

# CITY OF NEWTON WEEKLY REPORT

Week of December 1, 2017

## FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR...



Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) Director Judy Bradshaw has requested a \$10 million grant from the state's Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund, which is funded in part by Iowa gaming revenue, to fund a study reviewing potential renovation or relocation options for its training facility. ILEA has looked at the former Maytag Corporation headquarters and factory property in Newton.

Joy the Mini Pig may be getting some company soon. The Newton City Council will be considering the first reading of an ordinance that would update the City's regulations on mini pigs. The ordinance, developed by Police Chief Rob Burdess in consultation with several veterinarians, residents and elected officials, will be presented to the City Council for their consideration at their next meeting to be held on Monday, December 4th.

Dean Stonner is expected to take his seat on Newton City Council this month. Mayor Mike Hansen is expected to swear in the newest member of the Newton City Council on December 4th. Stonner is a retired corporate attorney who spent 17 years with Maytag Corporation and 10 years with the Principal Financial Group.

Dr. Esgar Guarin, a Newton family physician who practices at Skiff Medical Center's Newton Clinic, has been named the 2017-18 Iowa Family Physician of the Year by the Iowa Academy of Family Physicians. The award is presented to one outstanding physician in the state who best exemplifies the tradition of the family doctor and who epitomizes the finest standards of family health care.

### UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

- December 1 & 2 - Geisler Gift Shop at Centre for Arts & Artists; Open from 1 - 4 p.m.
- December 1 & 2 - A High Country Christmas presented by Newton Community Theatre; 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
- December 2 & 3 - Jasper County Historical Museum Christmas Open House; 1 - 4 p.m.
- December 3 - A High Country Christmas presented by Newton Community Theatre; 2 - 4 p.m.
- December 5 - DMACC Newton's 2nd Annual Holiday Celebration; 6 - 8 p.m.
- December 9 - Project AWAKE & Friends of Newton Parks Breakfast with Santa; 8 - 11 a.m.

**CONTINUE READING THE CITY OF NEWTON WEEKLY REPORT TO LEARN WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

# ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

## **DEC. 14TH GOAL SETTING SESSION**

The City Council will hold an annual goal setting session on Thursday, December 14th. Department directors and division managers have pulled together a list of about 30 potential goals for the coming fiscal year.

Elected officials are expected to add to that list and have some discussion about potential goals at a City Council Work Session to be held at the Newton Arboretum at 5:30 p.m. on December 14th. Council members and the Mayor will then narrow down the list of potential goals in order to provide City staff with a prioritized list of tasks for the coming fiscal year.

## **MEISNER CENTER OPEN HOUSE**

Mayor Mike Hansen, City Administrator Matt Muckler and other community representatives attended an open house at the Meisner Center on Wednesday morning November 29th.

The facility has been renovated and is now available for new tenants. Executive Director Frank Liebl and Associate Director Tanya Michener with the Newton Development Corporation were also on hand for the event.

## **IOWA LEAGUE BUDGET WORKSHOP**

City Administrator Matt Muckler, Finance Officer Lisa Frasier and Financial Analyst Michelle Heisdorffer all participated in the Iowa League of Cities Annual Budget Workshop. The workshop provided a rundown of the important factors that impact city budgets while helping attendees

understand the state requirements for completing and filling out the state budget forms.

The budget workshops are designed for city administrators, city clerks and finance officers, but are open to all city officials. League staff provided an update on the latest financial trends and projects important to city budgets and the Iowa Department of Management provided an update on changes to the state budget form and other important city budget information. The afternoon portion of the event provided break-out sessions on budget form basics for beginners and economic development strategies and reporting for seasoned attendees.

## **OCTOBER FUND BALANCE WORKSHEET**

The October fund balance worksheet is attached.

## **NEW CITY WEBSITE LAUNCHED**

The new City of Newton website launched on November 16. The new design features the Get to Know Newton branding, as well as a more photos, easier navigation and a mobile responsive design. The redesign also allowed Civic Plus, the City's website developer, to update the back end of the website to the most recent release.

The website offers residents, visitors and businesses the ability to find information in a variety of ways, whether through the new mega menus or by using the search feature. The site's design also includes graphic links, city spotlights and news on the home page.

The website includes information

from the City departments including the Newton Public Library, Newton Development Corporation, Newton Housing Development Corporation and Newton Main Street.

## **LOCAL MARKETING & ADVERTISING UPDATE**

The City of Newton promoted shopping local during the Greater Newton Area Chamber of Commerce's Retail Open House and Newton Main Street's Shop Small Saturday. Ads were placed in the Newton Daily News and on radio stations KCOB and ENERGY 106.7.

Shop local ads were also placed in the Des Moines Register's Communities Sections and in their November 19 Shop Local insert.

Community Marketing Manager Danielle Rogers and Greater Newton Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Amanda Price were on KCWI's CW Iowa Live morning show in early November to promote the Retail Open House, the Courthouse Lighting, Lighted Parade and the Shop Small Saturday event.

Community Marketing Manager Danielle Rogers served as a guest co-host on ENERGY 106.7's The Morning Jolt with Jamie and Sarah prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

## CARDINAL RIDGE TOWNHOMES

Ground Breaker Homes has begun construction of their first three townhomes in the subdivision. One is a twin-home style, located on the north side of Cardinal Ridge Drive, while the second is a single family (detached) home on the south side of the street. The homes will be under construction through the winter (weather permitting) and ready for occupancy in the spring. Both are “spec” homes and available for sale through the builder. Additional details are available by contacting Ground Breaker Homes’ marketing representative, Kalen Ludwig (kalen@GroundBreakerHomes.com).



## HOTEL MAYTAG

Hatch Development Group is “fast-tracking” approval of their construction loan and long-term financing package through the Iowa Finance Authority, with anticipated closing on the loans by the end of December. Demolition and construction is still scheduled for February or early March, and a public tour of the facility will be scheduled prior to commencing demolition in order to give citizens an insider’s look at the “before” condition of the building.

## MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING

City and NHDC staff members will be meeting in December with two multi-family housing developers about the need for “workforce housing” units in Newton. One is a current local apartment owner and the other recently purchased several triplexes in our community. Both have heard that our commercial/industrial base continues to expand and recognize that Newton is under-served in multi-family housing.

## DOWNTOWN STOREFRONTS

City economic development staff is planning a project with Main Street and the Chamber of Commerce to identify currently vacant storefronts and begin a strategic outreach to potential retail businesses that would benefit from opening in Newton’s downtown. This will be especially relevant as Hotel Maytag apartments and other 2nd story housing comes on line in the next 12 to 18 months.

## INFILL LOTS

There has been a significant increase in interest for existing residential “in-fill” lots among developers, resulting in construction of a new single family spec home in Bradford Estates and a “starter” single family home and duplex near Maytag Park. Word has begun to spread that Newton’s unemployment rate is indicative of an increasing demand for housing, and that has sparked several recent inquiries.

For more information on the updates in this weekly report, please contact Matt Muckler, City Administrator, [mattm@newtongov.org](mailto:mattm@newtongov.org), Katrina Davis, Administrative Services Manager, at [katrinad@newtongov.org](mailto:katrinad@newtongov.org); Lisa Fraiser, Finance Officer at [lisaf@newtongov.org](mailto:lisaf@newtongov.org); or Danielle Rogers, Community Marketing Manager at [danieller@newtongov.org](mailto:danieller@newtongov.org).

| Fund                          | Beginning Balance       | Revenues               | Expenditures           | Ending Balance          |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 001-General                   | \$ 1,156,100.89         | \$ 1,655,398.58        | \$ 666,392.02          | \$ 2,145,107.45         |
| Community Betterment          | \$ 150,807.75           | \$ -                   | \$ -                   | \$ 150,807.75           |
| 012-Tort Liability            | \$ (145,717.38)         | \$ 66,195.18           | \$ -                   | \$ (79,522.20)          |
| 024-Hotel/Motel Tax           | \$ 48,123.48            | \$ -                   | \$ 20,554.08           | \$ 27,569.40            |
| 082-City Garage               | \$ 3,316.03             | \$ 2,091.22            | \$ 1,200.50            | \$ 4,206.75             |
| 110-Road Use                  | \$ 561,108.57           | \$ 131,118.16          | \$ 134,247.08          | \$ 557,979.65           |
| 112-Employee Benefits         | \$ (248,449.07)         | \$ 1,025,745.30        | \$ 291,148.75          | \$ 486,147.48           |
| 115-Insurance                 | \$ 15,623.30            | \$ 11,403.60           | \$ 9,378.68            | \$ 17,648.22            |
| 121-LOST Tax                  | \$ -                    | \$ 113,285.86          | \$ 113,285.86          | \$ -                    |
| 125-Hwy 14 S TIF              | \$ 34,832.66            | \$ 25,823.06           | \$ -                   | \$ 60,655.72            |
| 126-North CentralTIF          | \$ (178,631.52)         | \$ 310,982.65          | \$ -                   | \$ 132,351.13           |
| 127-Speedway/Prairie Fire TIF | \$ 86,324.79            | \$ 522,565.70          | \$ -                   | \$ 608,890.49           |
| 128-East Mart TIF             | \$ 61,958.54            | \$ 11,583.72           | \$ -                   | \$ 73,542.26            |
| 129-Plant 2 TIF               | \$ 55,167.40            | \$ 5,218.62            | \$ -                   | \$ 60,386.02            |
| 161-Housing Initiative        | \$ 985,173.72           | \$ 34,758.90           | \$ 158,098.37          | \$ 861,834.25           |
| 162-Central Business District | \$ (5,344.29)           | \$ 3,550.25            | \$ -                   | \$ (1,794.04)           |
| 170-Hometown Rewards          | \$ 13,334.04            | \$ -                   | \$ 657.00              | \$ 12,677.04            |
| 200-Debt                      | \$ 162,986.19           | \$ 443,687.27          | \$ 15,000.00           | \$ 591,673.46           |
| 301-Capital                   | \$ 773,114.54           | \$ 747.33              | \$ 20,887.85           | \$ 752,974.02           |
| 302-2017 Bonds Capital Fund   | \$ 2,762,253.40         | \$ -                   | \$ 256,732.46          | \$ 2,505,520.94         |
| 501-Perpetual Care            | \$ 279,784.78           | \$ 250.00              | \$ -                   | \$ 280,034.78           |
| 502-Maytag                    | \$ 233,319.74           | \$ -                   | \$ -                   | \$ 233,319.74           |
| 610-Water Pollution Control   | \$ 757,362.14           | \$ 270,009.94          | \$ 167,528.53          | \$ 859,843.55           |
| 670-Landfill                  | \$ 3,970,386.26         | \$ 200,806.00          | \$ 70,118.99           | \$ 4,101,073.27         |
| 671-Landfill Post Closure     | \$ 1,961,894.85         | \$ 1,970.89            | \$ -                   | \$ 1,963,865.74         |
| 750-Golf                      | \$ (134,025.18)         | \$ 19,805.89           | \$ 41,836.75           | \$ (156,056.04)         |
| <b>Totals:</b>                | <b>\$ 13,360,805.63</b> | <b>\$ 4,856,998.12</b> | <b>\$ 1,967,066.92</b> | <b>\$ 16,250,736.83</b> |