

**MINUTES**  
**North Newton City Council-Regular Meeting**  
**October 8, 2018, 7:00 P.M.**  
**North Newton City Hall**

**1. Call to Order**

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

**COUNCIL:** Jim Goering, Dennis Campbell, Paul Harder, Gregg Dick and Ron Ratzlaff

**STAFF:** John Torline, Danny Bisoni, Greg Nye, Randy Jordan and Pat Redding

**OTHERS:** Grace Wild, Fred Schroeder, Chuck Regier, Wendy Nugent and Joel Gaeddert

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of September 10, 2018 Council meeting were presented.

**MOTION:** Goering moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to approve the September 10, 2018, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Citizen Comments**

No one spoke

**4. Consider the Mayor's appointment to the Newton/North Newton Historic Preservation Commission**

Mayor Braun appointed Mike Schmidt to the Newton/North Newton Historic Preservation Commission for a three year term.

**MOTION:** Dick moved, Harder seconded, to approve said appointment. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Receive Andi Andres regarding North Newton's contribution to the Kauffman Museum Kansas Day Project.**

Mayor Braun reported this item will be moved to the agenda in November.

**6. Receive Chuck Regier for discussion on the planned North Newton entry way signs project.**

Regier has met with Torline and Irma Voran regarding possible entry signs to North Newton. Regier provided a handout with information about prior signage in North Newton and a suggested timeline for the sign project. Regier has designed the current sign at City Hall and the interpretive signs along the Trail of Two Cities. It was recommended that the entrance signs are designed to fit the thematic approach of the other signs already in place in North Newton. Regier reported that the most cost effective method to accomplish this venture would be to do a design build project. Councilman Harder stated that Bluestem is pursuing new signage so recommended we contact them about this

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project. Along with Bluestem, Council discussed the need to collaborate with the other entities in North Newton regarding the sign project. It was the consensus of Council that Regier come back to Council meeting in November with a proposed contract.

### 7. Consider going into executive session to discuss land acquisition.

Torline reported that he has been in dialogue with County Administrator Anthony Swartzendruber regarding the right-of-way along 36<sup>th</sup> Street where the proposed KDOT trail will be located. Harvey County is requesting that North Newton acquire the 36<sup>th</sup> St. right of way to within 3 feet of the driving surface. Torline and Swartzendruber have discussed annexing this land. The annexation would include a strip of land starting at K-15 and run all the way to Anderson Avenue. Included in this strip is the guardrail and bridge. Torline is requesting the guardrail and bridge be excluded from the annexation because the county has agreed to take care of the guardrail and KDOT maintains the bridge. Also included in this strip of land is the culvert that Al Vogts installed off 36<sup>th</sup> Street that leads behind the Everence building. The City would be responsible to maintain this culvert. The County is requesting a survey be done and the City will pay for it. Council was in support of the annexation and gave Torline permission to work out the details with Swartzendruber and City Attorney Nye. Nye reported that annexation will require County approval and an Ordinance.

MOTION: Harder moved, Campbell seconded, to authorize Torline to work with Swartzendruber and Nye regarding the annexation. Motion carried unanimously.

### 8. Reports

a. **Mayor/Council.** Mayor Braun reported that North Newton turned eighty years old on September 21. Braun attended the League of Kansas Municipalities Conference in Topeka this past week-end. Braun stated it was inspirational and a very informative conference. Following are some of the topics of the workshops he attended: healthcare costs, electric rates in Ks., summer interns and emergency preparedness. Councilman Goering reported that the North Newton Community Foundation's (NNCF) assets are approximately \$232,325. Goering reported that a new fund, North Newton Area Cultural Enhancement Fund, is in the process of being established. This fund will support a wide range of culturally-related activities in the North Newton area.

b. **Staff Update.** Torline reviewed each line item on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Treasurers Report and reported each fund is in good standing. North Newton is in a strong financial condition going forward. Torline stated the sewer fund is transferring \$10,000 monthly to the water reserve fund. Torline plans on recommending a rate adjustment proposal for our water and sewer rates at the November meeting.

Bisoni reported there was a major water break on Acacia at the end of September. The water tower was losing 300 gallons per minute so immediate action was needed. Within two hours the leak was fixed and water service was turned back on for about 12 homes in the area. PPJ completed the culvert replacement on Anderson. The Lakewood Circle project has been on hold due to the recent rain. Bisoni reported that 95% of curb and gutter are completed. Fall Clean-up Week is scheduled for November 5-9.

Jordan reported that he has been doing research on electric cars at the request of Councilman Goering. Jordan reported that Ford is making a hybrid police sedan that can travel 25-30 miles on a

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full charge. It is a 4 cylinder with gas mileage of 40 mpg. Jordan reported this vehicle is not pursuit rated and will not be equipped with radar, a dash cam or MDT. Councilman Harder stated that basically it is an administrative vehicle due to the absence of the above equipment. Mayor Braun recommended that Jordan do a cost/benefit analysis on the electric car since it will not have all the functions that the other patrol cars have.

Attorney Nye had nothing additional to report.

**c. Clerk/Treasurer.** Redding presented October accounts payable and September payroll for approval.


**MOTION:** Dick moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to approve the October accounts payable in the amount of \$72,994.39 as presented and September payroll in the amount of \$13,931.51. Motion carried unanimously.

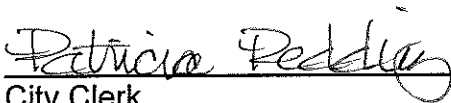
Redding reported the tree program started October 1 and ten tree coupons have been given out in the first week. Redding also attended the League Conference this past week-end and agreed with Mayor Braun that it was very informative. Some of the workshops she attended dealt with: Home Rule, sexual harassment issues in the workplace and employee benefits.

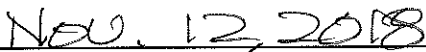
**9. Non-Agenda Items**

None presented

**10. Adjournment.** There being no further business, Mayor Braun declared the meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

  
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Date Approved