

**City of Newark  
City Council Minutes  
Thursday, August 21, 2014**

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Gary Van Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. on Thursday, August 21, 2014 in the Newark Municipal Building located at 209 Hudson Street, Newark, Texas. 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 of allegiance to the flag.

**III. Presentation: Consider and act on accepting Councilmember Doug Anderson's resignation and expressing the Council's and Staff's appreciation of his dedication and leadership to the citizens of the City of Newark.**

Doug Anderson thanked the City Council for the opportunity to serve and stated the most important thing he learned was to not allow your emotions to get the best of you. Mayor Van Wagner presented Doug with an appreciation plaque expressing the City's thanks to him and his wife, Melinda. The Council took a ten (10) minute break at 7:20 to say good bye to Doug and Melinda.

**IV. Citizens Comments**

Ms. Pamela Thompson thanked the City staff for responding well to an unfortunate incident that occurred at her home. (window broke out by City mower).

Ms. Claudette Harrell spoke on three (3) issues – (1) There was a "glitch" in the Senior Celebration this year that she would like resolved if the City decided to host the event next year (making citizens aware of the event), (2) Mr. Godfrey Pegasus passed away recently at the age of 95. He had always been a server and a helper to the community. Ms. Harrell and her daughter, Ms. Chana Massey made donations to the library in his memory and (3) Doug Anderson made an abundant and profound effect on Newark.

**V. Consent Agenda - A. Consideration of the July 10, 17, 30 and August 14, 2014 Minutes, B. Consideration of the Accounts Payables – June 20 - August 21, 2014 C. Consideration of Budget and Financials, D. Consideration of Staff Reports**

Councilmember Sessler moved to accept the consent agenda items A, B, C, D; Mayor Pro Tem Anderson seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

## **VI. Regular Meeting**

**1. Consider and act on sponsoring the Cruisin' Days Event for the Newark Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and the following request:** (A) Permission and assistance with road closings during the parade (specifically the closure of Hudson Street between Main and McCanne. (B) Permission to use the Delora Doughty Park to set up concessions, games, bounce houses, bingo and concessions. (C) Resident deputies available if needed.

Ms. Angela Braun with the Ladies Auxiliary stated the annual Cruisin' Days is the third weekend in October (17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>) and having the Council sponsor the event provided the liability insurance needed. She requested that Mayor Van Wagner be the Parade Marshal and he accepted.

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson moved to sponsor the Cruisin' Days event; Councilmember Sessler seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

### **2. Discussion on the role of City Engineers.**

Mr. Mark Lorange with Bury Engineering explained that his firm is a midsize engineering firm with 350 employees and has been in business for 35 years. He introduced his associate, Justin Walton and explained that he and Justin are from the area and very familiar with small town needs.

### **3. Consider and act on the Boy Scout's request for funding and permission to repair the Gazebo in Delora Doughty Park.**

Ms. Bandy Hicks, Co-Chair of the Parks Board and Nicholas Barrett, Boy Scout, gave a short presentation of the repairs planned for the gazebo.

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

### **4. Consider and act on Agreement between the Newark Volunteer Fire Department and the City of Newark for services rendered.**

Councilmember Wondolowski moved to approve the agreement; Councilmember Sessler seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

### **5. Consider and act on the application from Newark Estates to move a manufactured home onto the lot at 441 Sandy Bass Lane.**

Mr. Kenny Davis, Newark Estates Representative, stated that his company had fulfilled all the requirements and the application has been approved by the building inspector. He presented a

timeline for either repairing the six (6) vacant homes they already had on their properties or moving them out of the City. The Council had concerns about someone living in one of the vacant homes and allowing another home to be moved in when the vacant homes still had not been repaired. Mr. Davis committed to attend a council meeting every month to give an update on the progress of repairing the homes.

Councilmember Mellema moved to approve the request to move the home onto the lot at 441 Sandy Bass Lane; Councilmember Wondolowski seconded the motion. Ayes: Councilmember Mellema, Councilmember Wondolowski. Nays: Mayor Pro Tem Anderson, Councilmember Sessler. Abstentions: None. Mayor Van Wagner broke the tie by voting in favor of the request. Motion passed with three (3) ayes, two (2) nays, and zero (0) abstentions.

**6. Consider and act on a request to determine if a gunsmith shop is allowed in the C-1 zoning district.**

Mr. Aaron Little explained he is interested in purchasing the property at 311 Hudson Street, which is currently zoned for light commercial (C-1), to open a gunsmith shop. He will be repairing guns and making ten to twelve guns from scratch each year. He wants to make sure the Council is in favor of the business prior to purchase of the property.

Councilmember Mellema moved to let the gunsmith shop be established in C-1 zoning; Councilmember Wondolowski seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

**7. Consider and act on the Utility Deposit Refund Policy.**

Councilmember Sessler moved to approve the Utility Deposit Refund Policy with the exception of excluding number 4 (No tampering with meter); Councilmember Mellema seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

**8. Discussion and possible act on amendments to the Newark Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Animal Control.**

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson presented the changes she would like made to the City's animal control ordinance. The Council requested an ordinance be presented at the next meeting with the proposed amendments.

**9. Consider and act on the bids for the conference room and the office at the maintenance building.**

This item will be postponed to a future meeting.

**VII. Executive Session –Section: 551.074. Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting. (a) This chapter does not require a governmental body to conduct an open meeting: (1) to deliberate**

**the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee. Hiring D'Laine Young as the City of Newark Library Director.**

The Council entered into executive session at 8:51 p.m. and returned to open session at 8:58 p.m.

**10. Consider and act on executive session item(s).**

Councilmember Mellema moved to hire D'Laine Young as the Library Director; Mayor Pro Tem Anderson seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

**11. Adjourn.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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**Gary Van Wagner, Mayor**

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**Date**

**ATTEST:**

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**Diane Rasor, City Administrator**