

**Council Meeting
Minutes
April 1, 2024**

Present: Mayor Ellwanger, MPT Krieger, CP Bratton, CP Spitler, CP Williamson, Clerk Elisa Rowe (Attorney Joe Reitman absent)

Citizens: Susan Oliveto, Michael Caw, David Norton

Guests: Commissioner Banes, Loucy Hay, LaTonja Threats-Hamp, Bryan Fazio, Nwaka Hughes and Emoni Lucky

I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Ellwanger called the meeting to order at 7pm

II. INVOCATION:

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Lead by Mayor Ellwanger

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: CP Spitler made a motion to approve the March 4th minutes.

Motion: CP Spitler

Second: CP Bratton

Approved: 5-0-0

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Follow up:

a. Ricky Mock property, certified letter was sent (4272 Hwy 142): Clerk Elisa Rowe stated that a certified letter was sent to Mr. Mock on March 11th and he has 30 days to respond, and so far, he has not responded. Case will be reviewed after his 30 days is up if there is no response and proceed with the next step.

b. “Buck” Roger’s property (old fertilizer building) is currently up for sale (would Mayor & Council like for him to have repairs made before sale?) Clerk Elisa Rowe stated that Juan (code enforcement) has a letter ready to be sent to Mr. Rogers to clean up property prior to sale if Mayor & Council would like. Mayor Ellwanger stated there would be no point, however if six (6) months go by and there has not been a sale or nothing has been done then he will call Mr. Rogers himself.

c. Quik Stop and the septic issue: Mayor Ellwanger stated that the time period that the judge gave Mr. Ali to get the septic issue resolved has past, but he has not seen anything being done. Mayor Ellwanger asked the Clerk to get in touch with Juan (code enforcement) and see if he can meet with him this Friday to discuss these cases.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Teresa Tolleson: The property at 117 Spring Street is 2.24 acres and is zoned RE-2. Ms. Tolleson has asked if the property can be split and a mobile home put on it so she can live by her parents to help take care of them. Teresa Tolleson was not present. The Mayor and Council did discuss that the property could not be split to add a mobile home due to the fact that only a secondary caretaker home could be added and the square footage could not exceed 800 feet.

B. Water rate increase from Newton County will become effective July 1st and the increase will go from \$2.29 per thousand to \$2.34 per thousand: Reviewing profit/loss from 2022-2023, the Town can have a minimal increase to .55 cents toward our building and maintenance fund for the water system and maintain the amount required in the account per the Town's GEFA loan. The proposed rate increase would be \$17.00 to \$17.48 (.48 cents and each additional 1000 gallons would raise .07 cents from \$3.90 to \$3.97). If the Mayor & Council approve the water rate increase, the first reading would be at the May meeting and the second and final reading will be at the June meeting and the rate would become effective with the July bill to coincide when the rate increases from the County. Clerk Elisa Rowe stated that the County will have an increase in the water purchased by the Town effective in July and due to the requirements of the Town's GEFA loan the Town must have an increase also. Clerk Elisa Rowe stated the suggested amount of an increase from \$17.00 to \$17.48 and each additional gallons go up .7 cents from \$3.90 to \$3.97. MPT Krieger stated that he thinks we should just round it up to .50 instead of .48 and instead of \$3.97 increase to \$4.00. Mayor & Council agreed on the amount proposed by MPT Krieger. Clerk Elisa Rowe stated that the first reading will be at the May meeting and the second and final reading at the June meeting and the rates will become effective on the July bill.

Motion: MPT Krieger

Second: CP Bratton

Approved: 5-0-0

C. The Horneyhead Fish Festival will be on Saturday, April 27th, 9am-3pm: Join us for a fun-filled day of activities. There will have vendors selling everything from homemade crafts to Direct Sale Company items, food, a car show, music and, of course, the annual fishing tournament.

D. BRAG'S Spring Tune Up Ride: The bike riders will be using the Town Pavilion on Saturday April 20th from 9:30am-5:00pm and Sunday, April 21st from 7:30am-12:30pm for a rest stop.

E. Presenters Commissioner Banes, Gale Rothman & Loucy Hay: Elected Officials, Community Leaders, and Citizens were able to meet at the Chamber for the official re-launch of Newton Education Foundation (<https://newtoneducationfoundation.org/>) Ms. Rothman has worked with education foundations across the country for 15 years, and there is so much opportunity in Newton County to bring all sectors together to support children and youth. By connecting government, industry, small business, individuals, faith communities and non-profits, there is nothing we can't accomplish for our kids.

In creating a joint Proclamation, Commissioner Banes, Gail Rothman and Loucy Hay would like to discuss this exceptional organization with you.

Team and Support members include LaTonja Threats-Hamp, Bryan Fazio (Public Information Officer), Nwaka Hughes and Emoni Lucky:

Loucy Hay explained the need for the proclamation and how it will help support teachers and students in Newton County and with the support of all the municipalities, Piedmont Newton Hospital, Newton County Chamber of Commerce,

Newton County Tomorrow, Newton County Water & Sewage Authority, and Newton County Board of Education. It will have a positive impact that the Newton Education Foundation makes on Newton County students, businesses and citizens and will affirm the collective support. Commissioner Banes and the NCBOC urge the aforementioned and all citizens of Newton County to become familiar with the Newton Education Foundation (NEF) and to support their initiatives for the benefit of students across Newton County. Commissioner Banes requested a motion and approval from the Town of Newborn for the proclamation. CP Williamson made a motion to approve with a second by CP Spitler. Commissioner Banes stated that an executed copy of the proclamation will be provided to the aforementioned to certify its commitment and partnership.

Motion: CP Williamson

Second: CP Spitler

Approved: 4-0-0

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: There was a temporary break in the meeting until Commissioner Banes and his group arrived. During the temporary break, CP Bratton had to leave and citizen Susan Oliveto left. Mayor Ellwanger, MPT Krieger, CP Williamson, CP Spilter, Clerk Elisa Rowe and citizens Michael Caw and David Norton remained. Meeting was officially adjourned at 7:45pm

Motion: CP Williamson

Second: MPT Krieger

Approved: 4-0-0