



**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE NEWTON CITY COUNCIL**  
**108 N. VAN BUREN St.**  
**NEWTON, IL 62448**  
**June 16, 2026**

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 Alderman Mike Swick  
**Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Alderman Mike Swick**
3. ROLL CALL: Maggie McDonald, City Clerk  
**Physically present: Kaleb Wright, Larry Brooks, RJ Lindemann, Eric Blake and Mike Swick**  
**Also present: Attorney William Heap, Treasurer Melissa Brooks and City Clerk Maggie McDonald**  
**Absent: Alderman Gayle Glumac**
4. ADOPT OR AMEND AGENDA: Amend: Add Personnel and Potential Litigation to Executive Session.  
**Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to adopt the amended agenda. Add Personnel and Potential Litigation to Executive Session.**  
**Ayes: Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Swick**  
**Nays: None**
5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES of June 2, 2026.  
**Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by RJ Lindemann, to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2026 meeting of the Newton City Council.**  
**Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Swick**  
**Nays: None**  
**Abstain: Blake, Wright**
6. APPROVAL OF BILLS & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:  
**Alderman Lindemann reviewed the pre-paids in the amount of \$57,710.11 and the bills and accounts payable earlier today and makes a motion to approve the pre-paids and authorize payment of the bills and accounts payable in the amount of \$227,780.82. Larry Brooks seconded the motion.**  
**Ayes: Lindemann, Blake, Swick, Wright, Brooks**  
**Nays: None**
7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: **None**
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS OR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:
  - Water/Wastewater Committee Meeting on Monday, June 15, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

**Water and Waste Water Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, June 15, 2026 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

Attendees: Mike Swick, Joshua Kuhl, Maggie McDonald, Kaleb Wright, Larry Brooks, Eric Blake, Melissa Brooks, Jennifer Holland, Scott Rubsam and Adam Painter

Meeting began at 5:30 PM.



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- The sewer service line connection at 309 Lafayette Street was discussed. Scott will oversee and monitor the installation process to ensure the connection is completed properly and in compliance with City requirements.
- Jennifer provided an update on the water treatment plant's filter media. Significant differences in the color of the backwash have been observed, indicating the need for further evaluation. The existing filter media system is approximately 15 years old, and staff will explore options for replacing the seals or undertaking a complete replacement of all three filters.
- Jennifer will coordinate and develop a schedule for hydrant flushing.
- A recent fluoride and chlorine leak at the water treatment plant was detected. Repairs have been completed, and the issue has been resolved.

5:45 PM Adam Painter leaves the meeting.

- Eric Blake makes a motion to go into executive session. Kaleb Wright seconds the motion.

7:22 PM

- Eric Blake makes a motion to go out of executive session and back into open session. Mike Swick seconds the motion.
- Jennifer had questions regarding the upcoming water main project near Hutton Drive and Homestead. She will coordinate with the engineer to review the plans and address any concerns prior to construction.
- Jennifer had also questioned the hydrogen tank alarm. It was discovered that the alarm had been bypassed at some point in the past. The cause of the bypass is unknown; however, corrective action will be taken to restore the alarm to proper working order.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Submitted by: **Mike Swick - Chairman**

**9. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Consider and act on passing Ordinance 26-07 Ordinance to Condemn an Unsafe and Dangerous Building at 205 E. Harris St.

**Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by RJ Lindemann, to pass Ordinance 26-07 Ordinance to Condemn an Unsafe and Dangerous Building at 205 E. Harris St.**

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

**Nays: None**

- B. Consider and act on authorizing an asbestos inspection and to seek bids for the demolition project at 805 Foster.

**Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to authorize an asbestos inspection and to seek bids for the demolition project at 805 Foster.**

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

**Nays: None**

- C. Consider and act on authorizing to hire a Water Plant Operator.

**Motion was made by Kaleb Wright, seconded by Mike Swick, to authorize the hire of Alex Wagner as a Water Plant Operator, with a start date of July 14, 2026.**

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

**Nays: None**

- D. Consider and act on authorizing to hire a Wastewater Plant Operator.



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**Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Larry Brooks, to authorize the hire of Jacob Lindemann as a Wastewater Plant Operator, with a start date of July 13, 2026.**

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

**Nays: None**

**10. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Discuss Telecommunications Tax.**

**A question recently arose regarding the City's telecommunications tax rate. The Illinois Department of Revenue reports that the City currently receives a 1% telecommunications tax, while the City of Newton Municipal Code references a 6% rate. To ensure accuracy and consistency, the City will be updating its Municipal Code to reflect the current 1% telecommunications tax rate administered through the State.**

**B. Consider and act on authorizing the Special Event Application submitted by Peoples State Bank for their Annual Customer Appreciation Free Ice Cream Social on Thursday, July 2, 2026 from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM.**

**Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by RJ Lindemann, to authorize the Special Event Application submitted by Peoples State Bank for their Annual Customer Appreciation Free Ice Cream Social on Thursday, July 2, 2026 from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM.**

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

**Nays: None**

**11. STATEMENTS BY:**

**Wright:** Called a Police and Building Permit Committee Meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

**Brooks:** Glad we were able to obtain good candidates and were successful getting new hires in our Water and Wastewater Departments.

**Lindemann:** Called a Finance and Audit Committee Meeting on Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

Encouraged everyone to enjoy the upcoming fair week.

Presented the utility adjustments.

Voiced opposition to the Capital Development Fund.

**Blake:** No comments.

**Swick:** Thanked all the city departments for their teamwork and all pulling together to get things done.

Many events and activities happening around town this weekend, including food, music, and other festivities. Encourage everyone to check it out.

Congratulations Parklanes on their upcoming opening. The community is excited to welcome them!



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Wish all the fathers and grandfathers a very Happy Father's Day.

**City Attorney:** No comments.

**City Treasurer:** Extended Father's Day wishes to all fathers.

Reported that the City's auditors were on-site the previous week. Updates will be provided to the Council as information becomes available.

**City Clerk: 2 PO's**

1. Wastewater Department PO#11 to Vandevanter Engineering for a new Square D Motor, the labor and install for a total amount of \$5,421.80.

**Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by RJ Lindemann, to authorize the Wastewater Department PO#11 to Vandevanter Engineering for a new Square D Motor, the labor and install for a total amount of \$5,421.80.**

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

**Nays: None**

2. Park Department PO#6397 to Midwest Tractor to fix the front axle seal and rear motor seal on the New Holland TL 260 tractor in the amount of \$3,500.

**Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to authorize the Park Department PO#6397 to Midwest Tractor to fix the front axle seal and rear motor seal on the New Holland TL 260 tractor in the amount of \$3,500.**

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

**Nays: None**

**Mayor:** Echo Alderman Swick on congratulating Parklanes on their grand opening June 22! Parklanes will now be open for breakfast and lunch on Sundays, which I know will be great in this community.

Lots of activities taking place throughout the weekend. Reminded everyone the fair begins on Sunday, June 21. Encourage community members to attend and support these community events.

Happy Fathers Day!

As always, thank you to all our city employees for your hard work, and also thank you to our summer help. Have heard nothing but good things, so we are grateful to find someone to fill that role.

Lastly, I want to wish America a Happy 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday! This is a big one for our country and I hope everyone has a safe and Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**12. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: July 7, 2026 at 6:00 PM**

**SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

- Police and Building Permit Committee Meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM.



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- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting on Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to go out of open session and into closed session to discuss personnel and potential litigation pursuant to the exceptions section of the Open Meetings Act pertaining to those areas of discussion.**

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

**Nays: None**

Open session suspended at 6:30 PM.

**Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to go out of closed session and back into open session.**

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

**Nays: None**

Open session resumed at 7:08 PM.

Mayor Kuhl announced that during closed session the council discussed personnel and potential litigation.

**14. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Eric Blake, to adjourn the meeting.**

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

**Nays: None**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.**

Submitted by:  
Maggie McDonald  
City Clerk