

MINUTES
North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting
May 13, 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, Gregg Dick and Ron Ratzlaff

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

OTHERS: Grace Wild, Fred Schroeder, Chris Riesen, Katie Schmidt, Kurt Friesen, Larry Becker, Vonda Brecheisen and Tommy Hornback

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the April 8, 2019 meeting were presented.

MOTION: Dick moved, Goering seconded, to approve the April 8, 2019 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Citizen Comments

No one spoke

4. Consider the Mayor's appointment to fill expired terms on the Newton/North Newton Planning Commission and the Harvey County Economic Development Council

Mayor Braun recommended Tyson Weidenbener be appointed to a three year term on the Newton/North Newton Planning Commission. Weidenbener has already served two terms but is willing to serve another three year term.

Mayor Braun has not found a replacement for Jim Goering on the Harvey County Economic Development Council to date. Braun asked Goering to serve one more month to allow Braun more time to find a replacement.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Campbell seconded, to approve Tyson Weidenbener to serve another three year term on the Newton/North Newton Planning Commission and approved Jim Goering to serve another month on the Harvey County Economic Development Council. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Consider the appointment of Mayor Braun for another term on the Public Wholesale Water District #17 Board of Directors

Mayor Braun's term is expiring on the Public Wholesale Water District. Braun stated he is willing to serve another term on the Public Wholesale Water District #17 Board. If council approves his appointment he will serve as President for the coming year.

MOTION: Harder moved, Dick seconded, to approve Mayor Braun to serve another term on the Public Wholesale Water District #17 Board. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Receive representative of Knudsen, Monroe & Company for presentation of the 2018 audited Financial Statements

Vonda Brecheisen of Knudsen, Monroe & Company, LLC presented the annual financial statement. Brecheisen explained the governance letter and stated there were no significant audit findings. She stated there were no budget violations and no violations of cash basis accounting laws. The City invested in CD's in 2018 and Brecheisen explained that the interest on one of these CD's pushed the balance over the FDIC \$250,000 covered limit. The amount that was unsecured was less than \$2,400 and has been taken care of so this won't reoccur. Brecheisen explained there was a misunderstanding with the financial institution as city staff had addressed this issue with the bank when investing in the CD and felt like it had been resolved.

MOTION: Goering moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to accept audit as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Brecheisen and Mayor Braun praised staff in their diligent work concerning the audit.

7. Consider a Supplemental Agreement with Kansas Department of Transportation increasing the grant amount for the North Newton Walking Path Project

Torline reported he was informed that KDOT will grant the City an additional \$296,000 for completion of the North Newton Walking Path Project. Bid letting on the project is still planned for July and construction is estimated to start this fall.

MOTION: Dick moved, Harder seconded to approve the Supplemental Agreement with KDOT. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Consider the recommendations of the North Newton Community Foundation for 2019 Grant Awards

Torline reported that the NNCF is anticipating awarding grants in June from the five funds that receive matches from the City of North Newton. It is a provision of the Sher Klassen Neufeld Endowment Fund, the Jim and Shirley Goering Community Development Fund, the Jacob D. and Beth E. Goering Charitable Fund, the John G. and Diana C. Torline Endowment for North Newton Fund and the North Newton Cultural Enhancement Fund that the NNCF recommend awards to be given. The North Newton City Council then considers the recommendation for approval. The NNCF is recommending granting \$5,780 from the above named funds.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the awards as recommended by the NNCF. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Consider a Harvey County Drug Task Force Interlocal Agreement

Nye reported that this agreement was approved a year ago and submitted to the Attorney General for his signature. The Attorney General has not signed the agreement and is requiring some clarification on what funds can be used for and how reporting is done. Chris Towle, Attorney for Newton, revised the agreement to include more detail. Chief Jordan and Attorney Nye have reviewed the changes and recommend Council approve the revised Agreement.

MOTION: Dick moved, Campbell seconded to approve the revised Harvey County Drug Task Force Interlocal Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Reports

a. Mayor/Council. Mayor Braun reported that he was interviewed by a radio station in the UK regarding life in North Newton. Parts of the interview were aired the next day. Braun reported the Harvey County Council of governments discussed the upcoming census in April 2020. The City needs to promote participation in the census as the results affect redistricting and allocation of government funds. The Public Wholesale Water District met in April and is discussing some critical issues. This is the 20th year of the debt service agreement which means the debt service is coming to an end and a new agreement is needed. The district is also working to perfect the wells and is in the process of reviewing rates for the future. Newton, Halstead, Sedgwick and North Newton are members of the Public Wholesale Water District. Braun also stated that election filing is June 3 at noon. Councilman Ratzlaff, Councilman Harder and Mayor Braun's terms are expiring.

Councilman Goering reported the NNCF asset balance is \$256,591. There is \$16,500 left to be matched from city funds. The 2019 Awards Celebration is planned for June 20 at Mojo's.

Councilman Campbell reported someone approached him about the condition of the Tot Lot. There are some repairs that are needed and the individual suggested trees be planted to provide shade.

Councilman Ratzlaff encouraged staff to consider hosting a Municipal Training Institute which are seminars put on by the Kansas League of Municipalities.

b. Staff Update. Torline reported that due to the heavy rains last week a lot of residents got water in their basements. On Wednesday morning Gary Embry, Hesston City Administrator, called saying Hesston sewage plant was overwhelmed and requested that North Newton stop pumping our sewage to Hesston. We stopped pumping to Hesston and Torline called Bob Myers to inform him that sewage would be flowing to Newton. We still don't have an agreement with the City of Newton so this will be something that is addressed in the near future.

Bisoni reported that spring clean-up is completed and it went real well. They used two dump trucks which helped the process move quickly so were able to finish in a week. Eleven dump trucks of trash were taken to the transfer station. Vogts-Parga has completed the culverts and sidewalk at Bluestem Street and Sumac Street. PPJ has also completed three projects which include repairs at the intersection of Bluestem Street and Wildwood Way and at the intersection of 25th Street and College Ave. and patching on Bluestem Street. Bisoni is recommending some additional patching near the college in preparation for the chip sealing scheduled later this summer. Bisoni and Entz rented equipment and cut a proposed path in the woods for the KDOT walking trail.

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Police Chief Jordan reported that the KHP car that was supposed to be available in early April is still not available. The car has reached 45,000 miles but will continue to be used until it can be serviced. There are eight cars to be serviced ahead of the Charger we have spoken for so Jordan thinks it might not be ready until June or July. Jordan is concerned that by then the car might have accumulated 60,000 miles. Therefore Jordan has cancelled the KHP car and is looking at other options. Jordan found a 2018 Honda Clarity plug-in hybrid in Oklahoma for a similar price and low mileage. There is an anonymous donor that will pay for a public charging station most likely to be located at City Hall. Jordan's Charger continues to have issues and currently does not have air conditioning. Jordan stated the Honda would be an administrative car and would not be outfitted with patrol equipment. Jordan is recommending the car be unmarked. Council had questions about the need for an administrative car and had concerns about the vehicle being unmarked. Mayor Braun stated that council would not oppose the car being marked but would let staff make the final decision.

MOTION: Campbell moved, Goering seconded to approve the purchase of the 2018 Honda Clarity. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Nye had nothing additional to report.

- c. Clerk/Treasurer. Redding presented accounts payable and payroll for consideration.


MOTION: Harder moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to approve May accounts payable and miscellaneous checks in the amount of \$233,801.64 and April/May payroll in the amount of \$27,985.81. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Non-Agenda Items


None presented

14. Adjournment.

There being no further business Mayor Braun declared the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.



City Clerk



Mayor

June 19, 2019
Date Approved