

**MINUTES**  
**North Newton City Council – Special Meeting**  
**June 2, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**North Newton City Hall**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Ratzlaff called the meeting to order and read the request for a Special Meeting signed by three council members. Those present and constituting a quorum were:

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

**ABSENT:** Mark Jenkins

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

**OTHERS:** Cheryl Bishop and Wendy Nugent

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the May 12, 2025, regular meeting were presented.

**MOTION:** Graber moved, Murphy seconded, to approve the May 12, 2025 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Citizen Comments**

No one spoke.

**4. Consider the recommendation of the North Newton Community Foundation for 2025 Grant Awards**

Greg Bontrager, North Newton Community Foundation (NNCF) Associate Director, reported that the NNCF has five funds established with Memorandum of Understandings that stipulate the grant awards from these endowments must benefit the citizens of North Newton. The NNCF is recommending granting \$6,780 from the five funds to entities that benefit the residents of North Newton.

**MOTION:** Murphy moved, Dick seconded, to award the 2025 grants as presented by the North Newton Community Foundation. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Receive representative of Knudsen, Monroe & Company for presentation of the 2024 audited Financial Statement**

Cheryl Bishop, CPA with the firm of Knudsen, Monroe & Company, LLC, presented the 2024 audited financial statement and explained the governance letter and the management letter. She reviewed the financial statement and stated it was a clean audit. There were no budget or cash violations.

**MOTION:** Dick moved, Campbell seconded, to receive the presentation of the City's 2024 Financial Statement Audit by Knudsen, Monroe, and Company. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Consider appointments to the North Newton Planning & Zoning Commission**

Ratzlaff is recommending the City Council consider appointing Brian Walker and Mike Schmidt to the North Newton Planning & Zoning Commission. Tim Hodge's term expired at the end of April and Tyson Weidenbener is moving out of North Newton. Brian Walker will replace Tim Hodge and serve for a three-year term expiring April 2028.

MOTION: Graber moved, Murphy seconded, to appoint Brian Walker to serve on the North Newton Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Schmidt will fill the unexpired term of Tyson Weidenbener that expires April 2026.

MOTION: Graber moved, Dick seconded, to appoint Mike Schmidt to serve on the North Newton Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Consider appointment to the Harvey County Economic Development Council**

Mayor Ratzlaff recommends reappointing Dr. Jon Gering to another three-year term on the Harvey County Economic Development Council (EDC).

MOTION: Murphy moved, Graber seconded, to renew the appointment of Dr. Jon Gering on the Harvey County EDC Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**8. Consider adopting Ordinance No. 667-25 (668-25) updating City Fire Code**

Harris stated that the City of North Newton partners with the City of Newton for building inspection services and Fire/EMS services. The City of Newton has adopted the 2024 edition of the International Fire Code so now North Newton is asked to adopt this same code. Adopting the 2024 International Fire Code will keep us consistent with the codes that the City of Newton is referencing moving forward. There was a scrivener's error in the Ordinance no. which was corrected to 668-25.

MOTION: Dick moved, Campbell seconded, to pass Ordinance 668-25 updating City Fire Code. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Consider adopting an Ordinance amending times for 2025 fireworks discharge**

Mayor Ratzlaff stated that currently fireworks can be discharged in the City of North Newton on July 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to midnight. Since July 4<sup>th</sup> is on Friday this year, Mayor Ratzlaff would like to discuss if Council wants to extend the days to discharge fireworks in the City of North Newton. There was Council discussion and no action was taken.

**10. Discuss setting a date for budget work session**

There was consensus to schedule budget work session for July 7<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm.

**11. Consider authorizing a project to automate garage doors for the 5-bay garage**

Harris stated that upgrading the 5-bay garage with automatic door openers was discussed at the work session. Entz has received quotes and the lowest one is \$5,200 to install the openers and \$724.80 to

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perform the necessary electrical work. The Police Department uses one of the garage spaces so 20% will be paid for out of their asset forfeiture funds. The remaining balance will be paid out of the general fund, water fund and sewer fund.

**MOTION:** Graber moved, Murphy seconded, to authorize staff to spend an amount exceeding \$5,000 to install automatic garage door openers on 5-bay garage. Motion carried unanimously.

### **12. Receive May Accounts Payable and May Payroll.**

Redding presented May Accounts Payable and May Payroll for consideration.

**MOTION:** Dick moved, Campbell seconded, to receive May accounts payable and miscellaneous bills in the amount of \$102,986.52 and May payroll in the amount of \$48,550.42. Motion carried unanimously.

### **13. Reports**

#### **a. Mayor/Council**

Council members spoke about different issues and eye sores around North Newton. Harris stated that these issues need to be discussed in detail at a later date as they relate to City codes. There are a lot of different opinions and it could require passing new ordinances and making sure someone can enforce the ordinances. Mayor Ratzlaff inquired about using a street sweeper on City streets. Entz will look into different rental options.

#### **b. Police**

Chief Bethards stated the new patrol vehicle arrived last Friday. The vehicle will be in the Kidron Bethel Car Show next Friday. Bicycle Safety Day is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>. Bethards has ordered helmets and bike locks to be given away. Bethards reported on claims in the last month and the radar trailer statistics.

#### **c. Public Works**

Entz reported that Mayer Specialties is relining sewer lines between 23<sup>rd</sup> St. and 24<sup>th</sup> St from Edgemore St. to Main St. Public Works has spent a lot of time mowing, trimming, mulching, etc. to have the City look nice for Bethel Graduation and Memorial Day.

#### **d. Administration**

Harris reported that Civic Plus has migrated the content from the City website to the new website. They have provided a working prototype for the City to review. The City is partnering with the NNCF to hold an ice cream social to award the NNCF grants. The event will be held in Cottonwood Park on June 25 from 6pm – 8pm. Harris invited everyone to stop by. City offices will be closed on June 19<sup>th</sup> in observance of Juneteenth. The 2024 Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report is completed and on the City website.

### **14. Non-Agenda Items**

None presented.



**15. Consider recessing to Executive session**

Mayor Ratzlaff recommended going into executive session for a period of ten minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Council, Mayor, and City Attorney were asked to be present in the executive session.

MOTION: Graber moved, Dick seconded, to go into executive session at 8:00 for ten minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Council, Mayor, and City Attorney were asked to be present in the executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:10 Council returned back to regular session whereupon Ratzlaff noted that no decisions were made and no actions were taken during the Executive Session.

Mayor Ratzlaff recommended going into another executive session for a period of 13 minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Council, Mayor, City Attorney, and City Administrator were asked to be present in the executive session.

MOTION: Murphy moved, Dick seconded, to go into executive session at 8:12 for 13 minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Council, Mayor, City Attorney, and City Administrator were asked to be present in the executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:25 Council returned back to regular session whereupon Ratzlaff noted that no decisions were made and no actions were taken during the Executive Session.

**16. Adjournment**

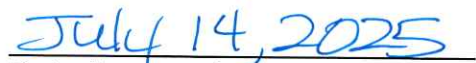
There being no further business, Ratzlaff asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Ratzlaff declared the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

  
City Clerk

  
Mayor

  
Date Approved