

Town of Newton Grove

Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

January 12, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Newton Grove was held on January 12, 2025.

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

Staff Absent: Police Chief Greg Warren

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer.**
3. **2024-2025 Audit Report.** Danna Layne, CPA from Nunn, Brashear, & Uzzell presented the 2024-2025 Audit to the board. The LGC has approved this audit.
4. **Financial Review.** Upon motion by Commissioner Bartley Warren, seconded by Commissioner George Schwartz, and passed by unanimous vote, the financial review was approved.
5. **Approval of Minutes.** Upon motion by Commissioner Chris Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Bartley Warren, and passed by unanimous vote, the minutes for December 8, 2025 were approved.
6. **Newton Grove Fire Department.** Clerk Baggett was tasked to present the board members numbers if a \$0.2 cent tax was added to our \$0.40 to give the Fire Department. This would be added into the budget if approved. She explained that if an actual legal fire tax was put into place, the board and the people in the town would not have any say or control of what that amount to be taxed would be. This would be set by Sampson County and NGFD.
7. **Clerk Comment.** Please see attached.
8. **Public Comment.** Before Public Comment was opened, Mayor Warren asked that we refrain from speaking about the events of the police department as there is still an ongoing investigation. Quenita R. Lee read scripture as her public comment. Terrie Westbrook wanted to clarify that the \$0.02 tax increase would be for people within the

city limit and that there would be a public hearing. Bridget Rackley asked if the money for the Fire Department could come out of the current budget since the auditor stated that we were doing well financially.

9. Departmental Reports.

A. Street Department – Commissioner Chris Raynor. Commissioner Raynor reported no issues with trash. Reminded people to please put your trash cans are put out on Wednesday night and that all your trash is in your can. We are almost finished mowing town streets. Once the weather warms up, we will start repairing potholes.

B. Police Department – Commissioner Alan Herring. Commissioner Herring reported issues with the Ford truck. It is scheduled to go to the shop next week.

C. Buildings & Grounds – George Schwartz. Commissioner Schwartz reported no issues. Wanted to mention the money budgeted to replace one of the AC units at the library. They seem to be working fine, so we will not replace them yet, but continue to keep it in the budget when needed.

D. Public Works Department and Zoning – Commissioner Cody Smith. Commissioner Smith reported we are finalizing the SCADA system. Zoning is still working on new UDO.

E. Parks & Special Projects – Commissioner Bartley Warren. Commissioner Warren thanked everyone for all their help with Christmas decorations.

10. Closed Session. Upon motion by Commissioner Alan Herring, seconded by Commissioner George Schwartz, and passed unanimously, the board went into closed session.

11. Open Session. Upon motion by Commissioner Cody Smith, seconded by Commissioner Bartely Warren, and passed unanimously, the board went back into open session.

12. Adjournment.

TOWN OF NEWTON GROVE

Craig Warren, Mayor ATTEST:

Amanda Baggett, Town Clerk

GL Account	Balance
10-1010-0101 General Fund Cash	\$808,626.95
11-1010-0101 ABC Contributions	\$38,554.00
20-1010-0101 Water Fund Cash	\$269,145.91
30-1010-0101 Powell Bill Cash	\$87,326.96
	\$1,203,653.82

NC MUTUAL TRUST ACCOUNTS

GENERAL \$523,207.07

W/S \$276,589.71

STREETS \$ 62,700.00

PROPOSED NEWTON GROVE FIRE DEPARTMENT DONATION INCREASE

THE PROPERTY VALUATIONS USED IN THIS PROPOSAL WERE OBTAINED FROM THE CURRENT TR-2 REPORT. TOTAL VALUATION FOR AD VALOREM IS \$116,028,070.00. AD VALOREM TAX INCLUDES REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY AS WELL AS MOTOR VEHICLE TAX.

PROPOSED \$0.02 PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WOULD RECEIVE - \$22,741.50

CONTINUE ORIGINAL DONATION FROM TOWN OF NEWTON GROVE - \$46,000.00

TOTAL AMOUNT FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT - \$68,741.50

THIS IS \$3,741.50 MORE THAN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ASKED FOR DURING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS FOR 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR.

IF YOUR PROPERTY VALUE IS \$180,000.00, THE TAX INCREASE SHOULD COST AROUND \$36.

CLERK COMMENTS 1/12/2026

1. WE ASK OUR CUSTOMERS TO CALL TOWN HALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AND OR TO SEE IF THE MAYOR OR A COMMISSIONER IS AVAILABLE IF THEY HAVE A COMPLAINT ABOUT THEIR WATER BILL. THE STAFF WILL NO LONGER TAKE THIS ON BY THEMSELVES.

2. SMILE!! YOU ARE ON CAMERA. WE NOW HAVE CAMERAS IN TOWN HALL.