



UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE NEWTON CITY COUNCIL
108 N. VAN BUREN St.
NEWTON, IL 62448
August 4, 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 Larry Brooks
Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Alderman Larry Brooks
3. ROLL CALL: Maggie McDonald, City Clerk
Physically present: Gayle Glumac, Kaleb Wright, Larry Brooks, RJ Lindemann, Eric Blake and Mike Swick
Also present: Attorney William Heap, Treasurer Melissa Brooks and City Clerk Maggie McDonald
4. ADOPT OR AMEND AGENDA:
Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to adopt the proposed agenda.
Ayes: Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Swick
Nays: None
5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES of July 21, 2026.
Motion was made by Kaleb Wright, seconded by Larry Brooks, to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2026 meeting of the Newton City Council.
Ayes: Wright, Brooks, Lindemann, Swick, Glumac
Nays: None
Abstain: Blake
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: **Newton Masonic Lodge:** The Newton Masonic Lodge read a letter on behalf of its officers and members asking the council to consider awarding additional TIF funds to help cover the cost of a new roof. The letter highlighted the many services and contributions the lodge provides to the Newton community.
7. COMMITTEE REPORTS OR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:
 - Park, Cemetery and Pool Committee Meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

Park, Cemetery and Pool Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, July 28, 2026 5:30 PM – 6:01 PM

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

- The committee discussed cemetery-related policies and maintenance matters, including questions regarding cremation burials, the limitation of one burial per plot, and responsibility for damaged or fallen headstones. It was clarified that the maintenance and repair of headstones remain the responsibility of the plot owner or the owner's family and only one burial per plot will be allowed. The committee also recommended conducting an annual inspection of the cemetery prior to the start of mowing season to document and address any maintenance concerns.
Amy Tarr arrived at 5:35 PM
- Performance of the city's contracted mowing service for the parks and cemetery was reviewed. The committee agreed that the contractor has not consistently met the city's expectations and



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emphasized the importance of documenting completed and incomplete work to ensure payments accurately reflect services rendered. The committee recommended terminating the current mowing contract and soliciting new bids in early fall.

- Alderman Glumac and Clerk McDonald presented a proposal to establish a Pickleball Club funded through annual membership dues. The intent of the program was to create a dedicated funding source for the ongoing maintenance and future improvements of the city's pickleball courts. Following discussion, the committee did not want to pursue the proposal due to concerns regarding potential insurance and liability reasons.
- The city will be pouring concrete between the tennis courts and pickleball courts in the near future and we are still on schedule to have the pool painted this fall.
Eric Blake arrived at 5:49 PM.
- Matt Tarr provided an update on the Lights in the Park. The committee was informed that the current beginning balance is \$6,475.00, and event setup is scheduled to begin the week of November 2. The high school welding class is constructing new signs for the event. Additionally, the committee discussed budgeting additional funds for electrical hookups and holiday lighting around the courthouse square for future Christmas seasons.
- Amy Tarr reported that the vinyl coverings on the city's welcome signs at the entrances to town are deteriorating and require replacement. She will obtain cost estimates for the replacement of the signage for the committee to consider.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 PM

Submitted by: **Gayle Glumac - Chairman**

- Electric Committee Meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 immediately following the Park, Cemetery and Pool Committee Meeting.

Electric Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, July 28, 2026 6:01 PM – 7:59 PM

Present: Gayle Glumac, Joshua Kuhl, Kaleb Wright, Larry Brooks, RJ Lindemann, Eric Blake, Mike Swick, Melissa Brooks, Maggie McDonald, Amy Tarr, Brenda Phillips, BHMG, and Matt Tarr

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.

- BHMG presented the committee with the Electric Utility Strategic Plan, outlining the City's long-term infrastructure needs and recommended capital improvements. The highest priority identified within the plan is the replacement of the Decatur Street Substation, which has reached the end of its expected service life and will require significant investment in the near future to maintain system reliability. The committee discussed potential funding mechanisms and budgeting strategies for the project. Alderman Lindemann voiced the possibility of selling the city's electric utility. The committee agreed to continue researching all available alternatives and will revisit the matter at the Electric Committee Meeting scheduled for September 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM.
- Matt presented the Fast Forward Switching Program, which would provide the Electric Department with enhanced data and analytics regarding the city's electrical distribution system, including power lines, transformers, and other critical infrastructure. The committee discussed how the program could improve system monitoring, operational efficiency, and future planning efforts.
- The committee discussed the Electric Department's need to purchase a reel trailer. This equipment would improve operational efficiency by allowing the guys to transport and handle wire reels more safely and effectively, reducing labor time and increasing productivity in the field.
- There has been vandalism at the big pavilion in Peterson Park. Several lighting fixtures and electrical components were intentionally damaged. Matt estimated approximately \$4,000 to restore the pavilion's electrical system and return the facility to code-compliant condition.
- The committee recognized the cost savings achieved through the city's investment in a new bucket truck. Last year 25 trees were removed, resulting in an estimated savings of \$25,000 by



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completing the work in-house. To date this year, the guys have removed 10 trees, with approximately 15 additional removals scheduled, that will continue to generate significant operational savings.

- The committee discussed the continued evaluation of public alleys throughout the city to identify those that no longer serve a public purpose. Staff will continue reviewing alley locations and, where appropriate, pursue the formal process necessary to vacate and close unused alleys.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Submitted by: **Gayle Glumac – Chairman**

- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 immediately following the Electric Committee Meeting.

Finance and Audit Committee Meeting Minutes July 28, 2026 7:49 PM – 9:32 PM

Present: RJ Lindemann, Larry Brooks, Mike Swick, Melissa Brooks, Gayle Glumac, Kaleb Wright, Joshua Kuhl, Eric Blake, Maggie McDonald and Bob Rohr.

- TIF application for the Masonic Lodge was discussed. It was recommended to approve the application for \$5,000.

Bob Rohr left the meeting.

- ITEP was discussed. it was recommended by the majority of the committee to proceed with a reduced scope for the grant application. The project would be 1,500,000 with up to 20% of funds coming from TIF and the remaining to be covered by a grant.
- TIF funds will also be obligated to sewer relining, ITEP, Hooker Lift Station, TIF expansion and Washington Street sidewalk replacement.
- TIF expansion was discussed. The council will pick this matter up at a future date.

Adjourned at 9:32 PM

Submitted by: **RJ Lindemann – Chairman**

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Open sealed bids for the 805 Foster St. Demolition Project.
- B. Consider and act on awarding the bid for the 805 Foster St. Demolition Project.

Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to award the bid for the 805 Foster St. Demolition project to H & K Excavating and Trucking in the amount of \$9,100.

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

Nays: None

- C. Discuss storm water improvements at the Kibler Condos and Hickory Dr.
The existing 24-inch storm sewer pipe will need to be replaced with a larger standard concrete pipe to increase drainage capacity. The project will present significant construction challenges, and the pipe grade must be verified before final design and installation. Because the work will impact the roadway, traffic control and access during construction will need to be planned and coordinated before the project moves forward.

- D. Discuss flooding concerns on Russel Drive.

Flooding issues are still occurring on Russel Dr. It was suggested to increase the capacity of the existing 12” storm sewer outlet to allow



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water to transfer at a faster pace and to lower the dirt inlet to allow a better flow. The city will coordinate with our city engineer and move forward with both scenarios.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Consider and act on authorizing the TIF Application submitted for 207 S. Van Buren St. by the Masonic Newton Lodge #216 in the amount up to \$5,000, as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee.

Motion was made Mike Swick, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize the TIF Application submitted for 207 S. Van Buren St. by the Masonic Newton Lodge #216 in the amount up to \$5,000, as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee.

Ayes: Blake, Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks

Nays: Lindemann

- B. Consider and act on authorizing the obligation of surplus TIF funds in the amount of \$300,000 for the city's matching portion of the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant.

Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to authorize the obligation of surplus TIF funds in the amount of \$300,000 for the city's matching portion of the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant.

Ayes: Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks

Nays: Blake, Lindemann

- C. Consider and act on authorizing the obligation of surplus TIF funds in the amount of \$125,000 for the Storm Sewer Relining Project from East Reynolds to Wilson.

Motion was made by Kaleb Wright, seconded by Mike Swick, to authorize the obligation of surplus TIF funds in the amount of \$125,000 for the Storm Sewer Relining Project from East Reynolds to Wilson.

Ayes: Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks

Nays: Lindemann, Blake

- D. Consider and act on authorizing the obligation of surplus TIF funds in the amount of \$105,000 for the Sanitary Sewer Relining Project from Edwards to Owens.

Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to authorize the obligation of surplus TIF funds in the amount of \$105,000 for the Sanitary Sewer Relining Project from Edwards to Owens.

Ayes: Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Swick

Nays: Lindemann, Blake



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- E. Consider and act on authorizing the obligation of surplus TIF funds in the amount of \$40,000 for Hooker Lift Station Improvement Project.

Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to authorize the obligation of surplus TIF funds in the amount of \$40,000 for Hooker Lift Station Improvement Project.

Ayes: Wright, Brooks, Swick, Glumac

Nays: Lindemann, Blake

- F. Consider and act on authorizing the obligation of surplus TIF funds in the amount of \$50,000 towards the TIF Extension Project.

Motion dies for lack of motion.

- G. Consider and act on authorizing the obligation of surplus TIF funds in the amount of \$80,000 for the Washington St. Sidewalk Replacement Project.

Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize the obligation of surplus TIF funds in the amount of \$80,000 for the Washington St. Sidewalk Replacement Project.

Ayes: Brooks, Swick, Glumac, Wright

Nays: Lindemann, Blake

- H. Consider and act on authorizing the termination of the Mowing Agreement dated April 9, 2026, between the City of Newton and Noblit Mowing and Digging pursuant to Section 8 of the agreement, authorizing the city to issue the required thirty (30) day written notice of termination.

Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to authorize the termination of the Mowing Agreement dated April 9, 2026, between the City of Newton and Noblit Mowing and Digging pursuant to Section 8 of the agreement, authorizing the city to issue the required thirty (30) day written notice of termination, that will terminate on October 17, 2026.

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

Nays: None

- I. Consider and act on authorizing the city to solicit bids for the mowing project at Peterson Park, Earl Dufrain Park and Riverside Cemetery.

Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Kaleb Wright, to authorize the city to solicit bids for the 2027 season mowing project at Peterson Park, Earl Dufrain Park and Riverside Cemetery. (This will be a one-year contract.)

Ayes: Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks, Lindemann

Nays: Blake



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- J. Consider and act on authorizing the hire of Edward Gonzalez Jr. as an officer of the Newton Police Department, contingent on passing of the POWER Test and all other evaluations, with a hire date of August 4, 2026.

Motion was made by Kaleb Wright, seconded by RJ Lindemann, authorize the hire of Edward Gonzalez Jr. as an officer of the Newton Police Department, contingent on passing of the POWER Test and all other evaluations, with a hire date of August 4, 2026.

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

Nays: None

- K. Consider and act on authorizing the purchase of additional software for the Electric Department's Fast Forward Switching Program with an installation cost of \$20,000 and an annual fee of \$1,000, as recommended by the Electric Committee.

Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by RJ Lindemann, to authorize the purchase of additional software for the Electric Department's Fast Forward Switching Program with an installation cost of \$20,000 and an annual fee of \$1,000, as recommended by the Electric Committee.

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

Nays: None

- L. Consider and act on authorizing the Special Event Liquor License Application submitted by the Newton American Legion for a BBQ Smoke Off Competition at the Jasper County Fairgrounds on Friday, August 21, 2026 from 4:00 PM to 12:00 AM and Saturday, August 22, 2026 from 6:00 AM to 12:00 AM.

Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize the Special Event Liquor License Application submitted by the Newton American Legion for a BBQ Smoke Off Competition at the Jasper County Fairgrounds on Friday, August 21, 2026 from 4:00 PM to 12:00 AM and Saturday, August 22, 2026 from 6:00 AM to 12:00 AM.

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

Nays: None

10. STATEMENTS BY:

Glumac: School starts next week. Everyone please stay alert and start watching out for our buses and kiddos. The kids will be excited and may not be watching out for you.

Wright: No comments.

Brooks: No comments.

Lindemann: Expressed his disappointment and displeasure in the county with the demolition of our courthouse and voiced opposition to the Capital Development Fund.



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Blake: No comments.

Swick: No comments.

City Attorney: No comments.

City Treasurer: No comments.

City Clerk: 1 PO Electric Department

1. Electric Department PO#47-30 to Vermeer Midwest for the purchase of a reel trailer with a 10,000 lbs capacity, plus freight, title, plates and document fees for a total amount of \$13,695.00.

Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Mike Swick, to authorize the Electric Department PO#47-30 to Vermeer Midwest for the purchase of a reel trailer with a 10,000 lbs capacity, plus freight, title, plates and document fees for a total amount of \$13,695.00.

Ayes: Blake, Swick, Glumac, Wright, Brooks

Nays: Lindemann

Mayor: Newton Elementary has requested the city's assistance with traffic control at the beginning of the school year during student pick-up times. Due to the construction associated with the school's expansion, the school is implementing a temporary one-way traffic pattern to improve traffic flow and enhance student safety. After discussing the request, the city recommended that the school utilize traffic cones to temporarily close Barton Street at the Maxwell Street intersection. This arrangement will require those traveling north on Barton Street to turn around and travel back south, helping to maintain the intended traffic pattern while minimizing the need for city personnel to be stationed on-site.

With that said, the start of school is August 11, as Gayle mentioned. Everyone please stay cautious as town may get congested with pick ups and drop offs.

11. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: August 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM

SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- Electric Committee Meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

Nays: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM.

Submitted by:

Maggie McDonald

City Clerk