July 7, 2025

 The Newell City Council met in regular session on Monday July 7, 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 & Ginger Lyman, Town Reports, Deputy Nieland Fire Chief Bruce Erie, and Nuisance Boards Quinten Robinson.

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

Consent Agenda: After Discussion, Henrich motioned, Johnson 2nd to approve, all ayes. which included 6/2/25 & 6/26/25 regular & special session minutes, Claims Report 6/1/25 through 6/30/25 (Bills), June Treasurers Report including Revenues MTD 118,088.23 Expenses MTD $209,070.08 & Bank Balances

Citizens Forum: Westergaard opened the meeting to public comment at 7:07pm. Aron Nieland with Nieland Custom Meats approached council with question regarding curb and gutter replacement at 206 W 2nd. Nieland was placed on the agenda for further discussion.

Town reports: Sheriff - Deputy Nieland stated, Deputies responded to 61 calls and spent 152 hours in the month of June. Ziegler questioned Nieland on the Subpoena calls as to if it was city or county related business. Nieland couldn’t answer the question do to lack supporting documents.

Fire – Chief Erie reported department has 21 volunteer firefighters. Nielsen asked if the new rescue unit was in service. Erie replied no that it just was lettered and needs to cure a few days.

Ambulance – Erie also mentioned that Degner was working on getting new tires and he thinks he has the lighting pinpointed to a circuit breaker.

Library – Not in attendance but Johnson spoke asking about library financials being updated, Copp replied that she had what was available now completed but was hoping to speak to Landgraf concerning the balances.

Parks – Copp informed council on 1 concrete bid received, but waiting on another that has not replied. She asked if council would give an allowance of cost so when bids are available, she could schedule the work. It was motioned by Nielsen that upon receiving a 2nd bid it will be the Superintendents discission as to who will perform the work with a cost limit of $8900, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes. Copp also informed the council the new signs for the courts were received and will be installed when hardware is available.

Pool Committee – not present, Copp noted that there was no longer a demolition donation on the table and that the council could start taking bids for the removal.

Watermelon Days Committee – not present, Copp informed council that the alcohol license needed approval. It was motioned to approve by Johnson, 2nd by Nielsen, all ayes.

Old Business – Westergaard asked Lange what was needed to get flags and correct hangers for downtown Fulton. Lange replied he had found holders but what we have will be a 2-person job to hang and take down when the flags are placed. Westergaard mentioned that the Legion was willing to purchase them for the city. Ziegler questioned if payment was received for the rental of the clubhouse. Lyman stated that it was prepaid at city hall and that another rental was also paid in advance for August 2nd. Henrich asked if there was interest in the pool equipment? Westergaard stated there was and Copp replied that it had not been posted yet due to lack of photos.

Golf Course- Lyman stated there were plenty of outdoor chairs and asked if she could sell the older ones and give the proceeds back to the women’s league. Council approved without a vote. Lyman continued and asked if the fee could be waived for the upcoming NF Athletic Department tournament. Council asked what that consisted of and Lyman explained. Henrich motioned to waive, Johnson 2nd, all ayes. Course is in need of new refrigerators and lyman asked council for approval of a price limit. Nielsen asked if the current could be fixed, Lange stated the unit was not fixable due to age. No allowance was set and manager is to get pricing for new user-friendly units. Mayor Westergaard stated that council could have a special meeting to approve when available. Lyman courteously asked the council why it allows the grounds keeper a spend limit on big purchases without approval, but the clubhouse manager needs approval for necessary needs. Nielsen replied that a mower is more important than a refrigerator. Copp stated to the council that Wilson had her purchase a $1700 range ball washer that arrived today without the council’s approval. Again, Lyman asked how to move forward and it was stated that the council needs to see what is being purchased. Lyman continued, $10,566.02 was spent in June on supplies needed to run the clubhouse. Costs included food, beverage, and other services used. Lyman also supplied council with the number of hours attendants worked for June and Copp gave council wage rates. Upon discussion it was concluded that the clubhouse was breaking even.

Public Works – Lange reported in last 35 days the city has received 7.4” of rain. The golf course sprinklers have run 106 hours for a total of 1,081,200 gals of water used. Wells have lost 20ft of static water due to it. He asked council to have the course watered less frequently otherwise the city could face a water deficient. Which is what happened to a neighboring city and now they do not have clean drinking water for their citizens. He reiterated to the council that water conservation is important. Removed 20 stumps and another 25 will be done this week. Right aways will be completed 1st. Summer help is going great and have been mowing and weeding continuously. In the last 6 weeks, 8 graves have been dug. Nielsen asked what the pricing was for the service and Copp replied with the various pricing.

Nieland Custom Meats – After reading the city code it was determined that the city is responsible for the cost of the curb and gutter that needs to be replaced in front of the locker. Nieland has received 1 bid for his project and is waiting on others to look at it. Council advised that Lange could decide with Nieland to accept bids when available for the work.

Nielsen brought up that public works said they would be code enforcers for junk cars and unkept properties. He asked why it hadn’t been enforced. Lange replied stating that they are not law enforcement and any action that they take is not finable and could ultimately be liable. After discussion, door hangers could be hung on code violators’ properties and if they are not taken care of, the Sheriffs Office could be involved.

Nuisance – Quinten Robinson presented information on run down properties in the city. The board had a meeting and determined the following properties with multiple violations. 414 S Fulton, 402 S Nelson, 214 Harrison, 148 Cedar, 401 N Fulton, and 341 E 3rd. Henrich motioned permission to seek the service of city attorney Gary Armstrong for Abatement work, Nielson 2nd all ayes. Nuisance Board is to follow up.

Clerk – Copp explained further on placement of signs in the park. She and Lange also spent time driving around town to see where other signs were needed. Those signs will also be installed. Resolution 9-25 Authorizing the Transfer of Funds Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) for FY2025 per resolution: 25% Transfer out of Checking-Lost into Checking-General. 10% Tax Property Tax Relief $13,194.93, 5% Library $6,597.47, and 10% Pool $13,194.93. Transfer $13,194.93 LOST Pool funds to Pool account for FY25. Transfer $2582.01 LOST to Capital Projects for projects during FY25 including tree removal work and stump grinding. Transfer $382.26 from LOST to General for FY25 Culture & Recreation. Transfer all remaining fund balances to profit handler to be distributed to the general fund and debt services. It was moved by Johnson to approve Resolution #9-25 to make these transfers between funds. Ziegler 2nd motion. Roll Call Vote 5-0. Resolution #10-25 Authorizing the sale of 2021 Dodge Charger Patrol Car. The city of Newell accepts the sale price of $26,500 from the city of Sac City, Iowa. It was moved by Neilsen to approve Resolution #10-25 Sale to Sac City, Henrich 2nd motion. Roll Call Vote 5-0. Henrich asked if any candidates have applied for the Deputy Clerk position. Copp replied that she has and is waiting on the personnel committee to give her dates and times to schedule the applicants. Personnel Committee to discuss and inform clerk. Ziegler asked if anyone has come forth interested in running for city council this election year. She stated no, but informed the council that Johnson, Nielsen, Shedd, and Westergaard were all up for election. She advised if they had any questions to call the Auditors Office for clarification. Paperwork will be accepted on the 1st of September.

Mayor – Received request for handicap parking downtown Fulton. For every 25 spots a handicap spot is needed. Spots were discussed without a decisive outcome. Westergaard asked what the progress on the city code update was. Copp replied that the writers had a few questions to be answered. Ziegler asked what they were, Copp told him to stop in the next day due to not having the info in front of her.

Meeting Dates - Next Regular session August 4th 7:00pm. Henrich motioned for adjournment, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes. Meeting adjourned 8:50pm.

Heather Copp – City Clerk Wayne Westergaard - Mayor