



# OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE NEWTON CITY COUNCIL

108 N. Van Buren St

Newton, IL 62448

April 5, 2022

PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 5, 2022 AT 5:45 P. M. IN CITY HALL

TO CLOSE THE CDBG GRANT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE ON LIBERTY ST.

Luke Eastin, Grant Administrator with the South Central Illinois Regional Planning & Development Commission (SCIRPDC) of Salem, Illinois

Mr. Eastin noted that in the Fall of 2019 the Newton City Council approved the submission of a \$495,000 Public Infrastructure Grant application under the provisions of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) administered by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). This grant was being applied for to aid in the installation of water distribution system upgrades to provide a long term and safe source of drinking water to residents of the City of Newton. On February 21, 2021 DCEO elected to award the CDBG request by Newton in the amount of \$495,000.00, as was applied for. Mr. Eastin continued explaining the project. There were no questions. Closed the public hearing at approximately 5:55 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Joshua J. Kuhl, Mayor

**Mayor Joshua J. Kuhl called the meeting to order.**

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Alderman Marlene Harris.

**Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Alderman Marlene Harris.**

3. ROLL CALL: Rosetta York, City Clerk

**Physically present: Gayle Glumac, David Brown, Larry Brooks, RJ Lindemann, Eric Blake and Marlene Harris**

**Also present: Attorney William Heap, Treasurer Melissa Brooks and Clerk Rosetta York**

4. ADOPT OR AMEND AGENDA:

**Motion was made by Harris, seconded by Glumac, to adopt the proposed agenda.**

**Ayes: Glumac, Brown, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris**

**Nays: None**

5. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of March 15, 2022.

**Motion was made by Lindemann, seconded by Glumac, to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2022 meeting of the Newton City Council.**

**Ayes: Brown, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac**

**Nays: None**

**Abstain:**

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS: Recognize Officer Sarah Carter and Officer Ashley Ruholl

**Officer Sarah Carter and Officer Ashley Ruholl were not present. The Mayor congratulated them on their graduation from the police academy.**

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS OR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS: Police and Building Committee Meeting March 21, 2022 and Personnel Committee Meeting March 29, 2022

**Brown-Police and Building:**

The committee went into Executive Session-Personnel at 6:05 PM, exited at 7:45 PM. Discussed increasing part-time Police officers pay to stay competitive with neighboring communities.

Chief Swick informed the Committee that he is getting quotes to get the vents/ducts cleaned in City Hall.

Chief Swick recommended increasing "golfcart, side by sides" fees to \$60.00 renewal fee per vehicle.

Discussed upgrading City Hall internet to fiber optic.

Discussed hiring a part-time officer to full-time position this Spring due to Chief retiring and promoting from within the department. Probable hiring date would be May 3rd.

Chief discussed prohibiting parking on the west side of Scott Ave. near the ball park.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM

**Blake-Personnel:**

At 6:35 the committee went in to Executive Session to discuss union proposal.

At 7:05 committee came out of Executive Session to meet with the Union about union contract.





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At 7:25 the committee went in to Executive Session to discuss union contract.

At 7:45 committee came out of Executive Session to meet with the Union about union contract.

At 8:10 the committee went in to Executive Session to discuss union contract.

At 8:11 committee came out of Executive Session

Next Committee Meeting Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:30 PM. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

### 8. OLD BUSINESS:

#### A. Discuss beautification budget.

DISCUSSION (approximately 10 minutes):

**Mayor:** "We talked some about it from a city standpoint but from a legal standpoint, with Bill to crossing those bridges. Really, what I'm after is as we look at budgets this year, where do you guys feel comfortable? What do you want to achieve? Is this something that you continue to move forward with or would you rather table it and look at it again in the 2023-24 budget time frame? Because virtually that is where I am at today, and I need some sort of input discussion because we really need to start. I think tonight's discussion would need to justify a dollar amount. Where do those come from. Then moving forward, we would have some time to put together some legal and binding things of whether or not we wanted to do that on a "submit an application" process or how we identified those properties that were there. Then the city builds a priority list for year one, year two and three type of thing."

#### The Council discussion topics:

They discussed demo one or two houses, adding \$25K to \$50K, what was this line item has been used for in the past and unexpected expenses, "How to" implement the program, such as: are we reimbursing or just paying to have a demo, 50-50 shared expense with the owner. This can be a pilot program to see how it develops. How the budget beautification line item has been spent in the past and the average expenses, increase it to \$50K or by \$50K,

**City Treasurer:** "David, the answer to your question on what was budgeted and beautification line item, I believe it was 15,000 for the current year we are in. So, that was used for any dumpster reimbursement and citywide cleanup, the only things which were acceptable expenses."

**Mayor:** "We still have to increase it by \$ 50K. You have to leave (\$15K), if you're moving forward with the way things have been. You're adding in. I needed a number. Now we have a number or a range. We'll see where we can get in year one. If we have the ability to clean up one property, that is a win because that's one more than what we have done in the previous. And like we talked about, I think there are some other avenues that could be done, on where we're not taking that whole dollar amount of that residence on us. If someone owns a property, and they're willing to do, we can help out with the numbers and reimbursement and maybe some extra dollars. Maybe it's a 50/50 split or a 25/75. We can be open-minded. Thank you for that discussion."

#### B. Discuss utility rates

DISCUSSION (approximately 12 minutes):

**Mayor:** "Then to discuss utility rates. Melissa, Larry, Marlene and I, this morning went through every department's budget with each individual department head. Not a lot was changed, great discussions. There were some things that were brought up that hadn't been talked about in a while. I appreciate the attendance of department heads for taking the time to meet with us. Comfort wise, as you talk about utility rates, it's there, but I'll make the same statement. This is a discussion on years down the road, not just this year. An increase is going to happen because of everything that's going on around the City of Newton with cost going up. Justifying those things and still being able to be competitive. The conversation becomes, though, where do we fall into that? If that's not doing anything today and then two years from now making a huge jump, that's a struggle. But can we say today that a small percentage increase is warranted and still gives us a buffer to operate throughout our fiscal year? I need some input. You guys are the ones that decide this, not anybody else at this table, but you guys."

**Blake:** I think everybody knows my input pretty plain and simple.

**Mayor:** So how do we change that with your opinion, then? I mean, I'm not I'm not asking to change your opinion. I'm asking

**Blake:** Don't spend \$30,000 on land for the Indiana railroad. That would be a start.

**Glumac:** I know I couldn't make the meeting today because I couldn't get out of school. But Matt and I have talked and I don't see how we cannot go up with the electric.

**Mayor:** So, you took a one and a half last year. Where were you two? Is one and a half (percent rate increase) comfortable again?

**Matt Tarr:** I'm saying 2%.

**Mayor:** I guess, in a reoccurring five?

**Glumac:** Yes. That's what it would come to.

**Mayor:** So, you're already well below those numbers still.





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**Harris:** I agree with Gail. I think we have to replace it. I mean, I hate to, but there's not any way we can leave it as it is and still grow.

**Glumac:** I mean price on everything's skyrocketing, doubled, at least if not so tripled on some stuff. And that's even with just doing the maintenance level.

**Harris:** And that's just not electric.

**Mayor:** So that's where the discussion has to go, right? So, we're finally opening up the table here about one. We've got two others (utility rates to consider).

**RJ:** Electric has a lot of capital expenditures coming out.

**Mayor:** So, I'm talking about the two other utilities.

**RJ:** I don't see how we can put off raising rates indefinitely.

**Glumac:** Well, I just don't want to do. My biggest fear is last time when we came to the table, we saw a 5% jump. That's just too much, especially during COVID time.

**RJ:** 5% jump any time is too much.

**Glumac:** So, if we can do a 2% and just keep us building and being able to grow and then see what happens down the line, the 2% will keep us at that rate. I mean, we're just we're staying at a nice even rate. It's not a huge jump. We're not pocketing a bunch or anything like that. We're just set and head for some growth, which we have to have. Otherwise, you stay stagnant and then you become a village.

**Blake:** And if you raise your utility rates too much, you're going to have people leaving town.

**Brown:** But I don't think any of these people have mentioned two. I'm as conservative as you are, but you cannot never raise rates. You've got to raise rates at some point.

**Blake:** Or cut our spending.

**Brown:** Then what are you going to do? Once you've cut all you can cut then you start to raise rates. And I think we've made some good progress in cutting expenditures and cutting costs.

**Lindemann:** I think we've done very well this year in cutting costs for sure.

**Several people started speaking at the same time about the history of the utilities rates. The City Collector told the Mayor she has that information if he wants it.**

**The Mayor concluded the discussion:** "My point to that is Eric, I'm with you. There are no ifs, ands or buts about it as far as we don't want to continue to increase the expense to our community members. The only way to do that, like you said, is to cut spending. But we've also sat up here as a council over the last four and five years and spent a lot of money, purchased a lot of ground and other things. To flip the tide to where we want to be, we can't do it in one year. We can't do it in two. We got to work towards that. I'm with you. Along with that, though, comes things that are out of our control. You know, the price of fuel at the pump, the price of stuff at the grocery store, that everything is there. And no one in this room has a hand in any of that. No one in this room can truly negotiate us any better rates than we're buying from the power company, or we can't hinge down water to make it any cheaper. We're not making it. We're purifying it. And the same way on the sewer side. The other part of that is, if you want the 100% truth and I said it today, the city of Newton for the longest time spent way too much money on shiny new things, new buildings, new plants, new trucks, new equipment and never spent a dime on infrastructure and lines and things that were coming down the pipe. And here we are. So, what we thought would last forever didn't. So here we're in the new ballgame. How do we move forward? And to do that, we have to still continue one and a half percent. So that's 3% over a two years period. That's not bad. It's still not something anybody here wants to be proud of. But we're going to have to discuss it. So just continue to think about it. And I need more. Here's what I need. I need more discussion based on why and where it puts us down the road. I know all your personal feelings, and there's not a person that would read the newspaper or hear from somebody word of mouth as they leave this room of how each one of us feel. Each one of you guys feels I need to know reasonings behind it and how we fix it. So, if you've got that, then you've got to tell me why? Because it can't just be. We don't buy ground. Because I would agree with you. But guess what? That's today. That's in this budget. That's not looking down the road, which you could also warrant and say that that money then transfers there. Right. I'm agreed. So, all right. Think about it. We'll have to call a committee (meeting) to do that. When did we vote on that? Last year. Is that June? May? End of May? June?"

It was pointed out that the utility rates have to be voted on by May 1, 2022, if the rate increase is different than the Codebook states.

C. Consider and act on 22-04 Ordinance to Adopt 2015 International Property Maintenance Code.

**Motion was made by Lindemann, seconded by Harris, to pass 22-04 Ordinance to Adopt 2015 International Property Maintenance Code.**

**Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown**

**Nays: None**





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- D. Consider and act on 22-05 Ordinance authorizing City purchase of new real estate - Indiana Railroad right of way.

DISCUSSION:

**Motion was made by Lindemann, seconded by Harris, to table 22-05 Ordinance authorizing City purchase of new real estate - Indiana Railroad right of way for \$30,000.**

**Ayes: Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown, Brooks**

**Nays: None**

- E. Consider and act on 22-06 Ordinance Selling Real Estate, Five Aprils Crossing, Lot 20 to Maxine Calvert.

**Motion was made by Lindemann, seconded by Glumac, to pass 22-06 Ordinance Selling Real Estate, Five Aprils Crossing, Lot 20 to Maxine Calvert.**

**Ayes: Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown, Brooks, Lindemann**

**Nays: None**

- F. Consider and act on 22-07 City Ordinance - Amend Section 33-4-4 Street Application and Street Cutting.

**Motion was made by Harris, seconded by Lindemann, to pass 22-07 City Ordinance - Amend Section 33-4-4 Street Application and Street Cutting.**

**Ayes: Harris, Glumac, Brown, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake**

**Nays: None**

### 9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Consider and act on entering into Engineering Agreement with Connor and Connor for Ochs Ave Soil Cement Project (Section 22-00050-00-FP).

~~**Motion was made by Harris, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, to authorize entering into Engineering Agreement with Connor and Connor for Ochs Ave Soil Cement Project (Section 22-00050-00-FP).**~~

~~**Ayes:**~~

~~**Nays: None**~~

DISCUSSION (19 minutes):

Note: There was a Street and Alley Committee Meeting on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 5:45 PM, where the Ochs Ave. project was discussed. The minutes were read at the March 15<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting.

Multiple conversations started. Several questions and comments were said from council members and the attendees.

**The Mayor called order:** "Hey, let's rein ourselves back in here. Come on. I mean, I get where everybody's at and trying to understand some more information. This is the reason that we send these packets out previous to council meetings for you guys to ask questions and understand. I know, not everybody was at that street committee meeting."

Again, multiple conversations started. Several questions and comments were said from council members and the attendees.

**Mayor:** "The purpose of committee meetings is to talk about things previous to having a council meeting. You don't know my opinion. I think committee meetings are worthless because you can have that same discussion right here for that, because which proves my point of a committee meeting was if you were there or not or had the minutes, provided the information in your packet, we're still all lost. The other point of that is, as a committee chair, if you call a committee meeting, know why we're doing it outside of department head, coming to us and saying, this is a project that we're going to work on because a lot of confusion right now around this table understanding is it our road, is it not our road we're paying for this project? Is the state paying for this project? Is the county having any financial investment and is it all on us? We better figure it out moving forward. So if you want to continue as a group to have a multitude of committee meetings every month, they better start bringing some value or some things that need to change because we're an hour in and I'm okay with my night being the first and third Tuesday of the month being 4 hours long. As long as I don't have eight committee meetings that week to go through to discuss things that we're going to put on an agenda to vote on, to move forward with and or not move forward with, because everybody felt comfortable enough to put it on the agenda. Am I right? And I'm not just pinpointing this one situation. This is tonight. We've had a multitude of that with discussion and other avenues. If we're not, then I know legally Rosie has to send out the packets, but I might save some paper and some postage."

Alderdwoman Harris was asked to email the Council with additional information on the Ochs Ave. Project.

**Motion failed for lack of a second.**





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Mayor read Chief Swick's letter of resignation:

Office: (618) 783-8478  
Fax: (618) 783-2766  
108 N. Van Buren Street  
Newton, Illinois 62448



**MIKE SWICK**  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
Email: npd1280@yahoo.com  
mswick@cityofnewtonil.com

OFFICE HOURS  
Monday - Friday  
7:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.  
1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

TO: MAYOR AND NEWTON CITY COUNCIL

Please let this letter serve as my resignation from the Newton Police Department. After 43 and a half years, I have decided it is time to retire. I will be on benefit leave as May 2, 2022 until November 7, 2022.

I want to thank the City for the many opportunities my job has afforded me and your trust in me to lead the Newton Police Department.

To the City Attorneys I have worked with, being able to sit down with you and discuss a case or just call and ask a question or get some advice, thank you for your time and your patience.

To all the City Department Heads and staff, thank you for assisting me and I appreciate all the help you have given me.

I'm grateful to the citizens of Newton for their trust, support and confidence they have had in me while serving them.

To the men and women of the Newton Police Department and other law enforcement agencies, it has been an honor and a privilege to have worked with you. You will always be in my heart and my thoughts. I wish all of you and my successor the best of luck. May God bless you and keep you safe.

Respectfully

Chief Michael R. Swick

**Mayor:** In our budget meetings today, I told chief that obviously, as we move forward closer into his retirement and other things that happen here over the next few days or a few weeks with him, I'll always have a story to tell about Chief Swick and the person that he is, not only as a chief of police and an officer of the law, but as a human being. I've known chief for a long time and spend a lot of time with him. When I was a kid and traveled to watch my sister play softball and the Chief's daughter for some reason I rode with Chief and Kim to every game and not my parents. So that was the bond that we had. And that stayed with me? I just remember you had a General Motors brand a GMC or Chevy gray Astro van. I want this to be heartfelt and sincere in every word. You won't find a better man than Mike Swick, not only for what he did for our community, the police department, the lives that he's touched over the years and the relationships that he's built. You can't find that in any other town. You can't find the longevity that he has held in a position as long as him. He is going to be missed more than what we think. The things he does that we don't realize as a council. It's abundant. You know, Chief, is the go to with Bill Heap on anything whether it was criminal related or property related. He was our guy. Chief was the head of the relationship with our local organizations that do help and project clean up and property maintenance and upkeep of homes and the relationships that he had with the school. All the while having that relationship as an officer and having that relationship as an official for the HRSA and the elementary side of things. So. It is a sad day, but I also understand it's time for Chief to enjoy a life outside of law enforcement as well. So, I do thank you time and time again for everything you have done. And it will never, never be forgotten. So, at this time, I need a motion to accept Chief's resignation.

B. Consider and act on accepting Newton Police Chief Mike Swick letter of resignation.

**Motion was made by Brown, seconded by Glumac, to authorize accepting Newton Police Chief Mike Swick letter of resignation, effective May 2, 2022.**

**Ayes: Glumac, Brown, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris**

**Nays: None**





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**Bill Heap:** I've been a lawyer 43 years, just as Mike's been here for 43 years, and I've had the privilege of working with eight separate chiefs of police in the last 40 some years. Chief Swick is the best.

- C. Consider and act on appointment Riley Britton as Newton Police Chief.  
**Motion was made by Brown, seconded by Lindemann, to authorize appointment Riley Britton as Newton Police Chief, effective May 3, 2022.**  
**Ayes: Brown, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac**  
**Nays: None**
- D. Consider and act on hiring Sarah Carter as a fulltime Newton Police Officer with a start date of May 3, 2022.  
**Motion was made by Brown, seconded by Glumac, to authorize hiring Sarah Carter as a fulltime Newton Police Officer with a start date of May 3, 2022.**  
**Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown**  
**Nays: None**
- E. Consider and act on two Newton Police Department employees to attend the IJOA & IDOA 2022 Annual State Conference Continued Professional Training on June 14-17 with fees of \$325/2 officers plus allowable expenses. (IJOA is Illinois Juvenile Officer's Association. IDOA is Illinois D.A.R.E. Officer's Association.)  
**Motion was made by Brown, seconded by Glumac, to authorize two Newton Police Department employees to attend the IJOA & IDOA 2022 Annual State Conference Continued Professional Training on June 14-17 with fees of \$325/2 officers plus allowable expenses. (IJOA is Illinois Juvenile Officer's Association. IDOA is Illinois D.A.R.E. Officer's Association.)**  
**Ayes: Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown, Brooks**  
**Nays: None**
- F. Consider and act on Dumpster Reimbursement application for Lot 15, 1002 Ira Ave.  
**Motion was made by Lindemann, seconded by Harris, to authorize Dumpster Reimbursement application for Lot 15, 1002 Ira Ave. with a reimbursement of \$1,841.00 to Kent Greeson.**  
**Ayes: Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown, Brooks, Lindemann**  
**Nays: None**
- G. Consider and act on Dumpster Reimbursement application for Lot 2, 1003 Ira Ave.  
**Motion was made by Harris, seconded by Brown, to authorize a Dumpster Reimbursement application for Lot 2, 1003 Ira Ave. with a reimbursement of \$1,355.00 to Kent Greeson.**  
**Ayes: Harris, Glumac, Brown, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake**  
**Nays: None**
- H. Consider and act on Dumpster Reimbursement application for 206 E. Reynolds St.  
**Motion was made by Glumac, seconded by Brown, to authorize Dumpster Reimbursement application for 206 E. Reynolds St. with a reimbursement of \$2,500.00 to JCCU #1 Schools.**  
**Ayes: Glumac, Brown, Brooks, Harris**  
**Nays: Lindemann, Blake**
- I. Consider and act on Jansen's Heating and Air to duct clean and annual maintenance of City Hall heating and air conditioning system.  
**Motion was made by Harris, seconded by Lindemann, to authorize payment to Jansen's Heating and Air to clean the ducts of City Hall heating and air conditioning system for \$3396.00 and annual maintenance of the system for \$342.00/year.**  
**Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown**  
**Nays: None**
- J. Consider and act on two Electric Department employees to go to 2022 Meter Training on April 14 in Evansville, IN, no fees for the training plus allowable expenses.  
**Motion was made by Glumac, seconded by Harris, to authorize two Electric Department employees to go to 2022 Meter Training on April 14 in Evansville, IN, no fees for the training plus allowable expenses.**





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**Ayes:** Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown, Brooks

**Nays:** None

### 10. STATEMENTS:

Council Members:

**Glumac:** "I would like to thank Mr. Swick for all his years and everything. I appreciate everything that he has done for the school."

"I would also like to thank Sara Carter and Ashley Ruholl. They helped with the Strong Girls and did an awesome presentation with them and also ran with them that day."

"I'd like to thank Officer Riley Britton, who also did a presentation with The Strong Boys and ran with them that day."

"I'd like to thank Officer Coker for coming in the mornings. He comes in the mornings during our breakfast time, which usually has about 200 kids. And he talks with the kids."

I really like the connection Newton PD is starting to make with all the kids and everyone at the elementary. So, I appreciate all that."

**Brown:** Thank the Chief for his years. And I have enjoyed working with you the last few years being chairman. Thank you. You made my job better. I wish you a long and enjoyable retirement. Good luck to Riley in his new position as Chief. I truly believe he will do a great job. Good luck to Sarah Carter, as I stated before, I think she is going to be a very good asset to the community.

**Brooks:** I am going to miss Mike.

**Lindemann:** I have a lot of respect for someone who does any career for forty years, but especially police enforcement and law enforcement.

**Blake:** I'd like to thank Chief and congratulate you and remind everybody about the next personnel committee meeting on April 12th at 630.

**Harris:** I also want to thank Mike for all these dedicated years to the city. Appreciated and welcome the new girls to the force.

**City Attorney:** I just say Riley couldn't have had a better teacher or an example to live by than Mike.

**City Treasurer:** Congratulation on your retirement

**City Clerk:** 2 Wastewater POs #1, #2 and 1 Water PO #6528

**Motion was made by Blake, seconded by Harris, to authorize Wastewater Department purchase order # 1 for \$5,237.12 to IMCO Utility Supply Co. and purchase order # 2 for \$4,498.00 to Lakeside Equipment Co.**

**Ayes:** Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown, Brooks, Lindemann

**Nays:** None

**Motion was made by Brooks, seconded by Harris, to authorize Water Department purchase order # 6528 for \$6,326.44 to purchase a Hach, DR3900 Lab VIS Spectrophotometer.**

**Ayes:** Harris, Glumac, Brown, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake

**Nays:** None

### Mayor Kuhl:

"I'm going to appreciate one more time. Thank Chief Swick. This won't be the one more one more time. It'll be ongoing for a little while. Also, I want to thank all of the applicants for the chief of police position. All were very, very good candidates."

"So, I want to thank those other two individuals that applied."

"I also want to congratulate once again Officer Ruholl and Officer Carter on their graduation of the police academy. Congratulate Officer Carter on being approved as a new full time police officer."

"Thank Riley and congratulate him on his position as the new chief of police."

"Today was a great day and I appreciate everybody that was involved. I want to thank the department heads for their time that they have spent on their budgets. I want to thank Marlene and Larry for setting-in, even though they may not have been a part of those committees. But it was a great discussion."

"And first and foremost, I thank you, Melissa. The eye opening experience that budget time brings to what Melissa deals with and looks at is unfortunately very unrecognized and unnoticed. She is very, very good at what she does. She has a very great understanding of the city and their finances and not just the city as a whole. That is, every department and every line item within the budget. Very rarely can you ask Melissa something that she can't give you an answer to, or she knows exactly where that answer is at and that's about 15 steps away and with that, you know, express my gratitude along to your team, your other team in your office. But I know that today was a good day. But it's exciting to understand, and I want you guys to know that the purpose of today was instead of coming in here a week from now and throwing all of those budgets on the table and you guys approving them, and then three months, six months, whatever it may be, you call a committee meeting. And we





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were talking about Mats asking for this and you all look at me and say, "Where is this coming from?" From now on, I refer to in the budget."

"I hope that you guys take an opportunity. Those are not approved yet. We have to make some adjustments before we can finalize those, but please take time to come up here and look at your whatever department you're a part of. Take a look at it. Ask questions, because these guys and gals were very open to discussion and had very good explanations for what was there. And I can tell you, without a doubt, there were a lot of cuts that were made and it started with those department heads. So we can't complain a minute."

**Larry Brooks:** "I've been here a lot of years and that was the best that I've seen go to budgets. I mean, it's a really good thing."

"It was a good day. So I want to thank everybody that was involved in the budget discussion and I promise you, as a council, that you will be impressed and you will be excited as those budgets are laid out in front of you here in a few weeks to see what the mentality is looking like moving forward as the City of Newton. Exciting times. So once again thank you."

### 11. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: **Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 6:00 PM**

#### SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- Electric Committee meeting on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 6:00 PM.
- Personnel Committees Meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

### 12. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel and sale of real estate

**Motion was made by Harris, seconded by Glumac, to go out of open session and into closed session to discuss personnel and sale of real estate pursuant to the exceptions section of the Open Meetings Act pertaining to those areas of discussion.**

**Ayes: Glumac, Brown, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris**

**Nays: None**

**Open session suspended at 7:35 PM**

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

**Ayes: Brown, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac**

**Nays: None**

**Open session resumed at 8:21 PM.**

Joshua J. Kuhl, Mayor, announced that during closed session the council discussed personnel and sale of real estate.

### 13. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion was made by Brown, seconded by Glumac, to adjourn the meeting.**

**Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown**

**Nays: None**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.**

**Submitted by Rosetta M. York**