

MINUTES
North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting
May 12, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.
North Newton City Hall

1. Call to Order

Mayor 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, Danny Entz, Greg Nye, Jim Bethards, and Pat Redding

OTHERS: Aspyn Zhuang, Abbigale Trickel, Kelsey Wolfe, Kathy Campbell, Emily Schmidt, Zachery Schmidt, Gayle Wolfe, MK Smith, Laura Sharp, Amy Funk, Colin Potluri, Carter Murphy, and Wendy Nugent

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes of the April 14, 2025 meeting were presented.

MOTION: Murphy moved, Dick seconded, to approve the April 14, 2025 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Citizen Comments

No one spoke

4. Community Partner Update - RaileRobotics

The RaileRobotics team gave a PowerPoint presentation about their team, their competitions and awards and featured their two robots in action. They brought one of their robots, Big Octopus, and gave a demonstration of how it works. Every council member and staff member were handed treats from the robot. The team thanked North Newton Community Foundation for their donations that help fund the robotics program at Newton High School.

5. Consider authorizing the sale of the 2017 Dodge Charger

Chief Bethards reported the new patrol vehicle is on order that will replace the 2017 Dodge Charger. The Dodge Charger has been stripped of police equipment and is ready to be sold at auction.

MOTION: Graber moved, Jenkins seconded, to authorize City Staff to sell the 2017 Dodge Charger via auction. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Consider a Resolution approving a Special Use Permit for a bed-and-breakfast or similar short-term lodging at 304 Old Colony Court

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Harris reported the City received an application for a Special Use Permit (SUP) for 304 Old Colony Court. The request was to allow a Bed-and-Breakfast, or similar short-term lodging, at this property. The request was passed by the Planning Commission and it satisfactorily met the standards for issuance of Special Use Permits.

Mayor Ratzlaff opened the meeting for public comment. Laura Sharp, property owner, stated that the zoning regulations allow a maximum of four sleeping units. The house has five bedrooms so Sharp is asking that an exception be made to allow the use of all five bedrooms. The maximum number of guests would still be limited to 12 but all of the bedrooms would be able to be used. There was council discussion regarding this issue and the potential parking problems. Attorney Nye reported Resolution 402-25 states that guests park their vehicles in the garage or on the driveway. Harris stated that since the Planning Commission has already approved the SUP with a maximum of four sleeping units it will take a super majority vote by the City Council to change their recommendation.

MOTION: Murphy moved, Campbell seconded, to adopt Resolution 402-25 approving a Special Use Permit for a bed-and-breakfast, or similar short-term lodging at 304 Old Colony Ct. with the exception of allowing five sleeping units. Ratzlaff did a roll call vote: Murphy – yes, Dick – yes, Jenkins – no, Graber – yes, Campbell – yes. Motion carried four to one.

7. Consider rescheduling the June 9, 2025 regular City Council meeting

Ratzlaff stated he will be gone for the June 9 City Council meeting. There will be a number of important business items on the agenda, so it would be preferable to reschedule so he can participate. The first action required is cancelling the June 9, 2025 City Council meeting.

MOTION: Graber moved, Murphy seconded, to cancel the June 9, 2025 City Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

There was council discussion and it was decided that the June City Council meeting will be held on the 2nd at 7 pm.

8. Receive Financial Reports

Redding presented May accounts payable and April/May payroll for consideration.

MOTION: Dick moved, Graber seconded, to receive May accounts payable and miscellaneous bills in the amount of \$253,002.30 and April/May payroll in the amount of \$34,903.33. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Receive Monthly Reports

a. Mayor and Council

Ratzlaff stated that at the Central Kansas Community Foundation Spring Soiree Awards, Councilmember Murphy was recognized as the Newton Public Library Volunteer of the year. The late Kurt Friesen was recognized as the North Newton Philanthropist of the year. Both received a round of applause from the audience.

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Ratzlaff stated that at the June 2nd meeting, the dates and times that fireworks are allowed to be discharged in North Newton will be discussed. Ratzlaff also asked that further repairs to Witmarsum West be discussed.

Murphy invited everyone to attend the USD 373 Facilities Public Input Session on May 14 from 5-7 pm at Chisholm Middle School.

Campbell shared a list of items that residents have requested the City consider addressing in the future.

b. Police

Chief Bethards stated the Police Department is planning a bike safety clinic on June 14, from 10am-2pm at City Hall. There will be free gear, bicycle safety checks and bicycle registration available. The graphics for the new patrol car have been ordered and incorporate the City Flag color scheme. Bethards reviewed his incident report and stated he has had extra patrols on the Bethel College campus the last two weekends. This is National Police Week with a Police Memorial Service on Thursday, May 15. Officer Brian Rousseau will be recognized at the service at 11:30am.

c. Public Works

Entz reported that spring clean-up is completed and this year there was more trash/limbs to pick up than in previous years. He and Harris are evaluating the process and there might be some changes in the future. Entz reviewed his report. Staff has spent a lot of time mowing, spraying weeds and trimming trees along sidewalks and the bike path.

d. Administration

Attorney Nye stated he will edit Resolution 402-25 that was discussed earlier. He reminded everyone that court is rescheduled for this coming Thursday, May 15 at 4 pm.

10. Non-Agenda Items

None presented.

11. Consider recessing to Executive Session

Campbell recommended going into executive session for a period of ten minutes to discuss acquisition of real estate. Council and Mayor, City Administrator, and City Attorney were asked to be present in the executive session.

MOTION: Campbell moved, Graber seconded, to go into executive session at 8:25 for 10 minutes to discuss acquisition of real estate. Council and Mayor, City Administrator, and City Attorney were asked to be present in the executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:35 Council returned back to regular session whereupon Ratzlaff noted that no decisions were made and no actions were taken during the Executive Session.

12. Adjournment.

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

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

Ratzlaff declared the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.


City Clerk


Mayor


Date Approved