

The Newell City Council met in special session, Monday April 13th, 2026, at 5:30 pm in Newell City Hall with Mayor Justin Lyman presiding. Mayor Lyman called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Council Members Present: Billy Henrich, Denny Zeigler, Steve Taylor, Larry Nielsen, Quinten Robinson. Others Present: Tim Hanson, Jodi Rojas, Sarah Thompson, ambulance crew members & members of the public. Steve Taylor motioned to approve agenda and Larry Nielsen motioned for an amended agenda adding Park Board request for a concession stand addition. Motioned by Taylor and 2nd by Nielsen, all ayes. Hanson, Park Board presented plans for a 19-by-12-foot addition to the baseball concession stand. The Youth League Association is funding the project. Structure is on city property, building permit to be completed for record keeping, with the fee waived. The council unanimously approved the project with a motion by Henrich and 2nd by Nielsen.

Mayor Justin Lyman recommended Sarah Thompson-Fix for a 6- to 12-month interim Ambulance Director appointment, noting her medical background and willingness to help stabilize the service. Council also discussed the possible use of consultants who assist volunteer ambulance services with state compliance and reporting. Council will continue exploring whether BVRMC or other partners could provide similar support. Ambulance crew members in attendance expressed support for Thompson-Fix but raised concerns about public perception following a recent inaccurate newspaper article. They stressed the need for positive communication and renewed volunteer recruitment, noting the ongoing challenge of staffing. After discussion, Nielsen motioned, 2nd by Henrich, to appoint Sarah Thompson-Fix as Interim Ambulance Director. Thompson-Fix said her primary motivation is to ensure that Newell maintains its ambulance service, emphasizing that timely local response can be lifesaving. Mayor Lyman opened & closed the public forum at 5:56pm, no public comment. Motion to adjourn by Taylor, 2nd by Robinson all ayes at 5:57pm.

Heather Copp – City Clerk

Justin Lyman- Mayor