

Town of Newton Grove

Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

March 9, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Newton Grove was held on March 9, 2026.

Present: Mayor Craig Warren, Mayor Pro-Tem Chris Raynor, Commissioner, Commissioner Bartley Warren, Commissioner George Schwartz, Commissioner Alan Herring, and Commissioner Cody Smith

Staff Present: Town Clerk Amanda Baggett, Deputy Clerk Dana Ellington, and Legal Lew Starling

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer.**
3. **Financial Review.** Upon motion by Commissioner Cody Smith, seconded by Commissioner George Schwartz, and passed by unanimous vote, the financial review was approved.
4. **Approval of Minutes.** Upon motion by Commissioner Bartley Warren seconded by Commissioner Cody Smith, and passed by unanimous vote, the minutes for February 9, 2026 were approved.
5. **Clerk Comments.** Clerk Baggett reminded the public that minutes cannot be given out until they are approved the board.
6. **Appointment of Bartley Warren as Finance Officer.** Upon motion by Commissioner Cody Smith, seconded by Commissioner George Schwartz, and passed unanimously, Bartley Warren was appointed Finance Officer.
7. **Sampson-Duplin Hazard Mitigation Plan.** Upon motion by Commissioner Cody Smith, seconded by Commissioner Alan Herring, and passed unanimously, the Sampson-Duplin Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved.
8. **Newton Grove Fire Department Contract.** Upon motion by Commissioner Cody Smith, seconded by Commissioner George Schwartz, and passed unanimously, the Newton Fire Department Contract was approved.
9. **Public Comment.** Quenita Lee thanked the NG Fire Department and other departments for their assistance at her daughters car accident. Lela Beasley spoke to the board about

the fire department and their need for more funds from the town. She also spoke about the board members and the staff. She stated they do not communicate with the public. She stated her concerns about the clerks and their attitudes. Keith Warwick questioned if the contract that was approved for the fire department tonight had been discussed with the fire department. He also questioned why the money isn't just given to the fire department directly from the county. Daniel Warwick stated that the fire department did not ask for the old contract to be canceled. He also stated that the money for the fire department is not a donation but a contracted service. Bridget Rackley questioned the public hearing for the budget and if we still had a zoning board. She also stated decorum should go both ways. Wendy Forbis spoke about her experience with the clerk when building her house. She stated she was not helpful and mean. Someone else questioned the police department and what was going on. Jeff Sutton came in late and asked why we don't have a police department and why we can't pay the fire department more money. Stated that we need unity in this town. Asked if there was an ordinance to make people clean their yards up.

10. Departmental Reports.

A. Street Department – Commissioner Chris Raynor. Commissioner Raynor reported that we sometimes get complaints about the trash truck and the cans. If you need a new one, please call town hall to get a replacement. DOT has been contacted about potholes and our staff will be working on town streets weather permitting.

B. Police Department – Commissioner Alan Herring. Commissioner Herring thanked the Sampson County Sheriff's office for their help.

C. Buildings & Grounds – George Schwartz. Commissioner Schwartz reported that the picnic table outside is broken.

D. Public Works Department and Zoning – Commissioner Cody Smith. Commissioner Smith reported the SCADA system is up and running. Starting to get the electrical work done at the WWTP. This is all being paid for by grants. We are in the process of getting a proposal for water tank care. We are still working on zoning book.

E. Parks & Special Projects – Commissioner Bartley Warren. Commissioner Warren reported that we will have pictures with the Easter Bunny on April 4. There will be a community wide sunrise service at the park on Easter morning.

11. Mayor Comments. Mayor Warren stated that he and most commissioners stay after each meeting to speak to community members. He also takes several phone calls and

answers all questions he is asked. He is at town hall almost every day of the week. We did lose our police department. And we are working towards fixing this.

12. Adjournment.

TOWN OF NEWTON GROVE

Craig Warren, Mayor ATTEST:

Amanda Baggett, Town Clerk

GL Account	Balance
10-1010-0101 General Fund Cash	\$659,760.10
11-1010-0101 ABC Contributions	\$38,554.00
20-1010-0101 Water Fund Cash	\$421,149.43
30-1010-0101 Powell Bill Cash	\$87,326.96
	\$1,206,790.49

NC MUTUAL TRUST ACCOUNTS

GENERAL \$526,231.93

W/S \$278,188.78

STREETS \$ 63,062.49