

**Minutes of the
Newark City Council
Thursday, August 30, 2012**

I. Call to Order

Mayor Matt Newby called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 30, 2012 in the Newark Municipal Building located at 209 Hudson Street, Newark, Texas. Those present were Mayor Matt Newby, Mayor Pro Tem Laura Pixler, Councilmember Bob Wells, Councilmember Linda Anderson, Councilmember Chana Massey and Councilmember Doug Anderson. Staff present: Jody Slimp, Nathan Dahl, and Joe Gray, Nancy Castle and Diane Rasor.

II. Invocation – Councilmember Doug Anderson delivered the invocation.

III. Citizen Comments:

Mr. Ken Hatmaker thanked the Council for the work they have done and spoke in favor of park equipment for Delora Doughty Park.

Mr. Don Falsey spoke against the park stating that the City has better things to spend money on than the park.

Mr. Ray Chaffin spoke in favor of the park stating that he realizes streets are the number one priority, however other projects were done before the street. He believes the children need a place to play.

Ms. Bonnie Neal spoke in favor of the park.

Ms. Pamela Thompson thanked Laura Pixler for her efforts and spoke in favor of the park.

Ms. Mary Ann Wells spoke against spending \$13,000 for park equipment stating that the sole purpose of the "Heart for Park" was to raise money for park equipment.

III. Budget

1. Discussion and possible action on the 2012-2013 Budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Pixler thanked everyone for coming and voicing their opinion. She went over the things the City has accomplished and how far the City has come, including the renovation of a building for the Library and a new City Hall. She pointed out that the building that used to house City Hall has been sold and there money left in the fund balance this year. She has planned a fund raiser in December and contacted vendors to donate money. She requested the

Council match the amount of donations for the park equipment or budget \$2,500 towards the equipment. Currently the bid for the park equipment is \$17,000.

Councilmember Linda Anderson supports the park stating that a park is good for the mind, body, and soul, brings community together and builds strength in the community.

Councilmember Massey believes the park equipment should not be funded in 2013. She has researched other cities and the history of Newark. She looked for what the common bond is between successful cities and discovered that they all had comprehensive plans to carry them into the future. Councilmember Massey stated the priorities should be wastewater, streets, maintenance of City buildings and then parks. She wants to phase in the park equipment in 2014.

Councilmember Wells stated that the Council has spent a great deal of time dealing with the main issues such as the sewer plants and water leaks and now the priority should be streets. He believes it is this Council's responsibility to service all of the citizens and that parks are for a small demographic of people.

Council Doug Anderson stated the city's investment in the park was to make it larger. Cleaning up was done by volunteers and the swing set at City Hall was restored. He is open to doing the park in stages and wouldn't be against matching some of the donations.

Mayor Newby would like to see parks, but he believes fund raising should come first.

The Council discussed spending \$6,200 on the fence for Wells 3 and 4 and \$4,000 for the fence to secure the wastewater treatment plant.

IV. Executive Session – The City may enter into executive session during the meeting to seek legal advice from its attorney on any posted agenda item, or to discuss any item that is authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act to be discussed in closed session, including: Section 551.074, Government Code, to deliberate regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

- Review evaluations of Diane Razor, Nancy Castle, Jody Slimp, Joe Gray, and Nathan Dahl.

The Council adjourned into executive session at 8:34 p.m. and returned to open session and returned to open session at 10:07 p.m.

2. Consider and act on executive session item(s).

Councilmember Massey moved to approve the salary adjustments based on discussion in executive session; Councilmember Wells seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

IV. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

APPROVED:



Matt Newby, Mayor



Date

ATTEST:



Diane Rasor, City Administrator