

MINUTES
North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting
September 10, 2018 - 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: Ron Ratzlaff, Jim Goering, Paul Harder and Dennis Campbell

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

OTHERS: Chris Riesen, Katie Schmidt, Grace Wild, Kurt Friesen and Adam Strunk

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the August 13, 2018, Regular Meeting were presented.

MOTION: Goering moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to approve the August 13, 2018 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Citizen Comments

No one spoke.

4. Consider the Mayor's appointment to the Newton/North Newton Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Braun has asked an individual to serve in this role but has not received a confirmation as of meeting time. This item will be tabled until next council meeting.

5. Consider annual contributions to Bethel College Fall Fest and Hesston-Bethel Performing Arts.

North Newton has received contribution requests from Hesston-Bethel Performing Arts and Bethel College for their Fall Fest activities. Hesston-Bethel Performing Arts is requesting \$2,000 and Bethel College is requesting \$1,000. In the past we have given \$1,000 to each entity. Councilman Goering stated that Hesston-Bethel Performing Arts has also received grants from the North Newton Community Foundation in the past years.

MOTION: Harder moved, Campbell seconded to contribute \$1,000 to both Hesston Bethel Performing Arts and Bethel College for Fall Fest activities. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Reports

a. Mayor/Council. Mayor Braun reported on the Wholesale Public Water District meeting that he recently attended. The Wholesale Public Water District is comprised of four

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cities: Newton, Halstead, Sedgwick and North Newton. The entity is in good financial standing and has a healthy asset to debt ratio. The Wholesale Public Water District owns six wells and some are in the process of being perfected. In 2020 our agreement with the Wholesale Public Water District expires so prior to that time the council will need to evaluate if North Newton wants to continue its membership. Their next meeting is scheduled for April 2019 and before that time we will need to reappoint or replace a board member.

Councilman Goering reported that the asset base of the North Newton Community Foundation (NNCF) is \$229,128. There is an anonymous donor that wants to start a Cultural Enhancement Fund. The details of the fund are being discussed and will be formalized with the Central Kansas Community Foundation. Five thousand will be contributed by the anonymous donor and the city will then match that amount. Goering thanked the city for their continued support.

b. Staff Update. Torline reported that at the Wholesale Public Water District meeting a group of engineers presented information about the proposed changes to the Equus Beds aquifer. Currently the City of Wichita diverts water from the Little Arkansas River when the river flows are high, treats it to drinking water standards and injects the processed water into the Equus Beds aquifer. By doing this the City accumulates recharge credits to be used as needed in drought conditions. There are current water permit regulations in place dictating when the recharge credits can be used. The engineers are proposing some modifications to this process that would allow the aquifer to be as full as possible which benefits all users and helps maintain the aquifer's water quality. One benefit of keeping the aquifer high is it helps keep chlorides under control. Torline asked about nitrate infiltration and that doesn't seem to be a widespread problem. Improved farming methods are reported to slow down the infiltration of nitrates. The engineers reported that they see no significant adverse impact for the Wholesale Public Water District but rather these modifications could improve flow of the Little Arkansas River.

Torline reported that Chuck Regier is working on a proposal to design entrance signs to North Newton and hopes he will be here to present at next council meeting. Torline attended the REAP City Managers luncheon last week. Economic development was the topic of conversation.

Bisoni showed the video of the water tower cleaning and inspection performed by Midco Diving & Marine Services. Midco gave the water tower a good report and Bisoni was pleased with their work. Bisoni reported that his department has installed three new water services in the past month. The water and sewer lines are installed on Lakewood Circle but there is some water testing that needs to be completed. Bisoni and Entz are doing the inspection on this project. Vogts-Parga is starting to work on putting the street in to complete Lakewood Circle. PP&J have been delayed on replacing the culverts due to the wet weather. Bisoni received the lead and copper testing results and they are all well below the EPA standards.

Police Chief Jordan reported that Officer Wambold has resigned and Jordan has hired Officer Rousseau to replace him. Jordan introduced Officer Rousseau to the council. Rousseau has 18 years of experience as a patrol officer in Newton. The Police Department hosted a BBQ for the Bethel College football team on August 17 and it went well. Jordan reported over 100 people were served and the players and coaches were appreciative. Jordan and Torline met with Bethel College President Gering and Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students Sam Haynes to discuss policing the campus. The meeting was productive and both parties agree that having officers on campus will help with safety issues. There is progress being made

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on an agreement securing safety on campus but there are some differences as to how this can be accomplished. Mayor Braun thanked Jordan for his work on this agreement and for hosting the BBQ.

Nye had nothing additional to report.

c. **Clerk/Treasurer.** Redding presented September bills for payment.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Harder seconded, to approve the September accounts payable in the amount of \$241,866.19 and August payroll checks in the amount of \$26,276.43 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

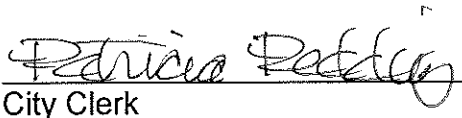
Redding reported hiring Bruce Funk as the new crossing guard at Northridge Elementary School. Funk started his duties today. Deputy Clerk Hiebert is working on the Tree Program which will start October 1. It will be advertised in the ECHO, on Facebook and on the website.

9. Non-Agenda Items

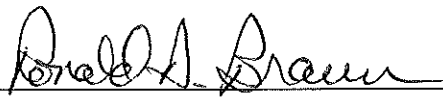
None presented

10. Adjournment

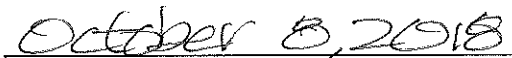
There being no further business, Mayor Braun declared the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.



City Clerk



Mayor



Date Approved