

**MINUTES**  
**North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting**  
**March 12, 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:** Paul Harder, Dennis Campbell, Jim Goering and Ron Ratzlaff

**ABSENT:** Gregg Dick

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

**OTHERS:** Nathan Murphy, Kurt Friesen, Chris Riesen, Katie Schmidt and Ray Strunk

Mayor Braun added agenda item 3b, Ordinance 618-18 designating 30<sup>th</sup> Street as a trafficway connection, to be considered before item number 4.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the February 12, 2018, regular meeting were presented.

**MOTION:** Goering moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to approve the February 12, 2018 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Citizen Comments**

Katie Schmidt spoke about the beaver issue along Kidron Creek that was discussed at last month's council meeting. Schmidt is a horticulturist at Dyck Arboretum and spoke in favor of leaving the beaver population alone. Beavers live on the bank and build dams to hold water but these dams don't plug up the creek. She has observed that the beavers are taking down some small trees along the creek which is a good thing. There was some council discussion and it was suggested that we need to educate the public that we are aware of the beavers and the beavers are good for our environment. Councilman Ratzlaff suggested an article be printed in the upcoming ECHO addressing this issue. Bisoni agreed with Schmidt's approach.

**3b. Consider Ordinance 618-18 designating West 30<sup>th</sup> Street within the City of North Newton as a Trafficway Connection**

Torline reported that State Statute requires streets to be designated as main trafficways or trafficway connections in order for bond money to be used for improvement costs along these streets. Anderson Street is already designated as a main trafficway. Ordinance 618-18 is designating West 30<sup>th</sup> Street within the City of North Newton as a trafficway connection. Council will need to approve Ordinance 618-18 in order to include the city's portion of the trail costs in the upcoming bond issue.

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The ordinance refers to 30<sup>th</sup> Street and council requested that West be inserted before 30<sup>th</sup> Street whenever it is mentioned in Ordinance 618-18.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Harder seconded to approve Ordinance 618-18 designating West 30<sup>th</sup> Street as a trafficway connection with the above revision. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Consider a Resolution authorizing the issuance of Bonds to pay the city portion of the KDOT Hiking/Walking Path.**

Torline reported that we will need to seek temporary financing for pending projects including Lakewood Circle/pickle ball court, water lines to the water tower and along K & O Railroad and the KDOT walking/biking path. Council has previously approved resolutions authorizing debt for the first two of these projects. Now we are seeking approval for the city share of the walking/biking path project. KDOT approved our application for an 80-20 match for the project. The match applies to construction and inspection but not design, which is the City's responsibility. The total project cost is \$585,000 and KDOT has agreed to pay \$400,000 of the cost. The City's portion is approximately \$185,000. Following is the breakdown of the City's responsibility:

20% of the construction cost	\$102,676
Survey, design and specification	\$41,100
Sidewalk connection to North Woods Plaza	\$5,850
Equipment rental to clear the woods	\$916
Additional Cost for Pedestrian Bridge	\$35,000

The resolution authorizes the maximum debt authority for this project. Until bids are received and reviewed by KDOT we will not know exact costs.

The Resolution refers to 30<sup>th</sup> Street and council requested that West be inserted before 30<sup>th</sup> Street whenever it is mentioned in Resolution 358-18.

MOTION: Harder moved, Goering seconded to approve Resolution 358-18 authorizing issuance of debt in the amount of \$185,000 to be included in the upcoming bond issue. The resolution is approved with the above revision. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Discuss hiring a 4<sup>th</sup> Full Time Police Officer.**

Torline reported the issue of hiring a 4<sup>th</sup> Police Officer has been discussed numerous times in the last months. Torline stated that the city has budget authority and the cash to cover the cost of an additional full time officer. Now the council needs to decide if North Newton needs a 4<sup>th</sup> officer. Braun stated that Jordan has reported crime has increased and this is one reason for an additional officer.

Council asked why there were two officers on duty during the day when there are a lot of night shifts where no one is on duty? Jordan stated there are a number of reasons for this arrangement:

1. Officer Bethards has been working nights for two years. Research shows that individuals that work the night shift for long periods of time develop fatigue issues and have increased health problems. Therefore Jordan is having Bethards work the day shift.

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2. Bethards has administrative duties that need to be done during business hours.

3. Officers are required to receive 40 hours of training each year and Jordan had to file for an extension in 2016. Since there was no one else on duty during the day he didn't feel like he could attend conferences.

4. Jordan will turn 60 this year and he doesn't want to go into dangerous situations by himself if he is the only one on duty.

There was also a question about patrolling on I-135 in the evening and night time hours and what relationship this has to coverage in the community. Jordan said he wanted to discuss this in an executive session due to the confidentiality of the matter regarding the K-9 officer.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Goering seconded, to enter into an executive session at 7:48 for 10 minutes to discuss confidential issues related to non-elected personal. Attorney Nye, Torline, Jordan were also present at the executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

At 7:58 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.

Braun stated that council needs to be responsible to spend the city's money wisely. North Newton hasn't grown in population but crime has increased. Braun invited discussion from council members. Harder commented that we have discussed this numerous times and he recommended moving forward and hiring a 4<sup>th</sup> officer.

MOTION: Harder moved, Goering seconded, to approve hiring a 4<sup>th</sup> full time patrol officer. Motion carried unanimously.

### 6. Consider recessing into executive session.

There was already an executive session related to agenda item #5.

### 7. Reports

a. **Mayor/Council.** Mayor Braun reported that council work session is tentatively scheduled for April 19. Councilman Goering reported that the current asset balance of the NNCF is \$221,300. The grant application process is underway with the NNCF awarding approximately \$10,500 at the June 14 Awards Ceremony.

b. **Staff Update.** Torline reported that the work session agenda consists of water and sewer rates, incentives for affordable housing and an electric car recharging station. Plant materials have been ordered to landscape the front of city hall. The triangle of prairie restoration between I-135 and 36<sup>th</sup> Street will be burned in the near future. CD rate have risen so the City invested in one at First Bank this past week. Torline stated this month marks his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the City.

Bisoni explained the annual Water Loss Report for 2017. Any number under 10% is good and according to his calculation the City lost 7% which he is very pleased with. Council had questions on ways we could lower this number. Bisoni said that most water is lost due to

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old meters that aren't registering properly. As we replace water meters we install smart meters. We plan to continue to do this but it is costly procedure. Bisoni and Entz used quite a bit of salt, sand and brine over the last month. They have used the street sweeper to pick up the sand left on the streets. Clean-up week is scheduled for April 9-13.

Chief Jordan reported that he appreciates the efforts of Bisoni and Entz to keep the streets clear during snow and ice storms. There were no accidents reported during these storms.

Attorney Nye had nothing more to report.

**c. Clerk/Treasurer.** Redding presented March Accounts Payable and February/March payroll for consideration.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Campbell seconded, to approve March accounts payable and miscellaneous bills in the amount of \$528,363.07 and February/March payroll in the amount of \$24,945.27. Motion carried unanimously.

**8. Non-Agenda Items**

None presented.

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business Mayor Ron Braun declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Patricia Redding  
City Clerk

Ronald D. Braun  
Mayor

April 9, 2018  
Date Approved