The Newell City Council met in regular session on Monday September 8, 2025, at 7:00pm in City Hall with Mayor Wayne Westergaard presiding. Council members present Larry Nielsen, Bill Henrich and Dennis Ziegler. Absent Ana Johnson and Jeff Shedd. City employees, Heather Copp, Doug Lange, Chad Wilson & Ginger Lyman, Town Reports, Deputy Studer, Fire Chief Bruce Erie, and Pool Committee.

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

Consent Agenda: After Discussion, Henrich motioned, Ziegler 2nd, all ayes. Which included, 8/4/25 regular session minutes, Claims Report 8/15/25 through 9/15/25 (Bills), August Treasurers Report including Revenues MTD $84176.27 Expenses MTD $208,848.61 & Bank Balances.

Citizens Forum: Westergaard opened the meeting to public comment at 7:01pm. Representatives from the Pool Committee presented fundraising totals exceeding $240,000 and introduced a proposal to replace the aging pool with a swimming pond. The concept, modeled after a Wisconsin town’s design, includes a sand beach, zero-entry shallow end, and a 10-foot deep area with a dock. Estimated construction costs are under $1 million. The committee also clarified a recent newspaper article that incorrectly suggested pool funds were used for committee shirts. Members confirmed all shirts were self-funded, with only display items purchased for Watermelon Days. A request was made for a public retraction to maintain donor confidence. Councilmen Ziegler asked why the shirt charge was on the claims list again this month, Copp stated the payee asked for the check to be reissued due to a change in name. The previous check was voided, no report that the council receives shows voided checks. Copp told Ziegler she would look into other reports to supply the council with voided items. Forum closed 7:09pm

Sheriff Deputy Studer Reported August numbers, 347 hours spent in Newell; 58 calls responded to. Breakdown included 911 hangups, ambulance calls, dog complaints, assault, bar checks, vehicle burglary, traffic stops, warrant service, and welfare checks.

Fire Chief Erie proudly reported, seven members of the Newell Fire Department competed at the state convention, earning 2nd place in the Leader Line event and 3rd in Water ball. Their combined score tied them for 4th place overall. Council praised the department’s performance and dedication. Rescue Unit & Ambulance Updates, The rescue unit remains parked due to municipal ownership and lack of storage space. Bids for its sale will be opened on Oct. 4th. Ambulance staff reported 12 calls last month and ongoing maintenance, including tire replacements and lighting repairs.

Library Board Report, no meeting held last month, no updates.

Park – Musical Playground, Installation scheduled for late October due to contractor availability. Nielsen asked if we should find another way to install, installation has already paid in full. Council agreed to wait; concrete curing time considered beneficial. Preference expressed for professional installation to ensure quality and warranty coverage was stated by Ziegler.

Old Business – Pool Demolition & continued Pond Proposal information. Discussion on coordinating demolition with future pond construction. Superintendent Lange Proposal to delay demolition to align with grading and design needs. Once started Pool Committee Estimated project duration: 8 weeks to 3 months. Council agreed to hold off and explore consultant visit and possibility of holding a special meeting. Council expressed interest in further design details and community engagement.

Golf Course Financials included were included council packets. Lyman and Lange fielded questions on refrigerator purchase; ADA compliance concerns led to decision to proceed with standard unit. Roof leak patched by B&C Builders; additional deficiencies noted for future consideration. Interior repairs deferred until leak is confirmed resolved.

Public Works Lange voiced concern on rear tires needed for city backhoe; Hartland Tire quoted ~$1,500. 25 stumps remain in right-of-ways; additional stumps in parks and cemetery. Well #3 starter issue; soft-start installation scheduled (~$3,500). Grinder pump repairs ongoing. Mineral oil spill behind elevator spreading; staff to contact responsible party. Nielsen asked why public works use personal vehicles for weekend duties, Lange stated that it saves time and hassle. He also stated that he and Cross do not turn in mileage. Lagoon release planned for October but there could be an emergency release due to high rainfall.

Clerk’s Report – approval of Screwy Louie’s alcohol license was motioned by Nielsen and 2nd by Henrich, all ayes. Copp updated council on the following, Code Update: Draft nearing completion; zoning revisions pending legislative review. Zoning Inquiry: Resident interested in building a “shouse;” council to review code implications. Abandoned Properties: Legal actions filed for three properties; resolution expected within 90 days. Audit Prep: AFR underway; audit files being prepared for TP Anderson & Co. Training & Conferences: Clerk attending AI workshop (Sept 23) and IMFOA Fall Conference (Oct 15–17). Zoom training for newly elected officials (Oct 3); council invited to join. Annual budget workshop (Nov 12 in Lake View); optional for council members.

Mayors report -Bear sculpture at Golf Course cleaned, painted, and sealed; rot will be monitored. Council praised efforts to improve community aesthetics.

New Business – Street Planning, Council discussed creating a 5–6 year street improvement plan. Lange identified East Chaney Street as priority due to truck traffic. Three repair options reviewed: full overlay preferred for durability. Estimated cost: ~$200,000. Future concerns raised about 3rd Street and underground utilities. Nielsen made suggestions to pursue utility-related grants for funding. Truck route alternatives discussed to improve safety near schools and parks. Inquiry into potential per-bushel road impact fees; further investigation needed. Council requested increased patrol during harvest season.

Meeting Dates - Next Regular session October 6, 2025, 7:00pm. Nielsen motioned for adjournment, 2nd by Henrich, all ayes. Meeting adjourned 7:58pm

Heather Copp – City Clerk Wayne Westergaard - Mayor