

MINUTES
North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting
September 9, 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: Ron Ratzlaff, Jim Goering, Paul Harder and Dennis Campbell

ABSENT: Gregg Dick

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

OTHERS: Candy Klingenberg, Danny Entz, Fred Schroeder, Joel Gaeddert, Chris Riesen, Katie Schmidt, Grace Wild, Kurt Friesen, Robert Yutzy, Mark Jenkins and Wendy Nugent

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the August 12, 2019, Regular Meeting were presented.

MOTION: Harder moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to approve the August 12, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Citizen Comments

Katie Schmidt spoke about her concern regarding the cigarette butts that are being thrown out around Wheatland Homes. Wheatland Homes is a smoke-free property so the residents smoke on the curbs and then throw the cigarette butts on the street or private property. She suggested installing a receptacle for cigarette butts. Chief Jordan will talk with the director of Wheatland Homes and discuss a solution to this problem.

4. Receive Chuck Regier for a presentation and review of the Entrance Sign Project.

Chuck Regier gave council a handout outlining the possible sign locations in North Newton as well as drawings of the proposed signs. Regier also brought a model sign that he explained to council in detail. He is recommending four possible locations for entrance signs and addressed issues with a couple of the locations. Regier recommends landscaping around the signs and suggested installing benches, water fountains etc. to create a place to rest. Regier also talked about solar lighting as an option so the signs would be visible at night. Regier reported the design stage should be close to completion in the next two months. He then will bring plans to council for approval. Councilman Harder expressed concern that the process was taking a long time and hoped that we could keep moving forward.

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

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North Newton has received contribution requests from Hesston-Bethel Performing Arts and Bethel College for their Fall Fest activities. In the past we have given \$1,000 to each entity. Councilman Ratzlaff stated that each entity is asking for additional funds over the \$1,000. Mayor Braun reported that both entities have received grants from the North Newton Community Foundation in the past years.

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

6. Consider a Special Use Permit for the property at 2422 North Main.

Torline reported that Mr. and Mrs. Robert Yutzy are applying for a Special Use Permit that would allow a 2nd story apartment at their residence at 2422 North Main. Their application was recommended for approval by the Newton/North Newton Area Planning Commission with the stipulation that there would be two off street parking places. Now the matter comes to council for approval. If approved, the Yutzy's would be allowed to construct an accessory apartment in their finished attic with a separate stairway and landing on the north side of the house. Both units would be required to meet all life safety codes and setback requirements. Council has received the Staff Report from City Planner Nye and draft minutes from the Newton/North Newton Area Planning Commission Meeting on August 5, 2019, when the Special Use Permit was considered. The council reviewed the staff report and considered each item contained in the report. There was council discussion regarding which street should have the off-street parking. Both K-15 and 24th Street are busy and it would be dangerous to have the parking along these streets. The council felt that it would be safer to have the off street parking off of Minnesota Avenue. Mayor Braun opened the discussion to those in the audience. Robert Yutzy spoke in favor of the Special Use Permit. The Mayor closed the public discussion.

MOTION: Campbell moved, Harder seconded to accept the recommendation of the Newton/North Newton Area Planning Commission to approve the Special Use Permit for 2422 North Main with the requirement of having two parking places with access off of Minnesota Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

a. Mayor/Council. Mayor Braun reminded everyone of the upcoming Election Forum to be held at Kidron Bethel on September 17.

Councilman Goering reported that the asset base of the North Newton Community Foundation (NNCF) is \$258,749. Of the \$20,000 in match funds provided by the City for 2019, \$12,500 remains to be matched. Of this total, \$10,000 is designated for the establishment of new funds and \$2,500 is available to match donations to existing funds. Goering expressed appreciation to the city for its continued support.

b. Staff Update. Torline reported that a meeting is planned for September 23 to discuss flooding issue in North Newton. Angela Sharp, engineer from Bartlett & West, will be in attendance to hear residents comments and concerns. At the recent Public Wholesale Water District (PWWD) meeting, Torline and Braun spoke of North Newton's proposal to run a pipeline to get raw water from the PWWD. No action has been taken on this issue but the member cities are aware of our proposal. Torline had a conference call with KDOT this past week regarding

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the walking path project. KDOT reported that they have accepted the engineer's drawings so we are still on track for a December letting. Torline plans for a spring project. The electric charging station parts are on order and it is expected to be completed soon. The city has received the \$2,000 donation for the charging station which is approximately half of the cost. Torline reported that this is Danny Bisoni's last meeting as City Superintendent as he is retiring on September 30. Danny Entz will be replacing him.

Bisoni thanked council for all of their support over the years. Bisoni has been with the city for 18 ½ years. Mayor Braun thanked Bisoni for his exceptional service, dedication and hard work. Braun welcomed Entz as the new City Superintendent.

Police Chief Jordan reported that the radar speed trailer is almost complete and he hopes to have it up and running at the end of September. Jordan also reported he received a grant from the Et Cetera Shop for \$5,000 to provide an interview room for adult victims of traumatic crimes. Jordan has rented a room in the Western District Building and is furnishing it with living room type furniture and a video camera to provide a comfortable place to interview victims. The room is available to all the agencies in Harvey County. Jordan expects the room to be ready in the next couple of weeks.

Nye had nothing additional to report.

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

MOTION: Goering moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to approve the September accounts payable in the amount of \$173,145.85 and August payroll checks in the amount of \$28,956.01 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Redding reported the Tree Program 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 8:32 p.m.

Patricia Redding
City Clerk

Bred J. Braun
Mayor

October 14, 2019
Date Approved