

**MINUTES**  
**North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting**  
**February 12, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**North Newton Community Room**

**1. Call to Order**

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

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

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

**OTHERS:** Yusuf Qamar, Elizabeth Hopp, Glenn Knak, Kurt Friesen, Grace Wild, Fred Schroeder, Tyson Miller, Ryan Goering, Katie Schmidt, Chris Riesen, John Stretcher, Ken Janzen, Nathan Murphy and Ray Strunk

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the January 8, 2018 Regular Meeting were presented.

**MOTION:** Dick moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to approve the January 8, 2018 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Citizen Comments**

Dr. Qamar reported that he feels the intangible tax is a punitive tax on the retired and elderly. Torline reported that the intangible tax has been in effect in North Newton for over 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.

**4. Consider Mayor's Appointments to the North Newton Housing Authority Board**

Mayor Braun appointed Nathan Murphy to the North Newton Housing Authority Board for a four year term.

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

**5. Receive representatives from Earles Engineering for a presentation of the status of the KDOT Trail Project.**

Glenn Knak and Elizabeth Hopp from Earles Engineering reported on the KDOT Trail Project. They showed a Power Point highlighting the trail and the obstacles they were working through. The area of most concern is where the trail crosses Kidron Creek along 36<sup>th</sup> Street. Knak stated there are three options and gave approximate costs for each option:

1. construct a low water crossing/\$25,000-\$30,000
2. extend the box culvert on 36<sup>th</sup> Street and move the trail to cross over at that location/\$45,000-\$50,000

3. construct a pedestrian bridge/\$50,000-\$55,000

Knak reported that the low water crossing would require more maintenance than the other options. The pedestrian bridge would be the best solution but is also the most expensive option. Mayor Braun expressed concern about the ongoing maintenance of the low water crossing. The council was in agreement that they were satisfied with the work of Earles Engineering on the design of the trail and gave permission for Earles Engineering to finalize the plans and specs and present them to KDOT. KDOT will do a field check and office check and then the project will go out for bid. No decision was made about the crossing at Kidron Creek as actual costs won't be available until the project goes to bid.

**6. Consider a proposed Administrative Adjustment to the Campus Woods Estate Planned Unit Development**

Attorney Nye reported that Kidron Bethel (KB) is proposing an Adjustment to the Campus Woods Estate Planned Unit Development (PUD). The Adjustment involves the construction of a pickle ball court in place of a duplex. Nye stated that it is appropriate to adjust the PUD since the intent of the PUD and the density of construction generally remain the same. There is no change in the grade or streets. The water and sewer all remain the same. Therefore Nye stated it is acceptable to take the request to substitute the pickle ball court for one duplex directly to the City Council for approval rather than taking it the Newton/North Newton Planning Commission for approval. If approved, Nye will prepare an affidavit that will be signed by the Mayor and filed with the Register of Deeds adjusting the PUD. The pickle ball court will be for public use.

MOTION: Goering moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the Adjustment to the Campus Woods Estate PUD. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Receive Tyson Miller of Kidron Bethel Village to discuss plans for a Pickle Ball Court as a part of the next General Obligation Bond Issue.**

Tyson Miller reported that KB is proposing construction of a pickle ball court on their campus in Campus Woods Estates. The pickle ball court would be for public use and will be adjacent to and accessible by the planned KDOT Trail Project. The court will be connected to the KDOT Trail Project with a six foot sidewalk. There will also be a water station for people and pets, a bench and bike rack. Pickle ball is a popular sport for all ages and is a combination of tennis, badminton and table tennis. The paddle used is smaller than a tennis racquet and the ball used is similar to a whiffle ball. Torline reported the KDOT Trail Project has funds budgeted for pause points which might include the proposed court. However, there might not be sufficient funds to cover these costs. Miller is asking that the City be willing to potentially cover ½ of the cost (approximately \$13,000). Torline stated this cost will be included in our next general obligation bond issue. There was some discussion about who is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the pickle ball court. This will be discussed prior to the start of the project.

**8. Consider a Petition and Resolution for the completion of Lakewood Circle and accompanying water and sewer lines.**

Torline stated that KB is petitioning the city to complete the street around Lakewood Circle along with installing water and sewer lines. The petition states that KB will be responsible for 100% of the assessment with the possible exception of the pickle ball court. The estimated project cost will be \$431,707.46 for streets, sewer and water lines and the pickle ball court and sidewalk improvements

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would cost \$26,258.64. The pickle ball court/sidewalk cost would be split with 50% assessed against the Improvement District and 50% to be paid by the City-at-large. The pickle ball court will be available for public use. Torline stated the pickle ball court could be paid for by the KDOT Trail Project funds if there are sufficient funds available or included in the bond issue. If it is included in the bond issue it would free up monies from the KDOT grant that could be used for other items like the pedestrian bridge. If council approves the petition the City would agree to pay ½ of the cost of the pickle ball court. As stated earlier, these costs would be included in our upcoming bond issue.

MOTION: Dick moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to approve the Petition for street, sewer and water improvements to be made to Lakewood Circle. Motion carried unanimously.

Gilmore & Bell prepared Resolution 357-18 authorizing the work to be done. Nye has reviewed the Resolution and council will need to approve it for the project to move forward.

MOTION: Harder moved, Goering seconded, to approve Resolution 357-18 authorizing work to be done on Lakewood Circle. Motion carried unanimously.

### **9. Consider an agreement with Earles Engineering for engineering services in connection with the Lakewood Circle Project.**

Torline reported that council is asked to review and approve the agreement with Earles Engineering to design the Lakewood Circle project. KB is responsible to pay the contract costs and has received and reviewed the agreement. The city is responsible to ensure the construction meets city building codes.

MOTION: Goering moved, Dick seconded, to approve the agreement with Earles Engineering to design the Lakewood Circle Project. Motion carried unanimously.

### **10. Discuss hiring a 4<sup>th</sup> full time Police officer**

Jordan presented a request for a 4<sup>th</sup> full time officer in November and it is on the agenda again for further discussion. He reported that there are three full time officers and five part time officers employed in North Newton. The five part time employees all have full time jobs with other agencies and so it is difficult to schedule them for many shifts. Jordan also feels it is important to rotate full time officers off of the night shift periodically which has been difficult to accomplish with his current number of officers. Jordan states there are between 100-185 hours each month that no officer is on patrol in North Newton. Braun stated that a decision will not be made tonight but he encouraged councils input on the matter. Council discussed the possibility of asking Bethel College to help fund a 4<sup>th</sup> officer. The council also had questions about the increase in crimes and budget issues. Torline reported that a fourth officer was not budgeted for in 2018. An estimated cost of an additional officer with salary, benefits and equipment would be approximately \$60,000.

### **11. Consider a date to hold a Council Work Session**

Mayor and council discussed possible dates for a council work session. A work session is tentatively planned for April 19 in the evening. It will be finalized at the March council meeting. Torline encouraged council to communicate with him about potential discussion items.

### **12. Reports**

a. **Mayor/Council.** Councilman Goering reported that the current balance of the NNCF is \$221,700. The 2018 grant cycle will open on March 5 and will close on April 2. There will be approximately \$10,500 given out at the Awards Ceremony in early June. Mayor Braun reported the KPTS 30 second segment highlighting North Newton will be airing shortly. Redding showed the segment on the projector for all to preview.

b. **Staff Update.** City Administrator Torline reported that the Environmental Fund has been established by an anonymous donor to address environmental concerns in North Newton. These funds could be used for prairie restoration, landscaping projects around the city, playground equipment, extension of walking trail, etc. The donor would like an advisory committee be formed and Torline has already contacted some potential members. An explanation of this committee will be discussed at a future meeting.

Bisoni reported that tomorrow they will start meter reading with the new Itron meter reader phone app. The app has also been loaded on Bisoni and Entz's cell phones so multiple people can read meters if necessary. Bisoni rented a milling attachment to grind bumps off of 24<sup>th</sup> Street that were left after the street was slurry sealed. Bisoni reported they picked up 32 Christmas trees following the holidays.

Chief Jordan had nothing additional to report.

Attorney Nye had nothing additional to report.

c. **Clerk/Treasurer.** Redding presented February Accounts Payable and January/February Payroll for consideration.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Dick seconded, to approve February accounts payable and miscellaneous bills in the amount of \$218,108.68 and January/February payroll in the amount of \$30,570.67. Motion carried unanimously.

**13. Non-Agenda Items**

None presented.

**14. Adjournment**

There being no further business Mayor Braun declared the meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Patricia Redding  
City Clerk

Ronald A. Braun  
Mayor

March 12, 2018  
Date Approved