

**MINUTES**  
**North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting**  
**March 11, 2019 – 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:** Fred Schroeder, Brad Mahoney, Homer Goering, Grace Wild and Adam Strunk

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the February 11, 2019, regular meeting were presented.

**MOTION:** Harder moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to approve the February 11, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Citizen Comments**

Councilman Goering introduced his brother, Homer Goering, who was in the audience. Homer and his wife Mary moved to North Newton from Austin, Texas.

**4. Consider a Resolution authorizing sale of the Bonds and redemption of Series 2018 Temporary Notes.**

The upcoming bond issue includes seven different projects totaling \$1,615,000. Torline reported that council has already approved each individual project. In June 2018, the City issued \$930,000 in temporary notes to finance the projects that were in the process of being completed. Resolution 368-19 authorizes the sale of General Obligation Bonds and the redemption of these temporary notes. Torline stated that some of the projects are assessment projects and some city at large projects. Approximately \$800,000 of the total amount is city projects which might result in a slight mill levy increase. If Resolution 368-19 is authorized the bonds will go out for bid and the bids opened on April 8 at 10:00 am. The bids will then be brought to council that evening for approval. The bonds will mature in fifteen years.

**MOTION:** Goering moved, Ratzlaff seconded to approve Resolution 368-19 authorizing the sale of General Obligation Bonds and the redemption of temporary notes. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Consider authorizing the 24<sup>th</sup> Street/36<sup>th</sup> Street Water Line Projects to go to bid.**

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Brad Mahoney from Earles Engineering reported that the 36<sup>th</sup> Street project consists of a water line running from North Woods Plaza along 36<sup>th</sup> Street to the water tower. The 24<sup>th</sup> Street project will connect the water lines at Anderson Avenue and 24<sup>th</sup> Street. The new pipeline will eliminate some old pipes, abandon Newton's water lines while maintaining the loop system. This water line crosses under the Railroad so we are in the process of obtaining a permit from K & O Railroad. The City also needs an easement from Lippert Components before starting the project. Once these two items have been received the construction phase can begin.

MOTION: Harder moved, Campbell seconded, to authorize Earles Engineering to move forward with the bidding process. Motion carried unanimously.

### **6. Consider entering into a three year contract for sewer cleaning and televising.**

Bisoni reported that three years ago most of the sewer lines were cleaned and televised. This was done prior to our sewage being pumped to Hesston. As a result we did replace some damaged pipes that were identified when televised. KDHE recommends cleaning pipes every three years. Bisoni received two bids for cleaning and televising. These bids cover three years of cleaning and televising. Each year 1/3 of the sewer lines will be cleaned and 15% of this third will be televised. Bisoni will determine which areas are televised. The bids received were from Mayer Specialty Service and Utility Maintenance. The bids are very similar but Bisoni recommended going with Mayer Specialty Service. We have used them in the past and have been pleased with their work. Many of the small cities in our area use them and Bisoni heard only good reports when checking with these cities about their services.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Campbell seconded, to approve a one year contract with Mayer Specialty Service to clean and televise the city's sewer lines. This contract can be renewed annually. Motion carried unanimously.

### **7. Reports**

**a. Mayor/Council.** Councilman Goering reported that the current asset balance of the NNCF is \$242,690. The grant application process is underway with the NNCF awarding approximately \$8,800 at the Awards Ceremony to be held in June. Councilman Ratzlaff reported that REAP is focusing on attracting more flights through Eisenhower Airport. Another topic of discussion is agriculture in the south central part of Kansas.

**b. Staff Update.** Torline reported that the city has invested in numerous CD's with staggering maturity dates. With interest rates increasing, this will provide significant increase in interest income for the City. Torline stated that he spoke with Representative Tim Hodge regarding Tim's proposed legislation that would require cities to inform citizens when transferring money out of the water and sewer fund. Torline went on to explain that this would be difficult for us as we sometimes transfer a lump sum of money in December depending on our cash carryover requirements. Torline also reported that IdeaTek has contacted him regarding a franchise agreement to put fiber optic cables in our right-of-ways. Moundridge already has an agreement with IdeaTek so Torline talked to their City Administrator, Randy Frazier. Frazier said they haven't had any issues with IdeaTek and receive a 5% franchise fee. Torline stated this would not be an exclusive agreement. The installation of fiber optics would produce more rapid internet connections to the citizens and businesses of North Newton. Attorney Nye will work on an agreement with IdeaTek to be discussed at the April council meeting.

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Bisoni reported that the city equipment performed flawlessly during the various snow and ice storms this winter. Bisoni stated he used twice as much salt and brine as was used last year. He used the snow plow for the first time in a couple of years. Mayor Braun thanked Danny Bisoni and Danny Entz for their work to keep the streets clear throughout the numerous ice and snow events.

Chief Jordan also expressed appreciation of Bisoni and Entz for their efforts in keeping the streets clear during snow and ice storms. There were no accidents reported during these storms. Jordan reported that he and Officer Lowe attended a very informative training on domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking etc. A lot of times these incidents are not reported. Jordan emphasized the importance of creating an atmosphere where victims are comfortable reporting these crimes. Jordan also reported that two part time officers have resigned and Jordan isn't going to be filling these positions. It costs a lot to outfit each patrol officer and often times they can't work many hours due to their other full time job. This will create more times that no one is on duty in North Newton.

Attorney Nye had nothing more to report.

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

MOTION: Harder moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to approve March accounts payable and miscellaneous bills in the amount of \$63,747.99 and March payroll in the amount of \$13,840.71. Motion carried unanimously.

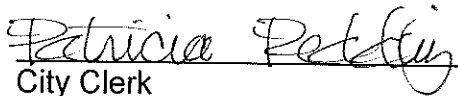
Deputy City Clerk Hiebert reported that she is working on the April 1 ECHO so please submit any articles to her this week. The April 1 utility bills will reflect citizens' re-averaged sewer consumption. Spring Clean-up week is scheduled for April 8-12. There will be a forum with Steve Meyer in April where residents can come ask questions and Steve can offer answers. This date will be finalized soon so it can be advertised in the ECHO.

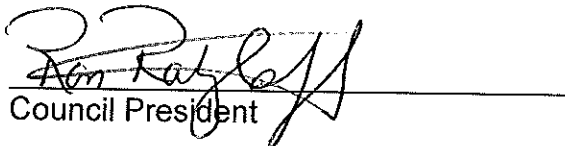
**8. Non-Agenda Items**

None presented.

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business Mayor Ron Braun declared the meeting adjourned at 8:13p.m.

  
City Clerk

  
Council President

April 8, 2019  
Date Approved