

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
APRIL 23, 2018, 6:00 PM
DMACC AUDITORIUM

The City Council of Newton, Iowa met in special session at 6:00 P.M. on the above date in the DMACC Auditorium, 600 North 2nd Avenue West. Mayor Hansen presided. Present Council Members: George, Hallam, Stonner, Trotter, Mullan, Kulis. Absent: None.

Mayor Hansen asked everyone present to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Fire Chief Wellik and Police Chief Burdess presented additional information regarding the statistics from other communities on Fireworks. There was consensus from the Council to leave the ordinance as is and revisit on the status of the enforcement with the amended language.

Public Works Director Jody Rhone presented on the current parking spaces in the downtown area. He provided 3 options for Hotel Maytag leasing. Jack Hatch, Hatch Development Group Principal, indicated that he is willing to work with the City and the community to develop a new lease. Council will continue discussions.

Erin Chambers, Director of Planning and Zoning, presented on the D&D 2.0. Staff will bring a recommendation forward at the May 21st Council meeting.

Brian Laube, Community Services Manager, presented on the status of 1st Avenue E. The City will submit a revised concept to the DOT keeping the road 4 lanes and preparing a new funding agreement. Planning on construction between July and November 2019.

Matt Muckler, City Administrator, introduced the Rules of Procedures. Council will review and provide feedback.

Lisa Frasier, Finance Officer, presented the Budget Schedule.

Frasier also provided a listing of revenue options for the council to review. Council would like information on when the last time these fees were changed and will continue to review the options.

Frasier provided an overview of the FY20 cost affects with the current pay matrix for non-bargaining employees. Mayor Hansen, indicated that he would be establishing a task force to review the pay matrix.

Muckler spoke regarding the plan to review positions as the come open. He asked Council to consider changes to the current tax abatement program. Discussions will continue.

Katrina Davis, Administrative Services Manager, presented on the current health insurance status. The City has reduced the FY18-19 renewal increase from 21.3% to 13.5% by increasing the partial self-funding deductibles and changing the "prescribe as is" language. The City will continue to look for ways to reduce the cost of health care. Davis also provided information on the other fringe benefit amounts provided to the employees.

Rhone presented on examples of contract options that have been used to reduce costs and indicated that further ideas will be considered.

Moved by Trotter, seconded by Kulis to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

Michael L. Hansen, Mayor

Katrina Davis CMC, City Clerk