

MINUTES
North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting
July 9, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.
North Newton City Hall

1. Call to Order

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

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

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

OTHERS: Grace Wild, Nathan Murphy, Kurt Friesen, Fred Schroeder, John Waltner and Adam Strunk

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the June 11, 2018 meeting were presented. Councilman Ratzlaff stated that on page 3 the last sentence should read Bisoni will do some checking instead of Bisoni with do some checking. This correction will be made to the official minutes.

MOTION: Goering moved, Dick seconded, to approve said minutes with the above correction. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Citizen Comments

No one spoke.

4. Receive John Waltner to discuss North Newton's participation in the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP)

At 7:05 Councilman Paul Harder entered the meeting.

John Waltner stated that each council member should have a packet of REAP information and the REAP annual report on their desk. Waltner then explained that REAP consists of twenty-six cities and counties in south central Kansas. The purpose of REAP is to address issues of economic growth within the region. Some issues they have recently discussed are water quality and quantity, transportation and workforce issues. REAP provides an avenue for collaboration and discussions about regional issues that affect both municipalities and counties. REAP holds quarterly meetings in Wichita and there are annual dues. The annual dues are based on population and Waltner estimated that for a city of our size the dues would cost between \$450 and \$500. Wichita State University offers training to REAP members which is also included in the dues. Waltner stated the biggest benefit of joining REAP is engaging with others, forming relationships and developing networks. Waltner encouraged council to considering joining REAP.

5. Conduct 2019 Budget Work Session

Torline reviewed the budget memorandum highlighting each fund in the 2019 budget. The proposed budget has a 2.75 mill levy increase. Torline reported the main changes in this budget are the increase in the police department salary line item to fund the 4th officer. Also included in the budget is an

increase from 50% to 60% that the city will pay for employee health insurance and a 3% cost of living increase. These last two items will be decided by council in December. There was some discussion regarding staff benefits and ways to lower the mill levy increase. Mayor Braun stated that taxes pay for city government and hiring a fourth officer should be reflected in a tax increase. If we want to benefit the residents we should consider lowering utility rates. Torline stated tonight the council either approves or amends the proposed budget. The budget will then be published in the official newspaper and a hearing will be set for the August 13 council meeting. After the hearing, the council can either accept the budget or decrease the budget but can't raise the budget at that time.

MOTION: Goering moved, Harder seconded, to accept the proposed 2019 budget as presented and authorize publication and set a hearing for August 13. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Consider the Request of Kidron Bethel Village that would allow the use of City Hall as a gathering place in the event of a disaster

Torline reported that Linda Peters, Executive Director of Kidron Bethel, asked the city to consider an agreement between the two entities regarding a place to meet during a disaster at Kidron Bethel Village. This agreement would allow Kidron Bethel to use the North Newton City building as an emergency media gathering place during a disaster which effects Kidron's campus.

MOTION: Dick moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to approve the agreement with Kidron Bethel Village. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

a. Mayor/Council. Councilman Goering reported that the current asset balance of the North Newton Community Foundation (NNCF) is \$223,000. Of the \$20,000 in match funds provided by the City for 2018, \$14,050 remains to be matched. Ten thousand of this total can only be used for new funds that are created. The annual Awards Ceremony was held at the Meridian Center on June 14. There were approximately 90 people in attendance and was well organized and ran smoothly.

b. Staff Update. Torline reported that he, Bisoni and Redding met with Earles Engineering today and had a productive meeting. Earles reviewed the KDOT project estimates in anticipation of the KDOT field check meeting next Wednesday. Torline stated the Harvey County Road and Bridge Department overlaid 36th Street between the water tower and K15. Torline has thanked Anthony Swartzenburger and the County Commissioner's for their quick work to get this completed. Bisoni reported that KDOT paid the county for the asphalt used in the KDOT right-of-way on this project. Mayor Braun expressed appreciation to the County and KDOT for their quality work.

Bisoni reported PP&J Construction completed patch work on five different streets in North Newton and did a good job. Bisoni also reported that the culvert at Goldenrod and Anderson is giving way and needs to be replaced. There is a double culvert at this location and Bisoni is getting bids to fix this issue. At last council meeting Bisoni presented two quotes for inspection and cleaning of the water tower. Council asked him to get some feedback on the diving option. Bisoni has since received a list of references from Midco Diving and called five entities on the list and heard nothing but positive comments about their work. Midco Diving is also scheduled to clean a Harvey One tower in the near future and will give us a \$200 discount if we schedule ours at the same time.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Goering seconded, to approve the bid from Midco Diving to complete an inspection and cleaning of our water tower. Motion carried unanimously.

Jordan reported that on June 18 the Harvey County Drug Task Force conducted the first all-county criminal interdiction. Officers were on patrol from 7:30am to 3:30pm and conducted 75 traffic stops which resulted in six tickets and one warrant arrest. Jordan also reported that at the last Chief of Police meeting Jessie Kay from Prairie View was present to discuss the increase in calls where police officers are called on to deal with mental health issues. There was discussion about implementing a Co-Response program which means a police officer and a mental health worker would respond to incidents together. It was agreed that when officers encounter mental health problems on a call they will report this to Prairie View. Prairie View staff will follow-up with these individuals. This information will then be used to write a grant so the Co-Response program can be implemented in Harvey County.

Attorney Nye had nothing additional to report.

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

MOTION: Harder moved, Campbell seconded, to approve July accounts payable and miscellaneous checks in the amount of \$291,383.79 and June/July payroll in the amount of \$26,699.13. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Braun asked that REAP membership be included on the August Agenda.

8. Adjournment.

There being no further business Mayor Braun declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Patricia Redding
City Clerk

Ronald A. Braun
Mayor

August 13, 2018
Date Approved