

MINUTES
North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting
March 9, 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: Dennis Campbell, Jim Goering, Kurt Friesen and Ron Ratzlaff

ABSENT: Gregg Dick

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

OTHERS: Fred Schroeder, Grace Wild and Joyce Dubois

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the February 10, 2020, regular meeting were presented. Councilman Friesen stated that he abstained from voting on agenda item seven so asked that the minutes reflect this correction.

MOTION: Goering moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to approve the February 10, 2020 minutes with the correction as stated above. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Citizen Comments

No one spoke

4. Receive Police Chief Jordan to make a presentation.

Police Chief Jordan recognized Officer Brian Rousseau for his work at the accident in south Newton that involved multiple vehicles, electric wires down, and severe injuries. Officer Rousseau's family was present to make the presentation.

5. Consider an Ordinance creating the Historic Preservation Commission and an Agreement with the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office. Mayor Braun will also be recommending appointments to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Attorney Nye stated that Ordinance 633-20 is a joint ordinance with Newton reestablishing the Historic Preservation Commission. Several months ago Newton disbanded the Historic Preservation Commission. Ordinance 633-20 reestablishes a similar structure and approves an Agreement with the State Preservation Officer. The prior Ordinance establishing the original Historic Preservation Commission will be revoked if Ordinance 633-20 is passed. Nye reported there are no substantial changes between the prior Ordinance and the new one. Ordinance 633-20 also approves the Agreement between North Newton and the Kansas State Historical Preservation Officer. Nye recommends passing Ordinance 633-20 establishing the Historic Preservation Commission.

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MOTION: Goering moved, Campbell seconded, to approve Ordinance 633-20 establishing the Historic Preservation Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Nye then addressed the Agreement between the Kansas State Historic Preservation Officer and the City of North Newton. Nye stated currently North Newton does not have any Historic Districts in the city. The Agreement indicates that if North Newton were to establish a Historic District, it would meet the requirements of State statute. The Agreement also states there are certain guidelines that we will abide by when we establish standards for such a district. This Agreement was reviewed by the Newton/North Newton Planning Commission. The Agreement will last five years and then will be reviewed.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Campbell seconded, to approve Mayor Braun to sign the Agreement between the Kansas State Historic Preservation Officer and the City of North Newton. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Braun stated that North Newton has three members on the Historic Preservation Commission. Danny Benbrook and Tyson Weidenbener were previously serving when the Commission disbanded. They have agreed to continue to serve and we have received applications for these two members. Mayor Braun stated that Mark Jenkins has also agreed to serve on the Commission. We are waiting for his application. Torline stated Jenkins has served as the Director of the Building Inspection Office in Newton for many years.

MOTION: Friesen moved, Goering seconded, to appoint Danny Benbrook and Tyson Weidenbener to the Historic Preservation Commission. Motion carried. Councilman Campbell voted no.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Campbell seconded, to appoint Mark Jenkins to the Historic Preservation Commission contingent on approval of his application. Motion carried. Councilman Friesen voted present.

City Clerk Redding will forward Mark Jenkin's application to Mayor and Council once it is received.

6. Consider an Ordinance approving an Amendment to the Planned Unit Development around Lakewood Circle.

Attorney Nye stated that Lakewood Circle is a Planned Unit Development (PUD) and so any changes to the footprint of the plan have to be approved by the City Council. The Newton/North Newton Planning Commission has already approved this amendment and now Council is asked to consider the same. Attorney Nye reviewed the old map, the new map and reviewed the Staff Report. Attorney Nye stated the PUD amendment appears to be suitable without any unresolved issues. Tyson Miller from Kidron Bethel reported that this project started in 2018 and since then the community center has been removed from the plans which has created room for private backyards and patios for residents. A pickle ball court has been installed by the proposed walking path. The new plans also redirect a drainage easement to allow for a utility easement. Mayor Braun opened the meeting for public comment. No one spoke for or against. Ordinance No. 632-20 authorizes the first amendment to the PUD for Campus Woods Estates Addition.

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MOTION: Campbell moved, Friesen seconded, to approve the PUD Amendment and adopt Ordinance 632-20 based on the Staff Report and presentation. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

a. **Mayor/Council.** Mayor Braun reported that he plans to attend a webinar tomorrow that the League is holding regarding the coronavirus. Braun also reminded council of the work session at 5 o'clock on April 13 prior to council meeting. There will be a light meal served. Councilman Goering reported that the current asset balance of the NNCF is \$471,490. The NNCF plans to award \$10,000 in the upcoming grant cycle. Councilman Friesen stated a citizen has expressed concern about having the electric charging stations available for charging vehicles only. The concern is that the stalls won't be available when needed. Councilman Campbell stated that a Board member from Bethel College Mennonite Church spoke with him about the parking issues around the church. Bethel College students park on the street in front of the church and then church members don't have adequate places to park for church services or funerals. This issue has been raised numerous times in the past and there was a lot of discussion. In order for this to be resolved there needs be cooperation on the part of both Bethel College and Bethel College Mennonite Church. It was suggested this be tabled until a later meeting.

b. **Staff Update.** Torline reported that the Legislature is considering getting rid of the tax lid in favor of a cumbersome notification process. The procedure would require each property owner be notified if the city proposes to raise taxes. The League of Kansas Municipalities and cities are opposing this legislation. Torline stated that Conservation Contractors cleaned out log jams and debris from Kidron Creek last week. Torline and Public Works Director Entz attended the KDOT preconstruction conference for the bike path a couple of weeks ago. The construction is scheduled to start on April 18. The contractors will have fifty five working days to complete the project. It has been suggested that we extend the path down Anderson Avenue to Wildwood Way and also extend the path to North Woods Plaza. Torline stated these two change orders would probably need to be separate projects since there are only fifty five working days. Torline reported the roof at City Hall is leaking and we have received quotes from Wray Roofing to fix the issues. Torline recommends pursuing a short term fix because there is talk of installing solar panels on the roof at a later date. Council discussed the issue and came to a consensus to authorize Torline to get the roof repaired for under \$5,000. Torline reported that he has met with Chief Jordan and City Clerk Redding to talk about the coronavirus and the steps we will take to ensure the city continues to function. Things are changing quickly and we are doing our best to stay on top of the situation.

Entz reported that Conservation Contractors cleaned up lots of debris from Kidron Creek. Entz and McBeth hauled eight dump trucks loads of branches and logs to our burn site. Mayer Specialty televised our sewer lines between the Coop and Chongs and found some cracks that need to be repaired. Entz is waiting on a cost for repairs. Entz has been flushing fire hydrants as a routine procedure. April 6-10 is our annual spring clean-up week.

Chief Jordan reported there were 20 plug-ins at the charging station in February compared to 10 plug-ins in January. Jordan put his second tank of gas in the Honda Clarity since purchasing the car last May.

Attorney Nye reported he will be out of the office next week.

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

MOTION: Goering moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to approve March accounts payable and miscellaneous bills in the amount of \$247,168.81 and March payroll in the amount of \$13,794.01. Motion carried unanimously.

Redding reported that census day is April 1 and census mailings should be in your mailbox soon. Please respond and encourage others to respond as well. In addition to the League webinar tomorrow regarding the coronavirus the League is also involved in a White House briefing tomorrow that will shed light on the situation. The League will keep us informed of the pertinent information.

8. Non-Agenda Items

None presented.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business Mayor Ron Braun declared the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.


City Clerk


Mayor

April 13, 2020
Date Approved