

MINUTES
North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting
January 13, 2020 – 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, Jim Goering, Gregg Dick, Paul Harder and Dennis Campbell

STAFF: John Torline, Danny Entz, Randy Jordan, Greg Nye, Cindy Hiebert and Pat Redding

OTHERS: Kurt Friesen, Grace Wild, Fred Schroeder, Joyce DuBois, Eldene Harder, Chris Riesen, Katie Schmidt and Gwen Neufeld

Mayor Braun added an item for discussion to the non-agenda items. City Administrator will ask for authorization of a cleaning project involving Kidron Creek.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the December 9, 2019 regular meeting were presented.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Dick seconded, to approve the December 9, 2019 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Organization of Council

- a. Installation of reelected Mayor and Council Member and newly elected council Member

City Clerk Redding called on Mayor Ron Braun, Councilman Ron Ratzlaff and Councilman Kurt Friesen to stand and administered the loyalty oath for Mayor and Council members respectively.

Mayor Braun then asked to move to agenda item 4 to recognize Paul Harder.

4. Recognition of retiring council member Paul Harder.

Mayor Braun thanked Paul Harder for his dedication and diligence in serving on the City Council. Braun presented him with a plaque of recognition for his twelve years of service to North Newton. Harder spoke briefly and thanked the mayor, city council and city staff for their support over the years.

Mayor Braun, Councilman Ratzlaff and Councilman Friesen took their places in the Council chamber.

Mayor Braun then asked to return to item #3 to discuss the organization of council.

3. Organization of Council

b. Election of Council President

Mayor Braun recommended Councilman Ratzlaff be elected as Council President.

MOTION: Goering moved, Friesen seconded, to approve Councilman Ratzlaff as the Council President. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Citizen Comment

No one spoke

6. Consider designating local financial institutions as official depositories for North Newton funds. Consider designating city signatories for such funds.

Deputy Clerk Hiebert reported the list includes all the financial institutions in Newton along with the Kansas Municipal Investment Pool. The city has funds at Union State Bank (formerly Midland National Bank), Intrust Bank (formerly First Bank of Newton), Central National Bank and Citizen's State Bank. Following is a list of the financial institutions:

Union State Bank
Intrust Bank
Bank of the West
Central National Bank
Citizen's State Bank
Kansas Investment Pool

The signatories remain the same and are as follows:

Ron Braun, Mayor
Patricia Redding, City Clerk
Cynthia Hiebert, City Treasurer
John Torline, City Administrator
Gregg Dick, City Councilman

MOTION: Dick moved, Goering seconded, to approve the list of financial institutions and city signatories. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consider a Resolution exempting North Newton from certain provisions of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for 2019.

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: Goering moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to adopt Resolution 372-20 to exempt the City of North Newton from GAAP for the year 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Consider the request of the City of Newton to help fund the Newton/North Newton Historic Preservation effort.

Torline reported Newton and North Newton jointly created the Newton/North Newton Historic Preservation Commission years ago. There are seven members on the commission and three are from North Newton. In 2019 the City of Newton eliminated the position of preservation officer due to budget constraints. Recently the City of Newton has hired a consultant on a part time basis to review cases as they are presented. Newton is proposing paying up to \$50,000 to the consultant and is asking if North Newton would help fund this position. Torline said in the past North Newton has given \$2,400 yearly to the historic preservation efforts. Torline recommended that if North Newton participates, it be at a rate of 8% of the invoiced cost and should not exceed \$4,000. The 8% figure has commonly been used between the two communities when cost sharing efforts are involved.

MOTION: Dick moved, Campbell seconded, to approve supporting the consultant at 8% of the invoiced costs not to exceed \$4,000. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Consider a request from Harvey County to participate in a Feasibility Study to construct a hiking/biking path between North Newton and Hesston.

Torline reported that Harvey County is retaining the services of MKEC engineering firm to investigate the feasibility of constructing a hiking/biking path between Newton, North Newton and Hesston. The cost of the study is \$7,800. Torline is suggesting we contribute \$2,000 to support these efforts.

MOTION: Friesen moved, Goering seconded, to approve a contribution of \$2,000 to fund the feasibility study to construct a hiking/biking path between Newton, North Newton and Hesston. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Consider a Resolution amending the Comprehensive Plan of Newton and North Newton.

Torline reported that Newton and North Newton share a comprehensive plan. As a 3rd class city we are required by state statute to review the plan every five years. Attorney Nye highlighted the amendments and recommends the council pass Resolution 373-20.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Campbell seconded, to adopt Resolution 373-20 which amends the Comprehensive Plan of Newton and North Newton. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Reports

a. Mayor/Council. Councilman Goering reported the current balance of the North Newton Community Foundation is \$457,078.84. All of the monies the city provided for

matching donations for existing funds in 2019 has been exhausted. Another \$10,000 was available to start new funds and this money was not used.

b. Staff. Torline reported that the owner of the Lippert Building contacted him and is open to granting the city an easement for our water line. Torline stated the sewer agreement with Newton continues to be in process. Staff is meeting this week to discuss some of the details. Torline reported the spring work session is coming soon. Two items of discussion will be park facilities and the flood issues. If council members have other agenda items they should contact Torline. Torline highlighted the year-end financial statement and reported that the city ended the year in a strong financial position.

Entz reported the air hose is hooked up and is already getting used. This air hose is a free service being offered to the public. Entz and McBeth have picked up Christmas trees again with today being the last day for pick up.

Chief Jordan reported that the electric charging station had 9 charges this past month for an approximate electricity charge of \$6.00. Jordan also highlighted the forfeiture report he is required to produce each year. The amount of forfeiture funds has decreased over the years and council asked why this is happening. Jordan stated that a lot of forfeitures are going through the drug task force now instead of our agency. Jordan also stated that he is diverting attention to other areas. The radar sign continues to be used around the city to remind citizens of speed limits.

Attorney Nye reported that he is the North Newton City Planner and has been working on a number of different issues. The first one was a Special Use Permit for an accessory apartment on 24th Street. Council has already approved this structure. Nye also prepared a variance for this same property which was approved by the Newton/North Newton Planning Commission earlier this month. Next month the Newton/North Newton Planning Commission will be considering an amendment to the Kidron Bethel Planned Unit Development (PUD) in Lakewood Circle. If the Newton/North Newton Planning Commission approves the amendment it will come back to North Newton Council for final approval.

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

MOTION: Dick moved, Campbell seconded, to approve January Accounts Payable and miscellaneous bills in the amount of \$324,817.08 and December/January Payroll in the amount of \$26,714.47. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Non-Agenda Items

Torline has been in contact with John Evans from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management regarding cleaning out debris from Kidron Creek. Evans reports this is a reimbursable expense as a result of the flooding last spring. Torline is asking the council to authorize staff to seek proposals for clean-up starting at 36th Street going south to the bridge on K15. Councilman Friesen stated we need to be mindful of properties downstream around Bethel College.

MOTION: Campbell moved, Goering seconded, to authorize staff to seek proposals for clean-up of the debris in Kidron Creek starting at 36th Street going south to the bridge on K15 and authorize the work to be done. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business Mayor Braun adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Patricia Pedding
City Clerk

Ronald D. Braun
Mayor

February 10, 2020
Date Approved