

MINUTES
North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting
January 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: Ron Ratzlaff, Gregg Dick, Jane Schmidt and Jim Goering

ABSENT: Paul Harder

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

OTHERS: Kurt Friesen, Grace Wild, Fred Schroeder, Kathy Campbell, Dennis Campbell and Yusuf Qamar

Mayor Braun stated he will switch the order on the agenda and discuss item #4 prior to item #3

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the December 11, 2017 regular meeting were presented.

MOTION: Goering moved, Dick seconded, to approve the December 11, 2017 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Recognition of retiring Council Member Jane Schmidt

Mayor Braun thanked Councilwoman Jane Schmidt for her dedication and diligence in serving on the City Council. He presented her with a plaque of recognition for her six years of service to North Newton.

3. Organization of the Council

- a. Installation of Newly elected Council Members
- b. Election of Council President
- c. Mayoral Appointments
 - I. North Newton Housing Authority (4 year term)

Certification of ballots cast at the November 7, 2017, election is as follows:

Council	Gregg Dick	391
	Jim Goering	365
	Dennis Campbell	284
	Nathan Murphy	265

Kurt Friesen	257
Write-in	5

- a. City Clerk Redding called on Dick, Goering and Campbell to stand and administered the loyalty oath for Council members respectively. They then took their places in the Council chamber.
- b. Mayor Braun asked for nominations for Council President. Dick nominated Ratzlaff to continue as Council President. The consensus of the Council was to have Ratzlaff continue as Council President for the coming term.
- c. No new appointments were made at this time to the North Newton Housing Authority. Mayor Braun will address these at a future meeting.

5. Citizen Comments

Dr. Qamar reported that he moved to North Newton last May and was not aware of the intangible tax. He feels like it is an unfair tax and is interested in learning more about this tax on interest income and dividends. Torline reported that the intangible tax has been in effect in North Newton for longer than 20 years. It is a 2% tax on interest income and dividends. In 2017 the city received \$36,000 in intangible tax which is the equivalent of 3 ½ to 4 mills.

6. Consider a Resolution describing the boundary of the City of North Newton.

Torline reported that due to the annexation of the water tower site in 2017 we are required to adopt a resolution to update the boundaries of the city. Resolution 355-18 reflects these changes and will be filed with the Register of Deeds.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Goering seconded to adopt Resolution No. 355-18 updating the legal boundaries of the city. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consider a Resolution exemption the City from generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for 2017.

Torline reported that this resolution removes the requirement that the city maintain fixed asset accounting on the city's infrastructure. This is done on a yearly basis.

MOTION: Dick moved, Goering seconded, to adopt Resolution 356-18 to exempt the City of North Newton from GAAP for the year 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Reports

a. Mayor/Council. Mayor Braun reported that Local Government Day in Topeka is scheduled for January 24. Braun also reported that lobbyist Bernie Koch will be working for the City again this legislative session.

Councilman Goering reported that the North Newton Community Foundation (NNCF) elected Kurt Friesen as the new board chairman. The current asset balance of the

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NNCF is \$217,350. Goering reported that all the match funds were used that the City made available for 2017. Goering recognized North Newton resident Jake Goering as he is turning 100 years old on January 12. There is a birthday celebration at Kidron Bethel Village on January 13 honoring Jake. The NNCF continues to advertise and spread the word about the purpose of the NNCF and the programs it supports. Goering thanked the City for their continued support.

b. Staff. As previously mentioned, Government Day is on January 24th and Torline reported that currently Braun, Goering and Torline are planning on attending. Torline invited other council members to join them. Torline reported that the city ended the year in a strong financial position.

Bisoni reported that this week Hiebert, Entz and Bisoni will be trained on the new meter reading software. The new system uses a cell phone to read the meters. Once the meter is read, the reading will be transferred to the cloud, and then downloaded to the software at City Hall. Once everyone is familiarized with the new system it should streamline the meter reader process. Bisoni was pleased to report that during the recent cold weather there were no issues with equipment freezing up at the sewer station and water treatment facility.

Chief Jordan reported that the pick-up truck that he reported stolen last month was recovered this past week-end. Jordan commended Office Lowe for his good police work on the case.

c. City Clerk/Treasurer. City Clerk Redding presented January Accounts Payable and December/January Payroll for consideration.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Goering seconded, to approve January Accounts Payable and miscellaneous bills in the amount of \$68,030.28 and December/January Payroll in the amount of \$24,816.58. Motion carried unanimously.

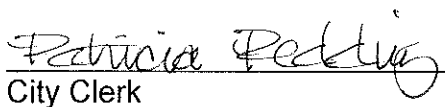
Redding reported that Hiebert has prepared the Treasures Report for 2017 and it will be published in the Newton Now later this month.

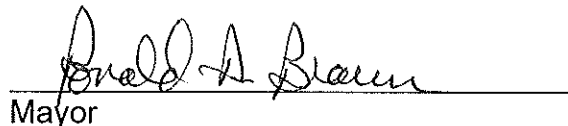
8. Non-Agenda Items

None presented.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business Mayor Braun adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.


City Clerk


Mayor

February 12, 2018
Date Approved