The Newell City Council met in regular session Monday, March 3, 2025, in the Council Chambers of City Hall pursuant to the laws and rules of said Council in regular session. Mayer Westergaard called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Roll Call:** Council members Ana Johnson, Larry Nielsen, Jeff Shed, Dennis Ziegler and Bill Henrich were present. Others present were city employees, Heather Copp, Doug Lange, Pat Cross and Ginger Lyman. Laura Degner, Bruce Erie, Tanya Landgraf, Deputy Nieland for Town Reports. Special agenda guests Pool Committee & NF Baseball Softball Association were also present.

**Approval of Agenda:** Henrich Motioned, Nielsen 2nd to approve the agenda. All Ayes – motion carried.

**Consent Agenda:** After Discussion, Ziegler motioned and Johnson 2nd approval the consent agenda, which included 2/3/2025 & 2/20/2025 regular & special session minutes, Claims Report 2/15/25 through 3/15/25 (Bills), February Treasures Reports including Revenues MTD $74,117.16 Expenses MTD $85,880.93, Bank Balances, & Park/GC 2025 Rates. Upon roll, all voted aye.

**Citizens Forum:** Westergaard opened the meeting to public comment at 7:00pm. Citizen Lyman asked the city to release a statement on social media pertaining to the city’s Law Enforcement agreement. Forum Closed 7:01pm.

**Town reports:** Sheriff – February 155 hours patrol, detailed with the listing of calls was presented by BV Co. Deputy Sheriff Nieland. Fire – Chief Erie reported a new volunteer fireman application, Jackson Zeman. Johnson motioned to approve 2nd by Shedd. Ambulance – Director Degner reported Newell had 4 calls, 3 were responded to in February. Degner addressed the council regarding disputes over the shared social media page with the fire department. After a lengthy discussion, the council vote tied due to Henrich’s request to abstain. It was decided that the 2 departments should settle the dispute on their own.Library – Board President Landgraf updated the council on the new library hours and stated an annual review was had of the Library Director Jensen Bodholdt.

**Park –** Musical Playground location is set northeast of the bridge/slide in park. All equipment will be in one spot. The city clerk will be getting quotes for the concrete base. Tree needs to be taken down prior to installation. New swing seats were installed on Southside. NF Baseball Softball Association brought an electrical bid to the council concerning the north diamond. Council asked the group to have another bid down and present at next meeting. The prior tabled Fence bid was tabled again until further information is obtained concerning an insurance claim. Council asked city maintenance to look at fence and see if it can be patched for now. Concerns on scoreboard’s protection was made. The association will contact sign company to see what kind of guard can be put in front of them. Pool committees Dale Schumann informed council of a potential solution to the current state of the existing structure. A company may be visiting the site to see if a certain membrane can be installed. Personnel committee looked over applications for summer help and will be contacting candidates. Golf Course sewer work is complete, Cleaning has been done, & flooring bid was motioned by Johnson to be accepted and 2nd by Shedd. Ziegler and Henrich aye while it was a nay from Nielsen due to lack of 2 flooring bids. City workers Lange and Cross will try and demo tiling to save money on the project. “Donate A Tree” program for the golf course will be researched by Mayor with potential of 3 options to choose from. Councilmen Ziegler brought to the table and motioned to increase GC Superintendent Wilson raise given Jan 1 for 3% to 4% Henrich 2nd, all ayes. Johnson requested that Wilson attend regular meetings for GC Updates.

**Public Works –** City Superintendent LangereportedFebruary’s water usage 2,610,000 gals, an average of 93,000 gals a day. Wastewater 2,329,000 gals an average of 83,000 gals a day. Transducer at wastewater plant is failing, company has been contacted as it is a made to order part, cost is $900. Tree work is down to 4 or 5 trees left then will move to stumps.

**Clerk –** Approval for Alcohol License change from 8 mo to yearly due to dram shop insurance renewal is the same day as opening. Motioned by Johnson, Henrich 2nd, all ayes. Update on City Code – First draft will be sent in a few months.

**Mayor –** Westergaard gave council an inventory sheet of police equipment and Nielsen agreed to look into a way to auction the equipment. The City Clerk said she would look into advertising the patrol car on government sites.

**Future meeting dates**– Public hearing for proposed tax rate 4/7/24 6:30pm with regular session to follow at 7:00pm, and public hearing adopting FY26 Budget 4/21/25 6:30pm.

Johnson motioned for adjournment, 2nd by Henrich, all ayes. Meeting Adjourned 8:42pm.