

**MINUTES**  
**North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting**  
**July 8, 2019 – 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:** Ron Ratzlaff, Paul Harder, Jim Goering and Dennis Campbell

**ABSENT:** Gregg Dick

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

**OTHERS:** Grace Wild, Ed and Candy Klingenberg, Heidi Regier Kreider, Karen Kreider Yoder, Fred Schroeder, William Eash, Jay Hawes, Janet Hawes, Joel Gaeddert, and Wendy Nugent

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

A misprint was noted on Item number 7 of said minutes. 2019 should read 2020 in the heading. Thereupon Goering moved, Ratzlaff seconded to approve the June 10, 2019 minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Citizen Comments**

Heidi Regier Kreider addressed the Council about recent flood events. She reported that her home has flooded several times in the last 7 years. She spoke of the inadequacy of the Kidron Martin Canal to address current issues. She suggested that the obstructions in Kidron Creek, development in Campus Woods and climate change have worsened the problem. She also suggested that the City involve KDOT, the State and Harvey County in addressing the problem.

Joel Gaeddert addressed the Council and expressed appreciation for Councilman Goering's mentoring service as a member of the Harvey County Economic Development Council.

**4. 2020 Budget Work Session**

Torline reviewed the significant points of the proposed 2020 budget. As proposed the budget provides for a continuation of current projects and services with no increases in personnel. A cost of living increase and enhancement of employee benefits are included. A reduction of 1 mill is proposed. No rate increase in water or sewer rates are anticipated. There may be an increase in trash hauling and recycling rates based on increased costs that may be passed on by Harvey County. Following discussion, Goering moved, Harder seconded to approve the proposed budget for publication and set August 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. or shortly thereafter as the date and time to hold a public hearing. Motion carried unanimously. Harder commended the staff for their work on the budget and maintaining efficiencies that allow for the continuation of current services with a reduction in the mill levy.

## 5. Reports

- a. **Mayor/Council.** Mayor Braun noted that he will be meeting with Newton City Commissioner Barth Hague to work towards a negotiated agreement for emergency sewer bypass.

Councilman Goering provided a North Newton Community Foundation report. The current balance of all funds is \$246,533. The annual awards ceremony was held recently at Mojo's where \$8,700 in grants were awarded. Kurt Friesen will be rotating off of the Board. Mel Schadler is the new incoming Board Chairman.

Councilmen Campbell and Ratzlaff have been looking into possible park improvements including splash parks and other facilities. Council acknowledged receipt of an email from Marissa Murphy and others encouraging expansion of park facilities. Campbell noted the amount of debris in Kidron Creek that could be a factor in recent flood events.

- a. **Staff Update.** Torline reported that the bid letting on the KDOT path has been delayed until September due to needed revisions in the plans. He noted receipt by all of an email of interested young mothers requesting park and playground enhancements. He reported that the entrance signage project is moving forward after a slow start. In the absence of the City Clerk, he presented accounts payable for consideration. Thereupon Ratzlaff moved, Campbell seconded to approve \$234,024.63 in current accounts and additional bills presented during the absence of the City Clerk.

Bisoni reported that Circle C Paving will begin chip sealing the following day and should complete the east side of town in the next few days. Mayer Specialty Services will begin cleaning sanitary sewers on July 17 and will televise 10% of the sewer. The Bluestem overlay should occur in August.

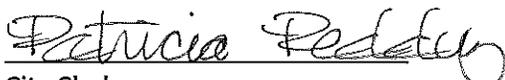
Jordan reported on the cost savings experienced with the new electric hybrid police car. He also commended Deputy Chief Bethards and Officer Lowe for their investigative work on a recent criminal damage to property case and financial abuse of an elder.

## 6. Non Agenda items

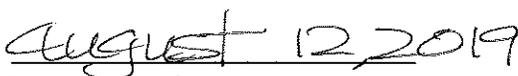
Mayor Braun noted that we will be busy in the future with the signage project, parks development, flooding issues, and electric charging station.

## 7. Adjournment

There being no further business Mayor Braun declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

  
City Clerk

  
Mayor

  
Date Approved