



UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE NEWTON CITY COUNCIL
108 N. VAN BUREN St.
NEWTON, IL 62448
May 5, 2026

- **Finance and Audit Committee Meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 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, Larry Brooks, RJ Lindemann and Mike Swick
Also present: Attorney William Heap, Treasurer Melissa Brooks and City Clerk Maggie McDonald
Absent: Alderman Kaleb Wright and Alderman Eric Blake
4. ADOPT OR AMEND AGENDA: **Amend: Add Personnel and Potential Litigation to Executive Session.**
Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Mike Swick, to adopt the amended agenda, adding personnel and potential litigation to executive session.
Ayes: Glumac, Brooks, Lindemann, Swick
Nays: None
5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES of May 19, 2026.
Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Mike Swick, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2026 meeting of the Newton City Council.
Ayes: Brooks, Swick, Glumac, Kuhl
Nays: None
Abstain: Lindemann
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:
 - **Donna Kuhl:** Ms. Kuhl expressed concerns regarding Davis Street and the access it now provides to the ballpark. She stated that when the street was initially opened, a gate was installed, "No Parking" signs were posted, and the access was intended to be used as an exit only. However, she reported that the area is experiencing increased traffic, speeding vehicles, and the gate is not being secured as originally proposed. Mayor Kuhl reminded Donna the baseball tournament season was almost over and the gate would be locked. The city will explore options for removable speed bumps and will have the police department increase patrols in the area and monitor the gate to ensure it is being properly secured.



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- **Sarah Diel Kinkade:** Talked about the End of the Era Community Block Party Special Event that will be happening June 19th on the courthouse lawn. Ms. Diel Kinkade asked for assistance from the City departments to help ensure streets are closed to through traffic for the event's 5:00 PM start time. A request was also made for barricades to reserve space for the band's trailer.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS OR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 5:45 PM.

Finance and Audit Committee Meeting Minutes June 2, 2026 5:45 PM – 5:55 PM

Present: Gayle Glumac, Larry Brooks, Mike Swick, Melissa Brooks, Maggie McDonald, Bill Heap Joshua Kuhl, Sarah Diel Kinkade and Donna Kuhl

- The TIF Application submitted by St. Thomas School was reviewed. They will be demolishing the old Pizza Man building. It was recommended by the committee to award up to the amount of \$5,000.
- Clerk McDonald reported a discrepancy between the telecommunications tax rate listed in the City Code (6%) and the rate reflected in Illinois Department of Revenue reporting (1%). Council members agreed the matter should be reviewed at a future meeting with additional council members present to determine the intended rate and ensure the City Code is consistent with current practice.

Adjourned at 5:55 PM

Submitted by: **Maggie McDonald, City Clerk**

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Consider and act on authorizing the Project Change Request Order #1 to BHMG in the amount of \$23,900 for the Electric Line D Grid Resilience Grant.
Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize the Project Change Request Order #1 to BHMG in the amount of \$23,900 for the Electric Line D Grid Resilience Grant.

Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Swick, Glumac

Nays: None

- B. Consider and act on passing Ordinance 26-05 Offering Incentives to Encourage the Demolition and Disposal of Dangerous and Dilapidated Buildings Within the City of Newton.
Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to pass Ordinance 26-05 Offering Incentives to Encourage the Demolition and Disposal of Dangerous and Dilapidated Buildings Within the City of Newton.

Ayes: Lindemann, Swick, Glumac, Brooks

Nays: None

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Consider and act on authorizing Brent Benefiel's Letter of Resignation.
Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize Brent Benefiel's Letter of Resignation, effective June 2, 2026.



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Ayes: Swick, Glumac, Brooks, Lindemann

Nays: None

- B. Consider and act on authorizing the appointment of Scott Rubsam to the Wastewater Plant Operator Department Head position.

Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize the appointment of Scott Rubsam to the Wastewater Plant Operator Department Head position, effective May 28, 2026.

Ayes: Glumac, Brooks, Lindemann, Swick

Nays: None

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

Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by RJ Lindemann, to authorize advertising for hire a Water Plant Operator.

Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Swick, Glumac

Nays: None

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

Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Mike Swick, to authorize to advertise for hire a Wastewater Plant Operator.

Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Swick, Glumac

Nays: None

- E. Consider and act on authorizing an additional one-year time extension request, from April 1, 2026 through April 1, 2027, to begin new construction on Lot 18 in Five Aprils Subdivision.

Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize an additional one-year time extension request, from April 1, 2026 through April 1, 2027, to begin new construction on Lot 18 in Five Aprils Subdivision.

Ayes: Swick, Glumac, Brooks

Nays: Lindemann, Kuhl

- F. Consider and act on authorizing the TIF Application submitted for 103 S. Lafayette by St. Thomas School.

Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize the TIF Application submitted for 103 S. Lafayette St. by St. Thomas School in the amount up to \$5,000, as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee.

Ayes: Swick, Glumac, Brooks, Lindemann

Nays: None



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G. Consider and act on authorizing the Special Event Application submitted by the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce.

Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize the Special Event Application submitted by the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce for an End of an Era on the Square Community Block Party on Friday, June 19, 2026 from 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

Ayes: Glumac, Brooks, Lindemann, Swick

Nays: None

10. STATEMENTS BY:

Glumac: Thanked Brent Benefiel for his many years of hard work, dedication, and service to the City.

Also recognized Adam Painter and Scott Rubsam for stepping up, taking on additional responsibilities, and handling extra tasks with a positive attitude.

Extended thanks to the City departments for their efforts in preparing the Eagle Trail for the Strong Girls and Strong Boys Run, as well as to the Police Department for assisting with traffic control.

Lastly, thanked all of the students who participated in the Strong Girls and Strong Boys Run. Noted that the Strong Run program is especially meaningful and holds a special place in her heart.

Brooks: Thanked Brent for his years with the city. He was always a good worker.

Lindemann: Hoped everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day weekend.

Wished his son a late Happy Birthday. He was born May 30th.

Apologized to his constituents for missing the last council meeting.

Voiced opposition to the Capital Development Fund.

Swick: Thanked Brent for his many years of dedicated service to the City and noted that he always did a good job.

Expressed appreciation to Gayle for all her time and energy devoted to working at the park. It is really looking great out there.

Thanked all the guys that had a hand in the water leak fix over the weekend and recognized their hard work and commitment in responding to the situation.

The sewer department had a motor starter go out at the hooker lift station. Vandevanter was here when it happened. We told them to order one and will have the PO for the next council meeting.

City Attorney: The park is really looking nice, Gayle. Enjoy the kids this summer.

City Treasurer: Congratulations to RJ on his new baby and thank you to Brent for your service with the city.

City Clerk: No comments.



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Mayor: Extended the congratulations to RJ and Caroline on the arrival of their new addition and wished them all the best as they begin this exciting new chapter. Expressed sincere appreciation to Brent Benefiel for his years of dedicated service to the City and wished him success in his future endeavors. Recognized Adam, Scott, Brent, and Garrett for their outstanding efforts in responding to the water leak over the weekend. They began repairs at approximately 4:00 PM and worked until after 2:00 AM to resolve the issue. Their commitment, teamwork, and willingness to go above and beyond are greatly appreciated. Also thanked the Rubsam family for providing drinks and snacks to the guys during the repair work. Noted he met briefly with the City employees that morning to thank them for their hard work, dedication, and service to the community. Emphasized the importance of working together as a team and maintaining a collaborative approach as the City moves forward. Lastly, thanked Gayle for her continued dedication and hard work at the park. Her efforts and attention to detail have made a noticeable difference, making the park a valuable asset that the community can enjoy and take pride in.

11. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: June 16, 2026 at 6:00 PM

SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel and Potential Litigation

Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by RJ Lindemann, 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: Swick, Glumac, Brooks, Lindemann

Nays: None

Open session suspended at 6:39 PM.

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

Ayes: Glumac, Brooks, Lindemann, Swick

Nays: None

Open session resumed at 7:04 PM.

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

13. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Swick, Glumac

Nays: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM.



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Submitted by:
Maggie McDonald
City Clerk