

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEWTON CITY COUNCIL**

August 7, 2012 – 7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Newton City Council was held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

PRESENT: Mayor Anne P. Stedman, Mayor Pro Tem Bill Lutz, Council Members Mary Bess Lawing, Tom Rowe, Robert C. Abernethy, Jr., Wayne Dellinger and Wes Weaver

STAFF: City Manager Todd Clark, City Attorney Larry Pitts, City Clerk Amy S. Falowski, City Department Heads, and members of the Management Team

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Anne P. Stedman

Mayor Anne P. Stedman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

ITEM 2: OPENING – Council Member Wayne Dellinger

Council Member Wayne Dellinger provided the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 10, 2012 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Upon motion duly made by Council Member Mary Bess Lawing, seconded by Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr., it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the July 10, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting be –
APPROVED

ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Upon motion duly made by Mayor Pro Tem Bill Lutz, seconded by Council Member Tom Rowe, it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That Consent Agenda be – APPROVED

- A. Sewer Adjustments
- B. Tax Releases – June 2012
- C. Consideration of Budget Ordinance to Carry Forward Outstanding Purchase Orders at June 30, 2012

- D. Consideration of Anne Wepner, Tom Warlick, and Frances Hollar as Appointments to the Newton-Conover Auditorium Authority
- E. Consideration of Finance Director Serina Hinson for Appointment as Alternate Member of the Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority Board of Directors
- F. Consideration of Public Fee Structure for Public Events – 2012 Soldiers Reunion Celebration Week Activities

(Ordinances, Resolutions, and Proclamations are hereby referenced and on file in the office of the City Clerk)

ITEM 5: **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: (PERSONS WANTING TO MAKE A PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN IN WITH THE CITY CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING):**

Mayor Anne P. Stedman asked if there was anyone present that would like to make any comments concerning non-agenda items. No one appeared.

ITEM 6: **New Business**

- A. 2012 Swimming Pool Report

Parks and Recreation Director Sandra Waters stated that she has provided City Council a copy of the pool report for June 2011 and June 2012 outlining attendance, revenues, and hours of operation and marketing strategies.

Ms. Waters stated that attendance has increased by 653 participants, which is a 66% increase compared to June 2011, and that this increase in attendance is primarily due to an increase in the number of day camps bringing children to the pool. Ms. Waters explained that additional activities at the pool have increased as well, including:

- 1 pool rental
- water aerobics attendance has increased by 12 participants, and
- 15 participants for children swimming lessons compared to 0 participants in June 2011.

Ms. Waters stated that marketing and advertising materials were distributed to all Newton-Conover City Schools, 126 daycares and other Catawba County Schools. She stated that newspaper, cable TV and utility billing were also utilized for promotion of the Newton Pool, and that the marketing and advertisements have had a significant impact on swimming pool attendance and revenues.

Mayor Stedman stated that everything at the pool looks good.

Council Member Mary Bess Lawing stated that she has seen lots of people walking to the pool, and that there was very good advertisement this year. Ms. Waters thanked Public Information Officer Gary Herman for all the advertisements that he provided for the pool.

B. Consideration of Request from the Green Room Community Theatre Concerning Loading Zones

City Manager Todd Clark explained to City Council that the Green Room is requesting loading/unloading zones in front of the Old Post Office Playhouse on Main Avenue and along the side entrance on A Street, in order to accommodate patrons. He stated that signs along each street will be posted and would designate the zone for loading and unloading between 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. each day.

Mr. Clark stated that in accordance with Section 54-171 of the City Code, the City Council can cause to have erected, placed or installed signs limiting the time or the purpose for parking, standing, or stopping. This is construed to include loading zones which are defined as the area of a space adjacent to a curb, reserved for the exclusive use of trucks, buses, vans and other motor vehicles specifically designed to transport passengers or materials.

Mr. Clark stated that the appropriate Departments have reviewed the request and feel that this will actually increase safety of the motoring public, as cars will be able to move out of the traffic lane and not have to “double-park” in order to drop off or pick up patrons to the events. DOT has also been contacted to confirm approval of the loading zone on Main Avenue.

The Green Room Community Theatre, Inc. Executive Director Sherry Butler stated that she would like to suggest a sign on which a magnetic sign could be placed during the time that the loading zone would be needed. The loading zone would prohibit double parking and grant easier access for people with mobility issues. She stated that she did not want to tie up parking when there were no performances.

Council Member Wes Weaver stated that the Old Post Office Playhouse is one of the most beautiful buildings in the city, and he did not want to place permanent signs all around it. Mr. Weaver stated that he also felt like it could cause confusion as to parking times, and that those spaces are used by other businesses downtown throughout the day.

Council Member Tom Rowe made a motion to use temporary portable signs during performances. Motion was seconded by Council Member Wes Weaver.

Council Member Wes Weaver asked for clarification if these would be signs that would come in and out. He stated that temporary signs could be more visible.

Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr. stated that he would like a way to make it easier for Ms. Butler and the Green Room to be more successful, and wanted to know what Ms. Butler might suggest. Ms. Butler stated that she would work with Mr. Clark to do whatever is easiest.

Council Member Wayne Dellinger made a motion to use the existing sign on Main Avenue, on which a magnetic sign could be placed during performances at the front of the building, and two temporary signs that could be placed during performances at the side of the building. Mayor Stedman stated that there was already a motion and a second on the floor. Council Member Tom Rowe withdrew his original motion. Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr. seconded the motion made by Council Member Wayne Dellinger and it was unanimously RESOLVED:

That Consideration of Request from the Green Room Community Theatre Concerning Loading Zones be APPROVED as follows - That a magnetic sign could be placed on the permanent sign post at the front of the building during performances, and that two temporary signs could be placed at the side of the building during performances only.

ITEM 7: City Manager's Report

- Newton 101 – Thursday, September 13th - October 25th, (Seven weeks)
 - Fire Station 3 Open House
 - Wayfinding Workshop September 4th, 6 p.m.
 - ElectriCities Annual Conference at Myrtle Beach, August 9-11
 - Civil War Concert – Eighth Regiment Band, August 11 – 7 p.m.-9p.m. \$10 tickets at Museum of History or call 465-0383
 - Property at North Ashe Ave and W 10th – taking bids preparing to demolish
 - Groundbreaking at South Newton Elementary School – sometime in September
 - Presentation on Code Enforcement in September – Position has been advertised
 - Paving Projects from last year
 - Red Flag Project should be completely finished by the end of next week.
 - Annual Audit
 - Project Updates
1. Shannonbrook – the new line is in service. Final walkthrough will be completed the week of 7/30.
 2. Water and Sewer Rehabilitation Projects –
 - PROJECT A - "B" STREET (Caldwell Ave to Davis Ave): Install Approx. 385' of 8" D.I.P. Water Line.
 - Complete pending walkthrough.
 - PROJECT B - DAVIS AVE (B St to Ervin Ave): Install Approx. 950' of 8" D.I.P. Water Line.
 - Complete pending walkthrough.
 - PROJECT C- S. EVRIN AVE (Saunders to E St): Install Approx. 2,050' of 8" D.I.P. Water Line.
 - Complete Pending Walkthrough.
 - PROJECT D - BOUNDARY STREET (NW Blvd to 421 Boundary St): Install Approx. 650' of 8" D.I.P. Water Line.

- PROJECT E - S. BRADY AVE (4th St to D St): Install Approx. 2,200' of 8" D.I.P. Water Line.
 - Complete pending walkthrough.
 - PROJECT F - S. BRADY AVE (N St to K St): Install Approx. 1,300' of 6" D.I.P. Water Line.
 - Complete pending walkthrough.
 - PROJECT G – S. COLLEGE AVE (E Herman Ave, College Ave to Brady Ave): Install Approx. 350' of 10 D.I.P. Water Line. S. COLLEGE AVE (I St to K St): Install Approx. 1,330' of 6" D.I.P. Water Line.
 - Complete Pending walkthrough.
 - PROJECT H - SNOW CREEK OUTFALL (Phase I): Install Approx. 225' of 8" and 2,500' of 12" SDR21 Sewer Line;
 - Complete Pending Walkthrough.
 - PROJECT I – S. Cline to S. Main to D St. sewer project relining project of approx. 1,935' of Existing Sewer Line
 - Complete pending walkthrough.
 - PROJECT J – N. Frye Ave from 13th St. to 15th St. Install Approx. 1,350' of 8" SDR21 Sewer Line.
 - Complete Pending Walkthrough and asphalt patching
 - PROJECT X – N. COLLEGE AVE (N College Ave Bridge): Install Approx. 300' of 6" D.I.P.
 - Complete Pending Walkthrough.
3. Burriss Road Pump Station and Force Main
- An extension for the grant has been completed by finance. The construction / engineering portion of the work is complete. The state has signed off.
4. Electric:
- Work has begun on the NW 4kv Conversion Project:
- Contractors working on 9th St.
 - Put door hangers out on 9th St.
 - The contractor, Lee Electric will move to the projects below when the 4 kv project is complete
 - Re-conductoring Hwy 10 west
 - Line extension McKay Farm Rd
- Generator modifications:
 - Target generators were completed several months ago
 - Materials have been ordered for all other generators
5. Water Treatment Plant
- Pump installation at the WTP pumping station – The City is in receipt of the preliminary engineering design and has sent comments to engineer on the plans.

6. Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - Grit chain is being replaced this week.
 - Thickener repairs will probably begin next week.

- Report on Rabies Clinic

ITEM 8: Questions and Comments from Mayor and Council

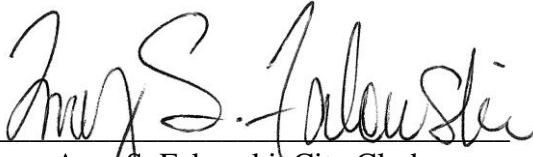
Mayor Stedman asked if there were any questions or comments from City Council.

Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr. stated that he had been contacted by a citizen, Magda Flanagan, concerning flooding issues on her private property. Mr. Abernethy stated that he explained that this is not anything that the City can address.

City Manager Todd Clark stated that Ms. Flanagan's issue is a civil matter with her neighbor involving a bridge on the neighbor's property that backs water up into Ms. Flanagan's property. He stated that the property is not on any flood plain map, and that the zoning permits were done appropriately.

ITEM 9: Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Council Member Robert C. Abernethy, Jr., seconded by Council Member Mary Bess Lawing, the meeting was RECESSED until 6:00 p.m., September 4, 2012.



Amy S. Falowski, City Clerk



Anne P. Stedman, Mayor

