

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
June 26, 2018

The Newton City Commission convened in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on June 26, 2018 at City Hall, 201 East 6th Street. Attending were Mayor Valentine, Vice Mayor Koehn, Commissioners Davis, Hague, and Kreie, City Manager Myers, City Attorney Towle, City Engineer/DPW Loomis, Director of Finance Pickman, Director of Communications McDaniel, Chief Metzler, Chief Murphy and City Clerk Duerksen. Assistant City Manager McElroy was absent.

Pastor Jeanne Bergren, Golden Plains Free Methodist Church, provided the invocation. The Mayor then led in the Pledge of Allegiance and presided over the items of business.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consider approval of the minutes of the June 12 work session and regular meeting.**
- 2. Mayor's appointment: Harvey/McPherson County Community Corrections Advisory Board - Rosa Barrera, term ending 6-30-2021.**

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 3. Recognition of community service and achievement:**
 - A. Recognize Deb Perbeck for being selected as a recipient of Wichita Business Journals 2018 HR Professionals Award.**

Deb Perbeck, Newton HR Director, was recognized for being selected as a recipient of the Wichita Business Journals 2018 HR Professionals Award. Those honored are from throughout the Wichita metropolitan area and, as noted by the WBJ, the honorees are selected "for their career achievement and their efforts to advance the human resources profession."

- 4. Receive a special event request to waive fees for dumpsters at Washington Park and Athletic Park for the Mexican/American fast pitch tournament.**

MOTION: Vice Mayor Koehn moved and Commissioner Davis seconded to waive fees and approve the request. Motion carried.

- 5. Receive an update on the Best of Newton photo contest.**

The Best of Newton Photo Contest will have an additional category this year, Newton Explorer. It will be for photos taken of the Newton sites featured in the [Kansas Guidebook 2 for](#)

Explorers. Winners will have their photos printed on canvas and hung in the hallway at the Meridian Center. Information on the contest will be coming in the next couple of weeks.

6. Outside agency budget request:

A. Caring Hands Humane Society

Kevin Stubbs with Caring Hands Humane Society presented their budget request. This year they are asking for a five percent increase from the City for a total of \$47,000. They will also be increasing their daily boarding fees, from \$15.00 to \$17.50, for animals that are ordered to be held beyond the three days for bite holds or neglect cases.

B. Grand Central

Betty Lanzrath, Grand Central Board Chair, presented their budget request. They are asking for a total of \$25,000 with \$10,000 of that being for the heating and air conditioning project. They have spread this project over a number of years. They continue to do fundraising and grant applications and receive donor contributions.

C. Harvey County Economic Development Council

Beth Shelton, EDC Director, presented their budget request. They are asking for \$135,000, which brings them back to their base funding amount that was cut a few years ago. The Greater Wichita Partnership has asked the EDC to contribute to their mission if they are at the table. The GWP provides research and expertise on projects that staff cannot do.

D. Health Ministries Clinic

Matt Schmidt, Harvey County Health Ministries Clinic, presented their budget request of \$40,000. These dollars will be used for the costs of services patients cannot cover. Health Ministries is still a 501c3, governed by a local board, and still has the same mission to provide access to healthcare services regardless if patients have insurance or not. Leveraging local support helps them to receive significant levels of federal, state and foundation dollars.

7. City Manager's Update.

- A list of upcoming events in Newton was shared, highlighting the 70th Annual Mexican/American fast pitch tournament July 6-8.
- Newton Fire/EMS provided mutual aid for the Andale church fire.
- Staff met with the various youth softball/baseball users regarding the future of Centennial Park.
- A joint meeting with the NRC and Commission was held to discuss the swimming pool. Staff developed a list of things that need/could be done. A survey will be done to get feedback from the community on the future of the pool.
- Negotiations have begun with Kemper Sports on possible contract changes to help with the capital improvements for both Sand Creek Station and the Meridian Center.

- The community library task force will be getting underway shortly.
- Staff is working on possible ideas for the bandshell area at Athletic Park to be an outdoor performing arts area.
- Staff has received a response from Occidental Management and have sent follow-up questions. They will be invited to a Commission meeting at a future date.
- The City will have a team in the United Way Chili Cook-Off this year.

8. Citizen's Forum.

Laurie Hartke, 707 West 6th Street, encouraged the funding of Caring Hands Humane Society and Grand Central. She volunteers at both and sees how hard both work to make things better.

In other business, an update was given on Amtrak, who is looking at the possibility of suspending rail service from Dodge City to Albuquerque, and offering bus service for that stretch. This could have a big impact on the ridership through Newton. Everyone was encouraged to be in touch congressional representatives. Staff was thanked for work done at Centennial and all the plans for improvements at Athletic Park.


9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk