



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE NEWTON CITY COUNCIL

108 N. VAN BUREN St.

NEWTON, IL 62448

July 2, 2024

Finance and Audit Committee Meeting at 5:30.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Joshua J. Kuhl, Mayor
Mayor Joshua Kuhl called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Alderman Eric Blake.
Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Alderman Eric Blake.
3. ROLL CALL: Maggie McDonald, City Clerk
Physically present: Gayle Glumac, Larry Brooks, RJ Lindemann, Eric Blake and Mike Swick
Also present: Attorney William Heap, Treasurer Melissa Brooks and City Clerk Maggie McDonald
Absent: Alderman Kaleb Wright
4. ADOPT OR AMEND AGENDA:
Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to adopt the amended agenda. (Randi Ball and Lanette Huddleston added to Public Comments. Potential Litigation added to Executive Session.)
Ayes: Glumac, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Swick
Nays: None
5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES of June 18, 2024.
Motion was made by Larry Brooks, seconded by RJ Lindemann, to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2024 meeting of the Newton City Council.
Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Swick, Glumac
Nays: None
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:
 - **Randi Ball:** Asked for clarification on how the Energy Transition Community Grant operated, and with job and tax revenue loss, what is the best way to generate new revenue. Mayor Kuhl explained the grant is to promote economic growth to communities that will experience closure of a power plant. There are several different types of projects the grant can be applied to. The funds are received in phases. The council votes on a project which then has to be approved by the state. The city completes the project and the grant funds are then reimbursed back to the city. In the first phase the city was awarded \$78,168.00. These funds were used towards upgrades at the Jasper County Boys and Girls Park. The city is applying for \$61,697.00 in the second phase. The council members have asked for input on project recommendations. A stakeholders meeting will be held on July 16, 2024 at 5:15 PM for any and all input towards the use of the funds. Mayor Kuhl thanked Ms. Ball for attending the council meeting, asking questions and for her input towards the funding of this grant.
 - **Lanette Huddleston:** Asked if the council could help look into placement of a sign on the square to direct people to the Old Mill Bridge. Many out-of-town people do not know how to get to the bridge. She has placed signs out before, but they tend to always get vandalized. The city is contacting the State about placement of blue signs for direction to the bridge.
7. COMMITTEE REPORTS OR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:
 - **Electric Committee Meeting on Monday, July 1, 2024 at 5:30 PM.**

Electric Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, July 1, 2024 5:30 PM – 6:55 PM

Present: Gayle Glumac, Joshua Kuhl, Kaleb Wright, Larry Brooks, Melissa Brooks, Brenda Phillips, Matt Tarr, Amy Tarr and Maggie McDonald

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

- Amy Tarr and Matt Tarr gave updates on the rate study. The information BHMG has requested was sent over. They are currently reviewing and beginning to build our model. Projected to hear feedback on this project in September.
- Matt Tarr, Amy Tarr, Brenda Phillips and Gayle Glumac met with Ameren last week. A Wholesale Construction Agreement and an Umbrella Construction Agreement were discussed.
- Kaleb Wright made a motion to go out of open session and into closed session to discuss personnel.
Gayle Glumac seconded the motion.



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- Gayle Glumac made a motion to go out of closed session and into open session.
Kaleb Wright seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Submitted by:

Gayle Glumac – Chairman

- **Finance and Audit Committee Meeting on Tuesday, July 2, 2024 at 5:30 PM.**

Finance/Audit Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, July 2, 2024 5:30 PM – 6:03 PM

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM.

- TIF application for West End Reception and Events was discussed. It was recommended to award the requested amount of \$5,000 pending a response from Adam Stroud regarding TIF law.
- The Energy Transition Community Grant was discussed. It was decided to submit a plan for pickleball courts at Peterson Park.
- A few quotes for new siding on City Hall were presented and discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.

Those in attendance:

RJ Lindemann – Chairman

Joshua Kuhl

Larry Brooks

Melissa Brooks

Maggie McDonald

Gayle Glumac

Mike Swick

Eric Blake

Tyler Weber

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Consider and act on authorizing an Agreement with IDOT and the Indiana Rail Road for Railway-Highway Grade Crossing Improvements on S. 1st Ave., Sycamore St. and West End Ave.

Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize tabling the Agreement with IDOT and the Indiana Rail Road for Railway-Highway Grade Crossing Improvements on S. 1st Ave., Sycamore St. and West End Ave to the August 6, 2024 City Council Meeting.

Ayes: Lindemann, Blake, Swick, Glumac, Brooks

Nays: None

- B. Consider and act on authorizing TIF Application for West End Reception and Events.
Motion was made by RJ Lindemann, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize tabling the TIF Application for West End Reception and Events to the July 16, 2024 City Council Meeting, pending response from Adam Stroud regarding TIF law, as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee.

Ayes: Blake, Swick, Glumac, Brooks, Lindemann

Nays: None

- C. Consider and act on authorizing a contribution to Jasper County Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$2,500.

Motion was made by Mike Swick, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to authorize a contribution to Jasper County Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$2,500.

Ayes: Swick, Glumac, Brooks, Blake

Nays: Lindemann

- D. Discuss Energy Transition Community Grant.

After much discussion and input of ideas, the council will propose at the stakeholders meeting and next council meeting on July 16, 2024, pickleball courts at Peterson Park for the next phase of funding to the Energy Transition Community Grant.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Consider and act on passing Resolution 24-06, Resolution Authorizing Tax Abatement Within the Enterprise Zone.

Motion was made by Eric Blake, seconded by Gayle Glumac, to pass Resolution 24-06, Resolution Authorizing Tax Abatement Within the Enterprise Zone.

Ayes: Glumac, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Swick



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Nays: None

- B. Consider and act on authorizing Special Event application submitted by Newton American Legion for a BBQ Smoke off on August 23 and 24, 2024 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM at the Jasper County Fairgrounds.

Motion was made by Gayle Glumac, seconded by Larry Brooks, to authorize the Special Event Application submitted by Newton American Legion Post #20 for a BBQ Smoke Off on August 23 and 24, 2024 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM at the Jasper County Fairgrounds.

Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Swick, Glumac

Nays: None

10. STATEMENTS BY:

Glumac: After long hours and hard work the Putt-Putt Golf Course at Peterson Park is rejuvenated. Compliments to all the departments and volunteers that helped in this clean up. Hats off to Carson Brown for all his hard work. It's been hot these past weeks and the pool has been hopping. Get out, play some golf and take a swim! Happy 4th of July!

Brooks: No comments

Lindemann: Happy 4th of July! Be sure to celebrate this day of Independence. Spoke on opposition to the Capital Development Fund.

Blake: Happy 4th of July!

Swick: Happy 4th of July!

City Attorney: The Ordinance to vacate alley in the Original Town Subdivision is ready. This will need to be published in the paper before the final vote.

City Treasurer: Happy 4th of July! Enjoy this day with your family and friends.

City Clerk: Informed the council of an upcoming Special Event that will be hosted by Parklanes for their 2nd Annual Celebration. Happy 4th of July!

Mayor: Big thanks to Gayle, city employees and all involved in the Putt-Putt Golf clean up. It looks fabulous! We had a great turn out at the County Fair this year. Nice to see the carnival rides brought back. Appreciate all the utility departments and police force for continuing to make sure their jobs get successfully done during these hotter days. Thank you again to Randi Ball for showing up and voicing your questions on the Energy Transition Community Grant. That's why we have council meetings, for the people to come and address their concerns directly. Everyone have a Safe and Happy 4th of July!

11. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: **July 16, 2024 at 6:00 PM**

SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- **Water and Wastewater Committee Meeting on Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM.**
- **Stakeholders Meeting for the Energy Transition Community Grant Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 5:15 PM.**
- **Public Hearing for Appropriations on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 5:45 PM.**

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Ayes: Lindemann, Blake, Swick, Glumac, Brooks

Nays: None

Open session suspended at 6:50 PM.

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

Ayes: Blake, Swick, Glumac, Brooks, Lindemann

Nays: None

Open session resumed at 7:22 PM.



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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: Swick, Glumac, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake

Nays: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Submitted by:

Maggie E. McDonald, City Clerk