

**City of Newark
City Council Minutes
April 16, 2015**

I. Call to Order and Announce a Quorum is Present

Mayor Gary Van Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2015 in the Newark Municipal Building located at 209 Hudson Street, Newark, Texas, and announced a quorum was present. Those present were: Mayor Gary Van Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Linda Anderson, Councilmember Cary Mellema, Councilmember Mark Wondolowski, Councilmember Dan Sessler, and City Administrator Diane Rasor.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – Mayor Van Wagner delivered the invocation and led the pledge to the Flag.

III. Citizen Comments - None

IV. Consent Agenda – Consider and act on the following items: A. March 19, 2015 Minutes, B. Accounts Payables from March 23rd through April 17th , 2015, C. Budget vs. Actual and Financial Statements, D. City Administrator Staff Report

Mayor Van Wagner reviewed the City Administrator’s report pertaining to current events and updates on projects.

Councilmember Mellema moved to approve the consent agenda; Mayor Pro Tem Anderson seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

V. Regular Meeting

1. Update from the property manager on the progress of repairing manufactured homes on Sandy Bass Lane.

Ms. Sandra Ray stated that the home at 401 Sandy Bass is gone and the lot has been cleaned. A tentative plan of constructing a park on the lot site has been discussed. The home at 413 Sandy Bass Lane will probably be removed instead of repaired due to the amount of work that would need to be done to make the home livable. Newark Estate Ventures has purchased eight (8) new single wide manufactured homes to be moved onto Sandy Bass Lane following Council approval. The company plans on pouring cement to connect driveways to the road in the near future.

2. Consider and act on the update from the property owner of 726 McCanne concerning the Council Order to bring the house and property into compliance with the Newark Code of Ordinances.

Ms. Greta Rodriguez, 726 McCanne, stated she has put in new aluminum windows and new plywood on the porch. Mayor Van Wagner, Building Inspector Mark Jones, and City Administrator Diane Rasor had met with Ms. Rodriguez last week to review the items that needed to be repaired. Mayor Van Wagner reminded Ms. Rodriguez that Mr. Jones said a professional needs to assess the foundation before any decisions are made pertaining to the house. She has been requested to bring this report to the next meeting to determine if an extension of time to repair the house is warranted or not.

3. Consider and act on approving an agreement with the residents at 219 Hudson Street for unpaid water bills.

Ms. Quiros, the renter of the property, understood that she has not been billed for water usage in approximately two (2) years and requested the Council allow her to pay an amount settled upon in installment payments. She said will be able to make an additional \$100.00 payment each month with her regular water bill. The Council requested to have the Public Works department research the three (3) waterlines that led to Ms. Quiros' house and report back to them.

Councilmember Sessler moved to approve an agreement with Ms. Quiros' to pay \$100.00 (additional to her regular bill) per month until \$2,772.00 is paid (for past water usage); plus an agreement that if she leaves the City she will pay the balance in full; Councilmember Mellema seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

3. Consider and act on enforcing Chapter 26 of the Newark Zoning Ordinance pertaining to Off-Street Parking Requirements.

Mayor Van Wagner discussed options to bring awareness to residents concerning the ordinance pertaining to parking cars, trailers, boats, motor homes or other vehicles in front or on the side of their houses. This has become a common practice in some neighborhoods and he doesn't think the residents are aware there is an ordinance prohibiting this type of parking unless the vehicles are parked on a paved surface.

The City Council directed the City Administrator to send a letter to make residents aware of the ordinance and then continue to put a "Do You Know" section on the back of the water bills each month to keep them informed.

4. Consider and act on Ordinance A-429 cancelling the May 9, 2015 Special Election.

Councilmember Mellema moved to cancel the May 9, 2015 Special Election; Councilmember Sessler seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

5. Consider and act on disbanding the Park Board and assigning park maintenance to the Public Works Department.

Two of the park committee members have asked the Council to consider having the City's Public Works Department take responsibility for the maintenance of the parks. Delora Doughty Park in particular is vandalized on a regular basis and the upkeep is becoming difficult for the committee members. The Delora Doughty Park Fund has approximately \$2,500 available, which could be used on security or upkeep of the park. It was suggested to put a cage around the light in the gazebo.

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson moved to disband the Park Committee and assign park maintenance to the Public Works Department; Councilmember Mellema seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

6. Discussion on upgrading the City's water meters to the Neptune Electronic Reading Meter.

The representative from Neptune Electric Reading Meters was unable to attend. This item is re-scheduled for the next regular council meeting.

7. Consider and act on adjusting the City's maximum access line rates (a right of way rate we charge various telephone providers who use the telephone lines going through our City) or leaving them the same as 2014 rates.

Councilmember Mellema moved to raise the maximum access line rates to the 2015 CPI rate; Councilmember Sessler seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

8. Discussion and possible action on deciding what should be done with the "Old Gym" at 209 Hudson Street next to City Hall.

Mayor Van Wagner requested this item in order to discuss what should be done with the "Old Gym" next to City Hall. The building is so dilapidated it is dangerous and probably contains asbestos. The City Council directed the City Administrator to call the City Engineer to begin collecting information on having the asbestos removed and the building demolished.

9. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

APPROVED:

Gary Van Wagner, Mayor

Date

ATTEST:

Diane Rasor, City Administrator