June 2, 2025

 The Newell City Council met in regular session on Monday June 2, 2025, at 7:00pm in City Hall with Mayor Wayne Westergaard presiding. Council members present Larry Nielsen, Bill Henrich, Jeff Shed, Dennis Ziegler and Ana Johnson. City employees, Heather Copp, Doug Lange, Pat Cross, Chad Wilson & Ginger Lyman, Town Reports, Deputy Cary, and Bruce Erie.

**Approval of Agenda:** Johnson Motioned, Nielsen asked to amend the agenda to add old business. Clerk Copp told Nielsen it was on there under each department, Council advised the clerk to only have a section stating, “old business.” Ziegler also had an addition to the agenda; he was approached by a citizen that would like to replace the plants under the 2 Newell Signs located on Hwy. Westergaard said they would work them in. Mayor asked for motion to approve the agenda, Zeigler motioned, Shedd 2nd, all ayes.

**Consent Agenda:** After Discussion, Johnson motioned, Nielsen 2nd to approve, all ayes. which included 5/5/25 & 5/12/2025 regular & special session minutes, Claims Report 5/15/25 through 6/15/25 (Bills), May Treasures Reports including Revenues MTD $73,364.95 Expenses MTD $144,023.00 & Bank Balances.

**Citizens Forum:** Westergaard opened the meeting to public comment at 7:05pm. Forum Closed 7:06pm.

**Town reports:** Sheriff - Deputy Cary stated, Deputies responded to 50 calls and spent 123 hours in the month of May.

Ambulance - not in attendance but Copp did mention that Degner said it will need new tires.

Library – Not in attendance but sent a report that Copp shared. Summer Reading program kicked off yesterday with an Ice Cream Social. Check out the Library Facebook page for details. Children’s Librarian has been hired. Board reviewed an ADA checklist regarding restrooms. Updates centered around the counter/sink height and the sink faucet need to be addressed. Council approved Jill Johnston for another term on the library board. Motioned by Johnson, 2nd Ziegler, all ayes.

Fire – Chief Erie reported department has accepted 1 new applicant, David Parker pending background check. Nielsen motioned to approve 2nd by Johnson, all ayes. Ziegler asked Erie if what Copp stated about the tires was needed, which Erie stated yes, along with some wiring.

**Parks** – Copp met with the Park Board to discuss placement of cement and instruments. It was agreed on a 26ft sq pad with ADA sidewalk to be constructed where the previous equipment was taken out. Contractors for concrete bids will be coming. Johnson asked if it would be completed by Watermelon Days, she stated most likely not due to scheduling and park maintenance. Copp also showed the Park Board an example of a pickleball court sign that council wanted their opinion on. The Park Board approved purchasing signs like what was shown. Next Park Board Meeting is June 22nd. Ziegler also stated that he had found out that the court surface was no longer under a warranty. It was motioned to have Copp get bids and sign design approval from the park board before next council meeting.

Pool Committee – quarterly report presented by Mike Johnson. Fundraising. - $23,674 this year, will be circulating ducks again. Raised almost $6,000 last year. Tuesday July 1st is power hour at Fonda GC. Sponsors are B&C Builders and others. Saturday August 9th is the golf tournament fundraiser. Pop can drive has monthly matching sponsors out through October, typically making $500 to $600 a month on cans that they match.

M. Johnson asked if letters that can be provided to donors that prove to them and their tax people that contributions are fully tax deductible. Copp stated that these are available through request. M. Johnson also requested status on Fund Allocation and Status of old pool demolition? Council advised that pool committee member Schumann had stated he may have a donor to do the removal as a donation. Copp advised M. Johnson that the transfers would be made.

Watermelon Days Committee – Requesting a Golf Course gift card for a raffle, and cash donation of $1000. Nielsen motioned approval for both, Johnson 2nd, all ayes. Committee also would like the help of the public works to supply water to an area in the park for children’s games during the celebration. It was also established that Watermelon Days will be the 1st full weekend in August of 2026 due to a class reunion planning on attending.

Golf Course- Wilson, stated that the mower had been overhauled by Alta Implement. New deck, tire, and other issues were fixed for around 5K. Lyman spoke again on the new tables that were purchased. Previous meeting tabled the discussion. Men’s League has no money to support the cause. After seeing the product and craftsmanship it was motioned by Henrich, 2nd by Ziegler, 4 ayes, 1 Nay (Nielsen) to pay 1/3 the cost of the tables, $878. Lyman and Copp presented the numbers for May’s register and GC revenues and expenses, Nielsen asked for itemized costs wanting to see if the course is ahead. Copp explained to the council that it was not possible to get these numbers with the current chart of accounts that the Iowa DOM has all cities use. It can be done but the city does not have the tech equipment nor the workforce to do it. Lyman gave council numbers on memberships and stated that the fountain is leaking and NHCP has been contacted.

**Public Works** – Citizen Mark Puhrman questioned the city regarding his billing on the car wash. Earlier this year he made repairs and was told by City Superintendent Lange that he was connected to storm sewer and not sanitary sewer. Puhrman was asking for reimbursement for the sewer charges since he has owned the property. Lange spoke up and stated he had called the DNR earlier in the day and was told it needed to be connected to the sanitary sewer. Both the city and Puhrman will take another look to see what should take place. It was motioned by Nielsen to table the reimbursement and 2nd by Henrich, all ayes. (The following day, it was found to be on the sanitary sewer, no further action is needed).

Mayor mentioned the well house that was still on the agenda, and the council and city employees decided to move it to the fall or when all the bids for electrical were current. Copp and Lange also asked to move junk day to Jully 11th due to Clerk School taking place and no one to sell tags, Henrich motioned to move the date, Shedd 2nd all ayes. Johnson asked how summer help was working out, Lange stated, very well and they are good workers. Council complimented the work on the cemetery.

**Clerk** – Approval needed for Tobacco Permit for Sparky’s One Stop. Nielsen motioned, Johnson 2nd, all ayes approved. Copp stated she will be attending Clerk School June 9-13th in Ames, this is required to receive certification. Copp asked council if they wanted city code posted for fireworks with the July 4th holiday nearing, after discussion no real direction was given. Election Packets came in the mail and deadlines for re-running are at the end of the month. Copp advised that it was emailed to them and if they want a copy to let her know. Council up for re-electron are Nielsen and Shedd. Copp asked the Council if they would have a special meeting to approve transfers need before the start of next fiscal year. She will be working on the numbers and scheduling that meeting sometime this month.

**Mayor** – Westergaard handed the attention over to Cross, who provided a workup ad to sell the police car. He stated that some of the equipment would have to be taken to professionals to be cleaned of sensitive information. It will also be sold as a patrol car not a citizen car. Without motion it was agreed to start the sale price of the car for $26,500. Westergaard, made a price sheet of the old equipment and furniture that was still at the pool. It was discussed and agreed without motion to sell what we can and donate what was left after the sale. The tables and benches will be removed and placed in the city park. Lange stated that there will be need when pool demolishing starts to keep certain drains and electrical from being destroyed.

Westergaard turned it over to Ziegler to speak about the flowers around the 2 Newell Signs on the Hwy. he stated the Jean Sarchet takes care of these and asked if the city would replace a few plants that did not winter well. Approval of $500 budget was motioned by Nielsen and 2nd by Johnson, all ayes.

Westergaard brought up abatement and that properties need to be cleaned up. No action was taken. Mayor also mentioned the lack of flags displayed on Fulton for Memorial Day. Lange spoke and said we have the flags, but the holders are all broken. They are the ones that hold Christmas decorations. Council asked if this was something that had already been approved, Nielsen stated that is what he meant by adding old business. Copp replied that it was discussed as capital improvement for next fiscal year and that it was going to be new business starting July. Nielsen also asked Copp if she was ready to hire a Deputy Clerk. She replied she is still relucent but asked the council for recommendations for wage and hours. It was decided to determine that per applicant. Ziegler asked what City Hall open hours were and Copp replied 8-330 but she is there most days until at least 430. Ziegler proposed having the doors open to the public 9-330 and the doors locked at the beginning and ending of the day starting after public notification. The council agreed upon this without motion.

**Meeting Dates** - Next Regular session July 7th 7:00pm. Johnson motioned for adjournment, 2nd by Henrich, all ayes. Meeting adjourned 8:46pm.

Heather Copp – City Clerk Wayne Westergaard - Mayor