The Newell City Council met in regular session on Monday October 6, 2025, at 7:00pm in City Hall with Mayor Wayne Westergaard presiding. Council members present Larry Nielsen, Bill Henrich, Dennis Ziegler & Ana Johnson. Absent Jeff Shedd. City employees, Heather Copp, Doug Lange, Pat Cross & Ginger Lyman, Town Reports, Deputy Cary, & Tanya Landgraf. Others Present: Lee Wuebker (Corn Belt Telephone), & members of the public.

Approval of Agenda: Johnson Motioned, Henrich 2nd, all ayes.

Consent Agenda: After Discussion, Henrich motioned, Nielsen 2nd, all ayes. Which included, 9/8/25 regular 9/8/25, 9/23/25, 10/2/25 special session minutes, Claims Report 9/15/25 through 10/15/25 (Bills), September Treasurers Report including Revenues MTD $139,817.24 Expenses MTD $98,129.78 & Bank Balances

Citizens Forum: Westergaard opened the meeting to public comment at 7:01pm. No public comment closed 7:02pm

Sheriff Deputy Cary reported 171 hours spent in Newell last month and 73 calls. Monitoring truck traffic and student safety concerns were discussed with the harvest season.

Ambulance Clerk Copp reported 15 calls last month. Issues with ambulance report completion and billing issues discussed; council to support enforcement of reporting requirements.

Library Landgraf said, annual report submitted to the state. Noted increase in online checkouts and computer use. Emergency response plan updated and approved.

Presentation: Corn Belt Telephone Fiber Optic Proposal, Lee Wuebker presented a proposal to bring fiber optic service to Newell. Project would be a $3 million investment, with construction to begin as soon as possible. No cost to the city; Corn Belt would oversee all locates and repairs for any utility disruptions. Community informational meetings to be scheduled. Council discussed benefits, costs, and service comparisons. Council Discussion and Motion by Larry Nielsen, seconded by Ana Johnson, to give Corn Belt Telephone the city’s blessing to proceed with bringing fiber optic service to Newell. Motion carried unanimously.

Golf Course Lyman gave her financial report containing employee working hours and supply costs. Closing dates and procedures were discussed as well.

Public Works Lange updated council about costs and repairs needed for well maintenance. Quarterly testing and lagoon releases will be done soon.

City Clerk Copp reported, musical playground equipment expected by end of October. Will reach out to codification for update on status. City Hall closed Oct 15-17 for training. Nuisance letters sent to two homeowners. Memorial bench donation discussed; to match existing benches and be placed near the musical playground, pending park board and public works approval. Annual Financial report and audit preparation ongoing. Nielsen motioned 2nd by Johnson, roll call vote ayes, Ziegler, Johnson, Henrich and Nielsen. No nays and Shedd absent to approve a resolution #12-25 authorizing the transfer of funds between cash fund accounts, bank accounts, and the deposit of future revenues. Allowing the clerk to transfer funds between accounts as needed, with transfers listed on the consent agenda for council review.

Other business discussed, Trick-or-Treating Date and Time set for Friday, October 31, 6:00–8:00 PM. Discussion of council seats up for election and potential candidates.

Mayor Westergaard stated the safety concerns of the cross-county team running on roads with heavy harvest traffic. Copp volunteered to reach out to the cross-country coach and ask for the team to run a different route.

Meeting Dates - Next Regular session November 3, 2025, 7:00pm. Johnson motioned for adjournment, 2nd by Nielsen, all ayes. Meeting adjourned 8:11pm.

Heather Copp – City Clerk Wayne Westergaard - Mayor