



NEWTON FALLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
 Monday, January 6, 2025; 7:00 PM
 COUNCIL CHAMBERS
 612 WEST BROAD STREET

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS	
Ward 1	Patricia Benetis
Ward 2	Brian Axiotis
Ward 3	VACANT
Ward 4	Kevin Rufener
At- Large	Julie Stimpert
Mayor	David Hanson

CITY ADMINISTRATION	
Interim City Manager	Mike Novotny
Law Director	Jeff Limbian
Finance Director	Jamie Vernaccini
Clerk of Council	Michael Acomb

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance / Silent Prayer**
- III. Roll Call**
- IV. Changes To Tonight's Agenda**
- V. Special Presentations by Staff Members or Invited Consultants**
- VI. Public Comments (Agenda Items Only)**
- VII. Reports**
 - a. Mayor
 - b. Council Members
 - c. Law Director
 - d. Finance Director
 - e. City Manager
- VIII. Approval of Previous Minutes**
 Regular Meeting Minutes December 18, 2024
- IX. Public Hearings**
 ORDINANCE 2024-52 *Sponsors: Councilpersons Axiotis, Rufener*
 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE
 APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND
 AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO AMEND AND FILE A CERTIFICATE
 OF RESOURCES WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR
- X. Unfinished Business**
 ORDINANCE 2024-52 *Sponsors: Councilpersons Axiotis, Rufener*
 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE
 APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND
 AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO AMEND AND FILE A CERTIFICATE
 OF RESOURCES WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR
- XI. New Business**
 MOTION *Sponsors: Councilpersons Stimpert, Rufener*
 A Motion to direct the City Manager to negotiate an offer of employment to John Barco
 for the position of Police Chief and once the offer is complete it shall be presented to
 Council via ordinance for a vote of approval.

XII. Public Comments

XIII. Closing Remarks

- a. Mayor
- b. Council Members
- c. Finance Director
- d. Law Director
- e. City Manager

XIV. Motion to Recess into Executive Session (If Necessary)

XV. Adjournment



NEWTON FALLS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
 Wednesday, December 18, 2024; 6:00 PM
 COUNCIL CHAMBERS
 612 WEST BROAD STREET

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS	
Ward 1	Patricia Benetis
Ward 2	Brian Axiotis
Ward 3	VACANT
Ward 4	Kevin Rufener
At- Large	Julie Stimpert
Mayor	David Hanson

CITY ADMINISTRATION	
Interim City Manager	Mike Novotny
Law Director	Jeff Limbian
Finance Director	Jamie Vernaccini
Clerk of Council	Michael Acomb

- I. Call to Order**
 Mayor Hanson called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance / Silent Prayer**
- III. Roll Call**
 Mayor Hanson asked Mr. Acomb to call the roll.
 Council Present: Councilperson Axiotis, Councilperson Benetis, Councilperson Rufener, Councilperson Stimpert, Mayor Hanson.
 Council Absent: Councilperson Persino.
 Staff Present: Interim City Manager Novotny, Clerk Acomb, Law Director Limbian, Finance Director Vernaccini.
 Staff Absent: None.
- IV. Changes To Tonight's Agenda**
 Ms. Stimpert made a motion to add a Motion to accept the resignation of Brenda Persino as Ward 3 Councilperson. Moved by Mr. Axiotis. Seconded by Mr. Rufener.
 Ms. Stimpert stated that per the Charter Mr. Acomb should plan to advertise the open position and asked about the timeline for that. Mr. Acomb stated that the advertisement would be published within the week if the Council accepts the resignation.
 Roll Call Vote: Mr. Axiotis-yes; Ms. Benetis-yes; Mr. Rufener-yes; Ms. Stimpert-yes. The motion passed 4-0.

 Mr. Axiotis made a motion to add a Motion to reappoint Brian Kropp to the Planning and Zoning Commission effective 01/01/2025 and lasting for 5 years, expiring on 12/31/2029. Moved by Ms. Stimpert. Seconded by Mr. Axiotis.
 Mr. Rufener stated that this is the renewal of the current position. Mr. Axiotis agreed and stated that he spoke with Mr. Kropp and Mr. Kropp expressed his continued interest.
 Roll Call Vote: Mr. Axiotis-yes; Ms. Benetis-yes; Mr. Rufener-yes; Ms. Stimpert-yes. The motion passed 4-0.
- V. Special Presentations by Staff Members or Invited Consultants**
 No special presentations.

VI. Public Comments (Agenda Items Only)

No public comments.

VII. Motion to Recess into Executive Session (If Necessary)

A Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for (1) the NF Joint Fire Board and (2) the position of Police Chief with action to be taken on the NF Joint Fire Board Position only afterwards.

Ms. Stimpert made a motion to enter executive session. Seconded by Ms. Benetis.

No discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Axiotis-yes; Ms. Benetis-yes; Mr. Rufener-yes; Ms. Stimpert-yes. The motion passed 4-0. The Council entered executive session at 6:07 pm.

Mr. Rufener made a motion to resume the regular session. Seconded by Ms. Stimpert.

No discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Axiotis-yes; Ms. Benetis-yes; Mr. Rufener-yes; Ms. Stimpert-yes. The motion passed 4-0. The Council resumed its regular session at 8:05 pm.

VIII. Reports

- a. Mayor – He reported that this past year in office has been one of the most rewarding things he has done. He is pleased and proud and hopes to finish the term.
- b. Council Members
 - i. Ward 1 – She stated her belief that this Council has been cohesive, and she is proud to serve. She thanked Ms. Persino for her service and efforts. Merry Christmas!
 - ii. Ward 2 – He echoed the sentiments of the mayor. He is proud of his efforts to bring stability to the Village and to serve the people. The opening on the TIB needs applicants.
 - iii. Ward 3 – Absent.
 - iv. Ward 4 – No report.
 - v. At-Large – The Fire Board meeting was last night. There were 2,010 runs which is less than last year. Mutual aid is no longer provided due to a lack of staffing. The next board meeting is January 21, 2025, at 6:00 pm. She stated that this year has been amazing and the best of her 3 years on Council. She appreciates her colleagues and is looking forward to working with everyone in the next year. She thanked everyone for putting the Village first. She thanked Ms. Persino.
- c. Law Director – He echoed the sentiments of the Council. He is pleased to serve the Village and thanked Ms. Persino for her service. He stated that the mics were left on during the executive session and cautioned the public that parts of conversations that may have been held in Council Chambers can be taken out of context and hold the potential to be misrepresented.
- d. Finance Director – She spoke from a prepared statement (Enclosed).
- e. City Manager - He spoke from a prepared statement (Enclosed).

IX. Approval of Previous Minutes

Mayor Hanson called for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2024. Moved by Mr. Rufener. Seconded by Ms. Benetis.

No discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Axiotis-yes; Ms. Benetis-yes; Mr. Rufener-yes; Ms. Stimpert-yes. The motion passed 4-0. The minutes were approved.

X. Public Hearings

None.

XI. Unfinished Business

None.

XII. New Business

MOTION

Sponsors: Councilpersons Stimpert, Rufener

A motion to discuss the NF Joint Fire Board applications.

Mayor Hanson read the motion and called for motion to pass the motion.

Mr. Rufener made a motion to amend the motion to be a motion to appoint Terry Wentworth to the NF Joint Fire Board. Seconded by Mr. Axiotis.

Mr. Axiotis stated that there were two applicants. If the motion does not pass, is there consideration for the other applicants? Mr. Limbian, the Law Director, advised that two motions should be placed on the floor for consideration, one for each candidate.

Ms. Stimpert made a motion to amend the proposed amended motion to add a motion to appoint Terry Wentworth to the NF Joint Fire Board and to add a second motion to appoint Terry Coons to the NF Joint Fire Board. Mr. Limbian concurred that this was the proper handling of the situation.

No further discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Axiotis-yes; Ms. Benetis-yes; Mr. Rufener-yes; Ms. Stimpert-yes. The motion passed 4-0.

Council considered the amended motion to appoint Terry Wentworth to the NF Joint Fire Board. Moved by Ms. Benetis. Seconded by Mr. Axiotis.

Ms. Stimpert sat on the NF Joint Fire Board and Mr. Wentworth also served with her. She felt that Mr. Coons was a strong candidate as well; but felt that Mr. Wentworth was the best choice. Mr. Axiotis stated regret that there is only one seat as both were excellent candidates.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Axiotis-yes; Ms. Benetis-yes; Mr. Rufener-yes; Ms. Stimpert-yes. The motion amended 4-0. First Reading.

Ms. Stimpert withdrew her motion to appoint Mr. Coons to the NF Joint Fire Board.

ORDINANCE 2024-52

Sponsors: Councilpersons Axiotis, Rufener

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO AMEND AND FILE A CERTIFICATE OF RESOURCES WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Mayor Hanson read the ordinance by title only and asked for a motion to adopt the ordinance. Moved by Mr. Rufener. Seconded by Mr. Axiotis.

Mr. Rufener stated that this was the end of year closeout, and it realigns the expenditures with the fund balances in the accounts.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Axiotis-yes; Ms. Benetis-yes; Mr. Rufener-yes; Ms. Stimpert-yes. The motion passed 4-0. First Reading.

ORDINANCE 2024-53

Sponsors: Councilpersons Axiotis, Rufener

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Mayor Hanson read the ordinance by title only and asked for a motion to adopt the ordinance. Moved by Mr. Axiotis. Seconded by Ms. Benetis.

Mr. Axiotis asked the finance director to comment. She stated that this is required to ensure that positive fund balances are realized at the end of the year. She needs the transfer to cover those balances.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Axiotis-yes; Ms. Benetis-yes; Mr. Rufener-yes; Ms. Stimpert-yes. The motion passed 4-0. The ordinance was adopted. First Reading.

ORDINANCE 2024-53 *Sponsors: Councilpersons Axiotis, Rufener*
AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Mayor Hanson read the ordinance by title only and asked for a motion to adopt the ordinance. Moved by Mr. Axiotis. Seconded by Mr. Benetis.

No further discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Axiotis-yes; Ms. Benetis-yes; Mr. Rufener-yes; Ms. Stimpert-yes. The motion passed 4-0. The ordinance was adopted. Final Reading.

MOTION

A motion to accept the resignation of Brenda Persino as Ward 3 Councilperson. Mr. Acomb read the motion and asked for a motion to pass the motion. Moved by Mr. Rufener. Seconded by Mr. Axiotis.

Mr. Rufener expressed sadness that Ms. Persino chose to resign. He respects her decision and appreciates her efforts to serve the Village.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Axiotis-yes; Ms. Benetis-yes; Mr. Rufener-yes; Ms. Stimpert-yes. The motion passed 4-0.

MOTION

A motion to reappoint Brian Kropp to the P&Z Committee effective 01/01/2025 and lasting for 5 years, expiring on 12/31/2029.

Mr. Acomb read the motion and asked for a motion to pass the motion. Moved by Ms. Benetis. Seconded by Mr. Axiotis.

Mr. Axiotis stated that no meetings have occurred since Mr. Kropp was appointed several months ago. Mr. Kropp expressed interest in continuing to serve on the Commission.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Axiotis-yes; Ms. Benetis-yes; Mr. Rufener-yes; Ms. Stimpert-yes. The motion passed 4-0.

XIII. Public Comments

No public comments.

XIV. Closing Remarks

- a. Mayor – No remarks.
- b. Council Members
 - i. Ward 2 – He expressed appreciation for Ms. Persino and her service to the Village.
 - ii. Ward 1 – Merry Christmas to everyone.
 - iii. At-Large – She recognized Ms. Persino’s passion for the Parks and Recreation Commission and the betterment of the Village. She wishes Ms. Persino and her family well.
 - iv. Ward 4 – No remarks.
- c. Finance Director – No remarks.
- d. Law Director – No remarks.

- e. City Manager – He expressed his appreciation for being able to serve. He thanked Ms. Persino for her passion and service to the Village.

XV. Adjournment

Mayor Hanson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Moved by Mr. Axiotis.

Seconded by Ms. Benetis

No discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Axiotis-yes; Ms. Benetis-yes; Mr. Rufener-yes; Ms. Stimpert-yes. The motion passed 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.

APPROVED:

David Hanson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michael Acomb, Clerk of Council

DRAFT



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Michael A. Novotny

City Manager Report

December 18, 2024

All city offices & departments will be closed Tuesday December 24th & Wednesday December 25th for Christmas. As well most city offices and departments will close at 12:00 pm on Tuesday December 31st. All city offices & departments will be closed Wednesday January 1st for New Years. If anyone needs one of the city utility departments during these times call 330-872-5757 and follow the prompts you will be directed to the answering service who will contact the appropriate department. If anyone needs or wants to make a utility payment during these times please place your payment in the night drop box at city hall.

Nothing else new to report tonight.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Novotny

Michael A. Novotny
Interim City Manager
Village of Newton Falls



Finance Directors Report

To: Members of Council
David Hanson, Mayor
Mike Novotny, City Manager
Jeff Limbian, Law Director

From: Jamie Vernaccini, Director of Finance

Date: December 18, 2024

Subject: Finance Department

End of the Year Processes:

The final check run for all nonpayroll items will be completed on Monday December 30, 2024. Please ensure that the finance office has been provided invoices for products and services by Thursday, December 26, 2024.

All purchase orders will be closed on December 30, 2024 unless the Finance Office has been notified that one needs to remain open.

RITA Income Taxes Update: See attached report

Income tax collections with RITA indicate a decline in income tax revenue of approximately 6% (\$67,617) when this same time in 2023 with the collections being reported through December 11, 2024 at \$1,040,249.45.

Boards & Commissions:

All participants in Boards & Commissions that the Chart requires a \$10 per meeting payment for their participation have been paid. These payments represent both 2023 and 2024. These paid Board and Commissions include the Civil Service Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission and Parks and Recreations Board.



Merry Christmas

MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION REPORT

DWFRMMD



CASH PERIOD 11 DISTRIBUTION FOR NEWTON FALLS

Date	Distribution	Tax	Withholder		Individual			Net Profit			
			PI	Ref/Adj	Tax	PI	Ref/Adj	Tax	PI	Ref/Adj	
CSH 12 2024	77,133.40	60,069.78	0.00	0.00	7,787.83	3,189.39	-111.48	6,139.15	58.73	0.00	
CSH 12 2023	67,608.73	55,685.39	221.98	0.00	6,521.72	3,117.20	-657.00	2,567.80	151.64	0.00	
CSH 12 2022	68,506.26	52,783.46	212.96	0.00	10,386.90	5,156.85	-697.26	411.16	252.19	0.00	
CSH 12 2024-2023	14.09%	9,524.67	4,384.39	-221.98	0.00	1,266.11	72.19	545.52	3,571.35	-92.91	0.00
CSH 12 2023-2022	-1.31%	-897.53	2,901.93	9.02	0.00	-3,865.18	-2,039.65	40.26	2,156.64	-100.55	0.00
CSH 12 2024-2022	12.59%	8,627.14	7,286.32	-212.96	0.00	-2,599.07	-1,967.46	585.78	5,727.99	-193.46	0.00
CSH											
YTD 2024	1,040,249.45	708,423.09	3,653.06	-2,694.87	213,746.29	41,819.77	-10,210.40	96,335.39	2,784.79	-13,607.67	
CSH											
YTD 2023	1,107,866.68	659,379.63	4,299.20	-3,991.00	237,779.80	62,966.28	-11,376.02	154,895.64	3,951.80	-38.65	
CSH											
YTD 2022	1,012,502.14	611,368.47	4,017.78	-535.63	202,866.66	48,404.82	-9,038.81	176,503.54	2,025.31	-23,110.00	
CSH											
YTD 12 2024-2023	-6.10%	-67,617.23	49,043.46	-646.14	1,296.13	-24,033.51	-21,146.51	1,165.62	-58,560.25	-1,167.01	-13,569.02
CSH											
YTD 12 2023-2022	9.42%	95,364.54	48,011.16	281.42	-3,455.37	34,913.14	14,561.46	-2,337.21	-21,607.90	1,926.49	23,071.35
CSH											
YTD 12 2024-2022	2.74%	27,747.31	97,054.62	-364.72	-2,159.24	10,879.63	-6,585.05	-1,171.59	-80,168.15	759.48	9,502.33
YTD 2024 ABOVE		1,040,249.45									
YTD 2024 RETAINER		28,893.48									
YTD 2024 AVERAGE %		2.78%									
YTD 2024 NON-RETAIN		1,495.81									
CSH 12 NON-RETAIN		554.73									

This page is CASH BASIS

THE AMOUNTS REPRESENT COLLECTIONS FROM DECEMBER 2023 THROUGH NOVEMBER 2024 DISTRIBUTED TO YOU JANUARY 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 2024

VILLAGE OF NEWTON FALLS, OHIO
ORDINANCE NO.: 2024-52
SPONSOR: Councilpersons Axiotis, Rufener

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND
AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO AMEND AND FILE A CERTIFICATE
OF RESOURCES WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR**

WHEREAS, as a result of certain occurrences, information, and expenditures, amendments to the Year 2024 Appropriations and transfers of items already appropriated for the Year 2024 are desired and required; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance incorporates funding sources and/or expenditures that originated after the most recent Certificate of Resources was issued; and

WHEREAS, the appropriation amendments authorizes the Certificate of Resources to be filed with the Trumbull County Auditor.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the Village of Newton Falls, State of Ohio, hereby ordains:

SECTION 1. That the Exhibit attached hereto hereby amends the current appropriations for fiscal year 2024. Any funds not listed in this exhibit shall remain intact as previously listed and appropriated.

SECTION 2. That the Village Finance Director is hereby authorized to draw warrants on the Village Treasury for payment of the foregoing appropriations upon receiving proper certification and vouchers thereof, and no salaries or wages shall be paid except to persons employed by authority of and in accordance with law or ordinance.

SECTION 3. That all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council, and all deliberations of this Council or any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were taken in meetings open to the public and/or in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4. That this Ordinance shall be effective as of the earliest date permitted by law.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-52
PAGE TWO

PASSED IN COUNCIL THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2024.

David Hanson, Mayor

Attest:

Michael Acomb, Clerk of Council

Approved as to Legal Form.

Jeff Limbian, Law Director

2024 Appropriations:		2024	2024	
CITY OF NEWTON FALLS		Current	Proposed	Difference
		Appropriations	Appropriations	
215	INDIGENT DRIVERS			
Other Operations	Legal Level	2,500.00	5,000.00	2,500.00
215	Total:		5,000.00	5,000.00
224	COURT SECURITY/DIVE			
Other Operations	Legal Level	-	500.00	500.00
224	Total:	-	500.00	500.00
521	DEBT RETIRE 2020 BON			
Other Operations	Legal Level	384,420.00	514,920.00	130,500.00
	Total		514,920.00	130,500.00