

**MINUTES**  
**North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting**  
**August 12, 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:** Gregg Dick, Ron Ratzlaff, Jim Goering, Paul Harder and Dennis Campbell

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

**OTHERS:** Homer Goering, Vern Goering, Kathy Benbrook, Danny Benbrook, Fred Schroeder, Grace Wild, Heidi Regier Kreider, David Kreider, Angela Sharp of Bartlett & West, Joel Gaeddert, Adam Strunk and Jay Hawes

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the July 8, 2019 meeting were presented.

**MOTION:** Ratzlaff moved, Goering seconded, to approve said minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Citizen Comments**

No one spoke.

**4. Conduct a Public Hearing on the 2020 Budget as Prepared.**

Mayor Braun opened the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Heidi Regier Kreider asked if there is money budgeted for the clean-up of Kidron Creek? Torline responded there isn't specific money budgeted to clean out the creek but there are funds available for minor clean-up projects. The city also has reserve funds that could be used for this purpose.

Mayor Braun closed public hearing at 7:06 p.m.

The proposed mill levy decrease is approximately 1.00 mill while still offering the same level of services and employee benefits.

**MOTION:** Harder moved, Goering seconded, to adopt the 2020 Budget as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Receive Angela Sharp of the firm of Bartlett & West for presentation of a proposal to provide a Flood Drainage Study**

Torline reported that residents have expressed concerns about the recent flooding events in North Newton. As a result, Torline has contacted Bartlett & West regarding a flood drainage study.

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Angela Sharp, engineer with Bartlett & West, drafted a proposal and reported on what it includes. The first step is to have a Public Hearing where residents can attend and express their concerns. It will be an information gathering meeting from both residents and staff. Sharp will then prepare a meeting summary including recommendations for prioritizing concerns for City review. She will also include an aerial exhibit map providing the location of each issue identified. Sharp is proposing completing the above services for a sum of \$5,000. The City can then determine an action list of issues for further research and possible flood mitigation design. These would be completed under a separate contract.

MOTION: Goering moved, Campbell seconded, to accept the Flood Drainage Study Proposal from Bartlett & West for a sum of \$5,000. Motion carried unanimously.

## **6. Consider the proposal for cost sharing the installation of a charging station at City Hall**

Deputy Chief Bethards was asked to research different charging stations and approximate costs. Bethards reported on two options: the first one does not charge the user a fee for electricity used and the second would charge the user a fee for electricity used. The first option cost is approximately \$4,000 and the second option is approximately \$10,000. Bethards stated we could start with the first option and see how much it gets used and then upgrade to the second option. With either option there will be one station with two chargers. The proposed spot for the charging station will be between the two parking stalls located directly west of the handicap parking place in front of city hall. There would be signage marking it as an electric vehicle charging station. It was suggested that since those are prime spots for people going to the Post Office we could also install a sign stating 5-10 minute parking unless charging.

Liability issues were discussed and Attorney Nye suggested contacting our insurance carrier informing them of our plans prior to purchasing anything. Security cameras were also discussed and it was decided this issue would be addressed in the future. Bethards stated that option two requires WIFI to install and also allows us to monitor the length and number of electricity charges. Torline said there is a donor that is offering to contribute \$2,000 toward installation which is half of option number one. Torline reported that if approved the monies would come out of the Equipment Reserve Fund.

MOTION: Campbell moved, Dick seconded, to approve purchasing option one for an approximate cost of \$4,000 contingent on insurance approval. Motion carried unanimously.

## **7. Consider approval of the 2019 Standard Traffic Ordinance and 2019 Uniform Public Offense Code**

Attorney Nye reported that every year the Standard Traffic Ordinance and the Uniform Public Offense Code is updated and council is asked to approve the changes. Nye summarized the changes to the 2019 Uniform Public Offense Code (UPOC) and recommended passing the 2019 UPOC version. These changes bring us in compliance with recent legislative changes.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Harder seconded, to adopt the 2019 UPOC giving it Ordinance No. 630-19. Motion carried unanimously.

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Nye summarized the changes to the 2019 Standard Traffic Ordinance (STO) and recommended passing the 2019 STO version. These changes bring us in compliance with recent legislative changes.

MOTION: Dick moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to adopt the 2019 STO giving it Ordinance No. 629-19. Motion carried unanimously.

**8. Consider the appointment of a voting delegate and alternate to the annual meeting of the League of Kansas Municipalities.**

MOTION: Goering moved, Dick seconded to appoint City Clerk Redding as the voting delegate and Mayor Braun as the alternate to the annual meeting of the League of Kansas Municipalities. This year the League meeting will be held in Overland Park on October 12-14.

Mayor Braun encouraged council attendance at the League Conference.

**9. Consider recessing into executive session to discuss legal issues.**

Mayor Braun requested going into executive session for ten minutes to discuss legal matters deemed privileged by the City Attorney.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Harder seconded, to go into executive session for a period of 10 minutes starting at 8:01 to discuss legal matters deemed privileged by the City Attorney. Those present were Mayor Braun, City Council, City Administrator Torline, City Attorney Nye and City Clerk Redding. Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:11 the Council returned back to regular session whereupon Mayor Braun noted that no decisions were made and no actions were taken during the Executive Session.

**10. Reports**

**a. Mayor/Council.** Councilman Goering reported the asset balance of the North Newton Community Foundation (NNCF) is currently \$256,749.00. Of the \$20,000 in match funds provided by the City for 2019, \$13,500 remains to be matched. Of this total, \$10,000 is designated for the establishment of new funds and \$3,500 is available to match donations to existing funds. Goering expressed appreciation to the city for its continued support.

Councilman Ratzlaff reported that Chip Westfall is the new chairman of REAP. Recent discussion topics are transportation issues and WIFI in communities. Some future topics that will be discussed are renewable energy, mental health initiative and workforce innovation.

**b. Staff Update.** Torline reported that he met with Gary Embry, Hesston City Administrator, regarding their splash park. Embry reported that the splash park in Hesston is well used and has not been a maintenance issue. The down side is the water is wasted. Torline also met with James Krehbiel and Tyson Miller from Kidron Bethel and they expressed interest in partnering with the City on a possible park on their campus. The Public Wholesale Water District (PWWD) meets in August and an agenda item for discussion is attaching our existing but unused water line to the Newton Mission treatment plant to the main incoming line from the PWWD. The idea is to reverse the flow and pump raw water to our treatment facility. The KDOT walking path letting date has been moved again due to a fiber optic that is buried near the pedestrian bridge.

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Cox and Earles Engineering are working on getting the fiber optic moved. The City is offering a tree program again this fall. The city offers 20 coupons that pay 50% of the cost of a tree with the maximum cost to the city of \$75 per tree. The trees need to be chosen off an approved list and planted in the front or side yard. A list is provided to the resident of participating nursery's.

Bisoni reported that the sewer cleaning project is complete and went well. As part of the project Mayer Specialty televised approximately ten percent of the sewer lines and no major issues were revealed. Chip sealing is also complete and the project went well. Most of the striping of parking spots on the streets that received the chip seal has been completed. Bisoni estimates the Bluestem overlay will be completed in early October. This project is estimated to take three days.

Police Chief Jordan reported this coming Friday evening the Police Department is hosting a barbeque for the Bethel College football team at City Hall. Jordan invited council to attend this event and help serve.

Attorney Nye had nothing else to report.

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

MOTION: Dick moved, Campbell seconded, to approve August accounts payable, miscellaneous checks and payroll related checks in the amount of \$172,219.74 and July/August payroll in the amount of \$27,140.48. Motion carried unanimously.

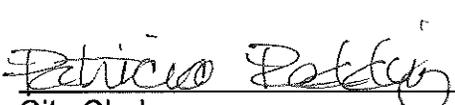
## 11. Non-Agenda Items

Chief Jordan reported that he has received numerous complaints of speeders on various streets in North Newton. Jordan is recommending the purchase of a Speed Radar Trailer that has tracking software to help inform the public how fast they are driving. The system does not have a camera and does not generate citations but will keep track of speeds and records the time of day. The speed limit sign is battery and solar powered. The purchase price of a pre-built Speed Radar Trailer is approximately \$10,000. Deputy Bethards and Danny Entz estimate they can build the speed limit trailer in the city shop for approximately \$5,300. Torline stated the monies would be taken out of the Equipment Reserve fund if approved.

MOTION: Goering moved, Harder seconded, to approve the purchase of the equipment to build the Speed Radar Trailer for a price of \$5,300. Motion carried unanimously.

## 12. Adjournment

There being no further business Mayor Braun declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

  
City Clerk

  
Mayor

  
Date Approved