalk and lamp post and replace on corner of N. Jackson and Rt. 33 in the amount of \$6,873. (This will be reimbursed by insurance.)

The motion was tabled to authorize the Electric Department PO#39-30 to Smithenry Trenching to remove sidewalk and lamp post and replace on



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corner of N. Jackson and Rt. 33 in the amount of \$6,873. (This will be on the February 3 Agenda of the Newton City Council)

Ayes: Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Swick

Nays: None

3. Electric Department PO#40-30 to Lighting Associates for purchase of a new street light in the amount of \$16,105. (This will be reimbursed by insurance.)

The motion was tabled to authorize the Electric Department PO#40-30 to Lighting Associates for purchase of a new street light in the amount of \$16,105. (This will be on the February 3 Agenda of the Newton City Council)

Ayes: Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Swick, Glumac

Nays: None

4. Police Department PO#2006-1 to Kemper Technology for the purchase of 3 new computers, one internal hard drive, installation and labor in the amount of \$6,158.15.

Motion was made by Kaleb Wright, seconded by Mike Swick, to authorize the Police Department PO#2006-1 to Kemper Technology for the purchase of 3 new computers, one internal hard drive, installation and labor in the amount of \$6,158.15.

Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Swick, Glumac, Wright

Nays: None

Mayor: Thank you to our community for all the donations this season for Lights in the Park. Over \$4,000 was received. I believe that doubles last year's numbers, so thank you again to all who donated. Also, thank you to all who are involved and/or play a part in this event.

I will echo Bill. The state to our East received a first time ever, very well deserved win last night. Lots of things accomplished and an exciting game to watch. I know many of you are upset about the Bears, but it was close.

Everyone please stay safe during these cold days. Just know, the days are starting to get longer, which means the cold won't last forever.

12. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: **February 3, 2026 at 6:00 PM**

SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- Personnel Committee Meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM.
- Personnel Committee Meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 7:00 PM. This meeting will be held in the Electric Building, 400 N Van Buren-B.
- Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting **RESCHEDULED** to Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Jasper County Courthouse. (4 Zoning Permit Requests will be heard and discussed that evening)



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13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Ayes: Lindemann, Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks

Nays: None

Open session suspended at 7:34 PM.

Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to go out of closed session and back into open session.

Ayes: Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann

Nays: None

Open session resumed at 8:18 PM.

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

14. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Swick

Nays: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Submitted by:

Maggie McDonald, City Clerk