

MINUTES
North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting
April 8, 2013 – 7:00 P.M.
North Newton City Hall
North Newton Community Room

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 Jane Schmidt

STAFF: John Torline, Danny Bisoni, Cindy Hiebert, Greg Nye, Bill Koonce and Pat Redding

OTHERS: Kurt Friesen, Allen Wedel, Darlene Dick, Marlin Lichti, Mary Ann Boschmann, Jim Schwarzenberger, Taylor Redding, Ryan Goering and Mike Schmidt

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the March 11, 2013 meeting were presented.

MOTION: Harder moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to approve said minutes with the correction that Councilman Goering recused himself from voting on item 5. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Organization of the Council

- a. Installation of Newly Reelected Council Members
- b. Election of Council President
- c. Council Committee Appointees
- d. Mayoral Appointments
 - I. Newton /North Newton Planning Commission (3 year term)
 - II. Harvey County Economic Development Council (3 year term)

Certification of ballots cast at the April 2, 2013, election is as follows:

Council	Jim Goering	285
	Jane Schmidt	264
	Gregg Dick	256
	Kurt Friesen	144
	Gwen Neufeld	140
	Write-in	0

- a. City Clerk Redding called on Goering, Dick and Schmidt to stand and administered the loyalty oath for Council members respectively. They then took their places in the Council chamber.
- b. Mayor Braun asked for nominations for Council President. Goering nominated Ratzlaff to continue as Council President. The consensus of the Council was to have Ratzlaff continue as Council President for the coming term.
- c. Mayor Braun appointed Ron Ratzlaff to serve on the Park and Recreation Committee and Jane Schmidt to serve on the Street and Sidewalk Committee.
- d. No new appointments were made at this time to the Newton/North Newton Planning Commission or the Harvey County Economic Development Council. Mayor Braun noted that Roger Ahrens has resigned his position on the Harvey County Economic Development Council.

4. Citizen Comments

No one spoke.

Mayor Braun added Bluestem Communities request for release of two Easements to non-agenda items.

5. Consider the request of Bethel College and Bethel College Mennonite Church to install 4 hour parking signs in three locations.

Torline reported that Chief Classen has researched this issue and met with Allen Wedel from Bethel College and Mary Ann Boschmann from Bethel College Mennonite Church. It was decided that Bethel College and Bethel College Mennonite Church will pay for the signs and will pay Danny to install them. Bethel College will inform the students of the new signs and parking policy and the police department will strive to enforce it.

MOTION: Goering moved, Dick seconded, to approve installing six 4 hour parking signs on the streets around the Bethel College Church. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Consider a Proclamation declaring May 2, 2013 as "A Day of Prayer in North Newton".

MOTION: Dick moved, Ratzlaff seconded to adopt the proclamation. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consider a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an Agreement allowing North Newton to participate in the Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust (KMIT).

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Torline reported that our former Workman's Comp Insurance Company will no longer cover the city of North Newton. Conrade Insurance Group has recommended KMIT for our Workman's Comp coverage which is a group-funded pool for municipalities.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Harder seconded to authorize the mayor to sign Resolution 332-13 allowing North Newton to participate in the KMIT Workman's Comp program. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Consider the purchase of an Air Compressor.

Bisoni reported that North Newton has been renting an air compressor from Butch Schmidt for the past five years. Schmidt wants to sell the air compressor along with a jackhammer for a cost of \$5,000. Danny has researched costs of used air compressors and recommends that we purchase both of these from Schmidt.

MOTION: Goering moved, Schmidt seconded to purchase the Air Compressor and Jackhammer for a cost of \$5,000. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Sewer Rate Ordinance

Torline reported that the City of Newton does a bi-annual recalculation involving our winter sewer consumption and the result is a 22% increase of our sewer rates effective April 1, 2013. We continue to be in negotiations with Newton's City Attorney regarding the calculations and adjustments that the City is questioning.

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Harder seconded, to enter into an executive session for approximately 20 minutes concerning economic development and to discuss matters deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship. Attorney Nye and Torline were also present at the executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

At the expiration of said 20 minutes the Council returned back to regular session whereupon Mayor Braun noted that no decisions were made and no actions were taken.

MOTION: Harder moved, Schmidt seconded to pass the proposed Ordinance No. 569-13 increasing sewer rates by 25%. Motion carried unanimously. The council asked that Torline write a letter addressed to the City Manager of Newton and the City Attorney of Newton stating that we are paying the bill under protest. This letter will be signed by Torline and Braun and should be included in each payment until this issue is resolved.

10. Consider providing Matching Funds for Contributions to the North Newton Community Foundation (NDCF).

Torline suggested the City of North Newton approve \$2500 in matching funds for contributions given to the NDCF. This money would come from the general fund. The earnings from the NDCF stay in the community and benefit the citizens of North Newton. Mayor Braun recommended approving \$5000 in matching funds coming from the 2013 budget. Each donation would be matched dollar for dollar until the \$5000 is depleted.

MOTION: Dick moved, Schmidt seconded to approve a matching fund for contributions to the NDCF in the amount of \$5000. Councilman Goering recused himself from voting since he serves as the chairman of the NDCF. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Reports

a. Mayor/Council. Mayor Braun expressed his appreciation to the five candidates running for City Council for their participation in the candidate forum. Some issues were raised that the city needs to discuss so he suggested planning a council retreat this summer to address these issues. Mayor Braun also expressed appreciation to Roger Ahrens for serving on the Harvey County Economic Board. Councilman Goering reported the NDCF gave out its first awards on March 25. The three awards went to Bethel College for campus beautification - \$500, Community Playschool, Inc. for healthy snacks for enrolled children - \$400 and Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts - \$796. The asset balance of the NDCF is currently \$29,219.

b. Staff Update. Torline reported that the water line along Ivy Drive between 22nd and 23rd streets needs to be replaced. Danny is in contact with Mies Construction regarding the cost of replacing this. Bioni gave a brief report and also mentioned that Layne Christensen Company will be re-assembling our pump in the next day or two. Koonce gave a report concerning Police and Court matters.

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

MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Harder seconded, to approve April accounts payable and miscellaneous checks in the amount of \$105,925.01 and March/April payroll in the amount of \$16,161.38. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Non-agenda items

Bluestem Communities is asking the City of North Newton to release two easements currently on Kidron Bethel Village campus. Danny has researched

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this issue and found no utilities in these easements. Attorney Nye recommends that we release these two easements.

MOTION: Dick moved, Schmidt seconded, to approve releasing these two easements on the campus of Kidron Bethel. Councilman Harder and Goering recused themselves from voting because they serve on the Board of Directors at Kidron Bethel. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjournment.

There being no further business Mayor Braun declared the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Patricia Pelling
City Clerk

Paul D. Braun
Mayor

5-13-13
Date Approved