

MINUTES
North Newton City Council-Regular Meeting
October 14, 2019, 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 Entz, Greg Nye, Randy Jordan and Pat Redding

OTHERS: Grace Wild, Fred Schroeder, Justin McBeth, Kathy Campbell and Joyce DuBois (Newton Now)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of September 9, 2019 Council meeting were presented.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Goering seconded, to approve the September 9, 2019, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Citizen Comments

No one spoke.

4. Reports

a. **Mayor/Council.** Mayor Braun reported that North Newton hosted a meeting regarding drainage issues since the last council meeting and it was well attended. Braun has had three conversations with Newton City Commissioner Barth Hague discussing details of a sewer agreement with Newton. The conversations have been cordial and they are working towards a resolution. Braun affirmed the Harvey County Council of Government meeting and the Public/Private Partners meeting which convene monthly. These meetings provide a time for leaders in Harvey County to communicate and discuss current issues. Braun attended the League of Kansas Municipalities Conference in Topeka this past week-end. Braun enjoyed networking with other mayors and elected officials and encouraged council member to attend in the future. Braun has been asked to speak at Grand Central Station on November 7 to share about what is happening in North Newton.

Councilman Goering reported that the North Newton Community Foundation's (NNCF) asset balance is \$257,243. Funds remaining to be matched for 2019 total \$11,500. Of these funds, \$1,500 is available for existing funds and \$10,000 is available for new funds. Goering stated that this program of endowed giving truly is a legacy that keeps on giving!

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b. **Staff Update.** Torline reported the drainage meeting was well attended and gave residents a chance to voice their concerns to Angela Sharp, engineer from Bartlett & West. Torline made a trip to Topeka last week and spent a couple of hours with Sharp. They shared ideas and had productive conversations regarding drainage issues. Sharp requested some maps that Torline has provided her from the Harvey County Mapping Department. Sharp is compiling all this information and Torline expects a report maybe as early as the November council meeting. Torline spoke with Matt Graham from KDOT and he confirmed that the KDOT walking path project is on track for a December letting. Torline confirmed with COX that the fiber optic cable is in the process of being moved and should be completed next week. Torline also reported the charging station is installed in front of City Hall and up and running. Torline stated that we just finished the 3rd Quarter and continue to be in a strong cash position in each fund. The Capital Improvement Fund balance is inflated due to approximately \$700,000 in this balance from our recent bond issue for projects that have not been completed yet.

Entz introduced his new employee, Justin McBeth, who started a week ago. Entz reported that 27th and Bluestem will be paved this coming Thursday. There were lots of millings from this project so Entz and McBeth plan to spread them on the gravel streets around town. A tree fell over K15 this past week blocking traffic. Entz contacted KDOT and Westar and they responded timely and took care of the issue. Traffic was stopped for 2-3 hours while the area was cleared.

Jordan reported the charging station is installed and working. It's been discovered that the WIFI where the charging station is located needs a boost so it can track data. After this is completed the charging station will be fully functional. Officer Lowe and K-9 Elsa attended training recently and Elsa certified in tracking, illegal drugs and evidence search. Jordan reported on the data from the radar trailer at different streets around town. The results show the percentage of speeders, time of day, the number of vehicles and actual speeds of vehicles. Jordan is most concerned about the speeders on Minnesota Avenue and is looking into ways to remedy this problem.

Attorney Nye had nothing additional to report.

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

MOTION: Harder moved, Dick seconded, to approve the October accounts payable in the amount of \$92,273.92 as presented and September/October payroll in the amount of \$34,247.95. Motion carried unanimously.

Redding also attended the League Conference this past week-end and agreed with Mayor Braun that it was very informative and the networking is valuable. Some of the workshops she attended dealt with: 2020 Census, leading under stress and Co-respondents. A Co-respondent is a counselor or licensed therapist that assists the Police Department when going on calls that involve mental health issues. Research shows having a Co-respondent reduces the amount of emergency room visits and jail time. Redding encouraged council members to attend the League Conference next year as it is in Wichita.

9. Non-Agenda Items

None presented

10. Adjournment. There being no further business, Mayor Braun declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Ronald A. Braun
Mayor

Patricia Pedding
City Clerk

November 11, 2019
Date Approved