

**MINUTES**  
**North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting**  
**April 14, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**North Newton City Hall**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Ron Ratzlaff called the meeting to order. Those present and constituting a quorum were:

**COUNCIL:** Dennis Campbell, Gregg Dick, Monty Graber, Mark Jenkins, and Marissa Murphy

**STAFF:** Brad Harris, Jim Bethards, Mari-Ruth Juhnke, Greg Nye, and Pat Redding

**OTHERS:** Fred Schroeder, Andi Schmidt Andres, and Wendy Nugent

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the March 10, 2025 Regular Meeting were presented.

**MOTION:** Graber moved, Dick seconded, to approve March 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Citizen Comments**

No one spoke.

**4. Community Partner Update – Kauffman Museum**

Andi Schmidt Andres, Director of Kauffman Museum, shared about the history of Kauffman Museum. The Museum partners with Bethel College and has its own governing board. Kauffman Museum employs approximately 6 FTE and also uses many volunteers. The Museum has received numerous awards throughout the years and appreciates the support from the City.

**5. Consider authorizing staff to purchase a police patrol vehicle**

Chief Bethards received five bids and is recommending the City purchase a 2025 Ford Police Interceptor for a cost of \$58,915.82 from SERV. SERV has this vehicle in stock and Bethards reported it will be approximately 3-4 months until delivery. This new vehicle would replace the Dodge Charger.

**MOTION:** Murphy moved, Jenkins seconded, to authorize City Staff to purchase a 2025 Ford Police Interceptor Utility AWD from SERV for an amount not to exceed \$60,000. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Consider authorizing the Mayor to sign an amendment to the Fire/EMS Agreement with the City of Newton**

April 2025 Minutes

Harris met with the Newton Fire Chief and the finance team from the City of Newton regarding the budget challenge the current payment formula presents. Currently the City pays a ratio of projected expenses of the upcoming year. Newton has drafted an amendment which allows North Newton to pay a ratio of actual expenses from the prior year. So, going forward, the City will be billed in arrears and therefore pay the same amount in 2025 and 2026. This amendment will significantly improve our ability to accurately budget for this expense. Harris recommends the council approve this amendment.

MOTION: Murphy moved, Dick seconded, to authorize the Mayor to sign an amendment to the Fire/EMS Agreement with the City of Newton. Motion carried unanimously.

## **7. Consider amending Personnel Policy Manual**

Harris reviewed the changes to the Personnel Policy Manual at the recent work session. Since that time, he has drafted a gift policy. Mayor Ratzlaff suggested some edits to the gift policy and the redline version is printed out for council to review. Among the highlights of the updated policy are the addition of Juneteenth and Veterans' Day as City holidays, a number of edits to better align the policy with existing practices, recent changes adopted by the City Council, and the addition of a gift policy.

MOTION: Graber moved, Murphy seconded, to amend the Personnel Policy Manual with the edits to the gift policy. Motion carried unanimously.

## **8. Receive Strategic Plan Update**

Harris reported there are no action goals for April but he has been working on some of the goals for future months. City Ordinances have been handed over to American Legal Publishing for the codification process to start. Harris has had productive conversations with various land owners and wants to get this group together later in the year and share ideas.

## **9. Receive Financial Reports**

Redding presented April accounts payable and miscellaneous bills and March/April payroll for consideration.

MOTION: Dick moved, Graber seconded, to receive April accounts payable and miscellaneous bills in the amount of \$131,000.48 and March/April payroll in the amount of \$36,238.22. Motion carried unanimously.

## **10. Receive Monthly Reports**

### **a. Mayor and Council**

There was nothing to report.

### **b. Police**

Chief Bethards reported there was increased police activity as seen in the case report this past month. Bethards posted the 4<sup>th</sup> Police Officer position a month ago and there have been no applications.

**c. Public Works**

Entz was absent so Harris reviewed the Public Works report.

**d. Administration**

Harris reported that next week he and Entz will be out a couple days at different conferences. At the May Council Meeting a budget work session date will need to be finalized. Harris has some polos on display embroidered with the City seal or flag for council to view and give feedback.

**11. Non-agenda items**

Campbell attended the Kansas Rural Water Conference and stressed the importance of protecting North Newton's water supply. Graber thanked the Public Works department for their hard work during spring cleanup.

**12. Consider recessing to Executive Session**

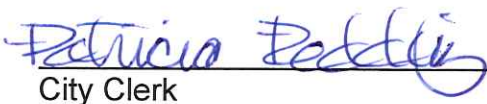
Ratzlaff stated an executive session is not needed.

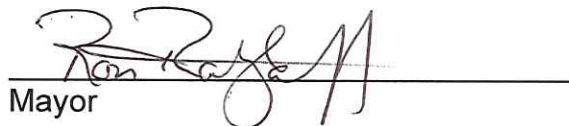
**13. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mayor Ratzlaff asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Dick moved, Campbell seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ratzlaff declared the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

  
City Clerk

  
Mayor

05/12/25  
Date Approved