

MINUTES
North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting
January 11, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.
North Newton City Hall
Meeting via ZOOM

1. Call to Order.

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

COUNCIL: Dennis Campbell, Kurt Friesen, Jim Goering and Ron Ratzlaff

ABSENT: Gregg Dick

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

OTHERS: Wendy Nugent, Nathan Koontz and Josh Lowe

Mayor Braun added two items for discussion to the non-agenda items.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the December 14, 2020 regular meeting were presented.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the December 14, 2020 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Citizen Comments

No one spoke

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

Torline 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

January 2021 Minutes

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

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

5. Consider a Resolution exempting North Newton from certain provisions of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for 2020.

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: Friesen moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to adopt Resolution 378-21 exempting the City of North Newton from GAAP for the year 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Consider setting a date for a Spring Work Session

Torline reported the council typically has a work session in spring. Torline suggested the council schedule this meeting in March before he retires. Torline will report on where North Newton has been, where it is now and where it is going. Council supported his recommendation and the work session is planned for Tuesday, March 9 at 7 p.m. Council should contact Torline with items they want discussed.

7. Review of Year End Financial Report

Torline reported on each fund and explained the purpose of each fund. Each fund has a healthy balance to start the year. In summary, North Newton is currently in a sound financial position. Torline stated that declaring our independence with our water and sewer utility is the primary reason.

8. Reports

a. Mayor/Council. Mayor Braun reported that as was already mentioned, John Torline will be retiring end of March.

Councilman Goering reported the current balance of the North Newton Community Foundation is \$480,193.70. Goering has resigned from serving as secretary of the NNCF effective December 2020. Mayor Braun thanked Goering for his years of service and contributions to the NNCF.

Councilman Campbell reported the park equipment has been ordered. He has been in contact with Troy from Pro Fencing regarding ordering the fencing materials.

b. Staff. Torline reported that City Hall continues to be closed to the public. Staff continues to work in the office and residents can arrange to meet with staff by appointment.

Entz and McBeth have picked up thirty-four Christmas trees this year. McBeth has been replacing picnic tables and benches and built the handrail along the Kidron Loop Trail. Entz and McBeth installed the handrail and cleared snow and slush during a recent snowstorm.

Chief Jordan reported on two significant court cases in 2020. His patrol officers spent hours working these cases and interviewed lots of people. City Hall received phone calls this afternoon about motor bikes on the wood chip path and on the Kidron Trail Loop. Attorney Nye will research the issue of motor bikes on the paths and report back to Chief Jordan.

Attorney Nye had nothing more to report.

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

MOTION: Friesen moved, Campbell seconded, to receive January Accounts Payable and miscellaneous bills in the amount of \$232,061.33 and December/January Payroll in the amount of \$28,738.07. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Non-Agenda Items

Mayor Braun recommended the city contribute to the John and Diana Torline Endowment Fund in lieu of a salary increase. Since Torline is working after retirement, KPERS limits the amount Torline can earn each year. Braun recommended donating \$2,000 to the John and Diana Torline Fund in appreciation for John's service to North Newton.

MOTION: Goering moved, Friesen seconded, to authorize a \$2,000 donation to the John and Diana Torline Endowment Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Torline thanked everyone and stated this was an unexpected surprise.

Mayor Braun reported on the COVID Lighting Memorial that is planned for Tuesday, January 19 at 4:30. The Presidential Inauguration Committee will host a memorial to honor the lives lost to COVID-19. Braun recommended the council and city support this effort. Elected officials are encouraged to light city buildings, clergy is encouraged to ring bells and each person is asked to light a candle in their windows in a national moment of unity and remembrance. City staff will notify Bethel College, Bethel College Mennonite Church and Kidron Bethel about this event.

Councilman Goering reported that Harvey County Commissioner Ron Krehbiel passed away this week-end.

10. Recess the meeting to Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Campbell seconded, to recess the meeting to Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m. to be in person at City Hall. The only item for Tuesday's meeting is to entertain a motion to go into executive session to review personnel matter of non-elected employee deemed confidential. Motion carried unanimously.

Council meeting was recessed at 7:57.

11. Call to Order

Mayor Braun reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in person at City Hall on January 12, 2021. Those present and constituting a quorum were:

COUNCIL: Dennis Campbell, Kurt Friesen, Jim Goering and Ron Ratzlaff

ABSENT: Gregg Dick

STAFF: John Torline, Greg Nye and Pat Redding

OTHERS: Blake Spurney

12. Executive Session

Braun recommended going into executive session for a period of 20 minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel deemed confidential. Council, Mayor Braun, City Administrator Torline and Attorney Nye were asked to be present at the executive session.

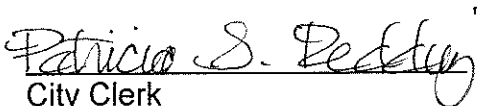
MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Campbell seconded, to go into executive session at 7:00 for 20 minutes to discuss personnel matter of non-elected personnel deemed confidential. Council, Mayor Braun, City Administrator Torline and Attorney Nye were asked to be present at the executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

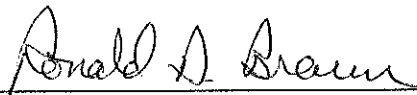
At 7:20 the Council returned back to regular session whereupon Mayor Braun noted that no decisions were made and no actions were taken during the Executive Session.

MOTION: Friesen moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to go into executive session at 7:20 for 10 minutes to discuss personnel matter of non-elected personnel deemed confidential. Council, Mayor Braun, City Administrator Torline and Attorney Nye were asked to be present at the executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

At 7:30 the Council returned back to regular session whereupon Mayor Braun noted that no decisions were made and no actions were taken during the Executive Session.

Council meeting was adjourned at 7:31.


City Clerk


Mayor

February 8, 2021
Date Approved