

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

July 24, 2018

The Newton City Commission convened in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on July 24, 2018 at City Hall, 201 East 6th Street. Attending were Mayor Valentine, Vice Mayor Koehn, Commissioners Davis, Hague, and Kreie, City Manager Myers, Assistant City Manager McElroy, City Engineer/DPW Loomis, Director of Finance Pickman, Director of Communications McDaniel, Deputy Chief Dunlavy, Chief Metzler and City Clerk Duerksen. City Attorney Towle was absent.

The Mayor provided the invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance and presided over the items of business.

1. Consider approval of the minutes of the July 10 regular meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Hague moved and Commissioner Davis seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

2. Recognition of community service and achievement:

A. Recognition of Karen Lehman for receiving the American Association of Nurse Practitioners' 2018 State Award for Excellence.

Newton Medical Center's Karen Lehman, who recently received the American Association of Nurse Practitioners' 2018 State Award for Excellence was recognized. Lehman co-developed the "Right on Track" transitional care program at NMC, which evaluates high-risk patients to identify health barriers and reduce hospital readmission.

B. Recognition of Lucas Comeaux, Chisholm Middle School 7th grader this last year, who was honored through the Duke Talent Identification Program for his exceptional score on the Evidence-based Reading and Writing portion of the SAT College Entrance Exam.

Lucas Comeaux, Chisholm Middle School 7th grade student, was recognized for his high score on the SAT college entrance exam as part of the Duke Talent Identification Program on the Evidence-based Reading and Writing portion of the exam. Seventh grade students who score a four on the state assessments are eligible to take the SAT or ACT exam.

3. Receive a request to close Main Street on October 4 from noon to 10:00 p.m. for the Taste of Newton and a special event request to waive fees picnic tables and trash receptacles.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Kreie seconded to approve closing of Main Street on October 4 for the Taste of Newton and to waive the fees for picnic tables, trash receptacles and barricades. Motion carried.

4. Consider an application for temporary alcohol permit for the Sand Creek Summer Daze.

Greg Hansen, Sand Creek Summer Daze Chair, requested a temporary alcohol permit for the Sand Creek Summer Daze.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded to approve the temporary alcohol permit for the Sand Creek Summer Daze. Motion carried.

5. Receive a request to place a motorized vehicle on Sand Creek for Sand Creek Summer Daze.

Greg Hansen, Sand Creek Summer Daze Chair, asked the Commission to consider allowing a slow, motor powered pontoon boat be on Sand Creek for their Fine Cruizine, catered by the Meridian Center. Cruises will be Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Should there be any inclement weather, the cruises would be cancelled.

Staff noted because there is an Ordinance in place regarding no motorized vehicles being allowed on Sand Creek, the Ordinance would need to be amended. The amendment could be taken up as new business. A simple change could be added stating written authority must be given.

MOTION: Commissioner Hague moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded to approve the request subject to the Ordinance amendment. Motion carried.

6. Receive the 2nd quarter financial report.

The second quarter financials were shared. At this point in the year, revenues and expenditures are holding true to other years.

7. 2019 Budget:

An overview of the 2019 budget was shared. The City's original budget projections left a shortfall of \$718,208. After completing the second-quarter financial reports, staff estimated that additional interest income should generate approximately \$300,000 more in 2018 and 2019 than budgeted, leaving a gap of just \$418,208.

Funding options were presented for consideration:

- Option A:
 - 3.401 mill levy increase – produces \$418,173
- Option B:
 - 2 mill levy increase – produces \$ 245,912
 - Additional sales tax/utility fund transfers - \$172,296
- Option C:
 - No mill levy increase

- Additional sales tax/utility fund transfers - \$418,208

A. Conduct the public hearing on the 2019 budget.

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 8:36 p.m.

Reggie Cooper, 928 S. Ash, asked that the Commission think about those who are retired and on fixed incomes. Raising the mill levy will be difficult on them because there is nothing left to give.

Celio Sandate, 225 S. Ash, noted the comparison information provided regarding mill levies of surrounding cities was very helpful. He was not in favor of a no mill increase. He suggested not funding the Chamber and Health Ministries. He also suggested divesting from the Meridian Center and Sand Creek Station Golf Course and finding someone to partner with them.

Bob Smyth, 412 SE 10th, questioned how to get spending and revenues together. He said the spending needs to stop. The Commission should decide on an amount of revenue and then the budget cannot go over that.

Ron Eggert, 2107 Sherwood Avenue, expressed concern for those on a fixed income and understands the concern. He would support a two mill increase because the future is going to bring bigger increases if incremental steps aren't taken now.

Roger Gillispie, 901 S. Poplar, said he was in favor of the outside agencies not being funded for 2019.

There being no further public comment, the hearing was closed at 8:58 p.m. and discussion was brought back to the bench.

B. Consider approval of the 2019 City of Newton budget.

Commissioners discussed the 2019 budget. They were in agreement they would like to support a no mill increase, but noted it is easy to be a short term hero, but it is a challenge to be a leader. Raising the budget only two mills would only be a band-aide. They expressed great angst over raising the mill levy for the third year in a row, but they acknowledged the revenue pressures the City is facing, especially from the Bond and Interest Fund. Without at least a small increase in 2019, some feared a huge increase would be required for 2020.

MOTION: Commissioner Hague moved and Mayor Valentine seconded to adopt the budget as published (Option B as presented) with a two mill increase (\$ 245,912) and transfer of sales tax/utility funds (\$172,296) and hold off paying back the KLP design costs of \$178,000. Motion died 2-3 with Commissioners Davis, Koehn and Kreie voting nay.

More discussion was held.

MOTION: Commissioner Kreie moved and Commissioner Davis seconded to eliminate the enhancements and go up two mills with no transfers from the sales tax fund or utility funds. Motion died 1-4 with Mayor Valentine, and Commissioners Davis, Hague and Koehn voting nay.

Following more discussion the Commission took at short recess for staff to work on another option. Staff presented an option of a one mill increase, cutting the additional Police Lieutenant position and transferring \$181,611 from sales tax revenues.

MOTION: Mayor Valentine moved and Commissioner Kreie seconded to increase the mill levy one mill, eliminate the Police Lieutenant position and transfer \$181,611 from sales tax. Motion carried 3-2 with Commissioners Davis and Koehn voting nay.

The \$52.5 million budget will include the addition of a drug detective position and a part-time inspector/tech in the Engineering Division. It also includes a two percent cost-of-living adjustment for City employees, which has been cut the past two years, and an increase in reserve funds for equipment replacement. Funding for external agencies, including \$25,000 for Grand Central senior center, \$40,000 for Health Ministries, and \$30,000 for Newton Area Chamber of Commerce is also included, but Commissioners indicated that as the budget continues to tighten, those agencies may want to look for alternative funding streams after 2019.

C. Consider adoption of an Ordinance attesting to the increase in tax revenues for the 2019 Budget.

An Ordinance attesting to an increase in tax revenues for budget year 2019 for the City of Newton, Kansas was considered.

MOTION: Commissioner Hague moved and Commissioner Kreie seconded this Ordinance, assigned 4961-18, be approved as presented. Motion carried 3-2 with Commissioners Davis and Koehn voting nay.

8. Planning Commission:

Due to involvement with Prairie View, Commissioner Hague abstained from discussion and voting on this item.

A. Receive the recommendation of the Newton North Newton Area Planning Commission for a Zoning Amendment request to property owned by the City of Newton, located on east 1st Street, to be zoned I-2 as an expansion of the Kansas Logistics Park (KLP)/Newton Industrial Park.

The City, as owners of the property located along the south side of East 1st Street, east of Spencer and west of Hillside, has requested a zoning amendment from the current Harvey County A-1 (Agricultural District) zoning classification to Newton I-2 (General Industrial

District) zoning classification. Staff noted ex parte discussions were held with Commissioners at their agenda review on July 19 by Jessie Kaye, Prairie View President and CEO. She noted that Prairie View is supportive of growth and development within the community. She requested Prairie View's concerns be expressed as part of the record. Concerns include:

- Prairie View's location and therapeutic environment are part of the company's identity and contributes to the effectiveness of their programming and appeals to the patient population and their families.
- Additional traffic on East 1st Street increases risks to staff, patients and visitors that walk or ride bicycles to reach Prairie View.
- Increased vehicle traffic, especially of a commercial or industrial nature, could create additional hazards for vehicles entering or exiting Prairie View.
- Manufacturing or industrial businesses being immediately accessible to their patients could pose a threat for children and adults that wish to harm themselves or others.
- Additional business activity and an increased number of people near the campus could increase trespassers onto their property.
- The tranquility of the campus will be compromised by the development of the surrounding properties.
- Changes to properties adjoining Prairie View could negatively impact the water draining on their property, which helps fill their pond.

Following the public hearing, the Planning Commission voted 4-3-1 to recommend the approval of the zoning change.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded to accept the recommendation of the Newton/North Newton Area Planning Commission. Motion carried.

B. Consider an Ordinance establishing the zoning as I-2.

An Ordinance amending the official zoning map incorporated by reference in Article II, Section 2.2-1, of the zoning ordinances of the City of Newton was considered.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Koehn moved and Mayor Valentine seconded this Ordinance, assigned 4962-18, be approve as presented. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Commissioner Hague abstaining.

9. Receive a report on the swimming pool survey.

The City surveyed Newton residents and visitors to the municipal pool about their pool use and their opinions about the pool's future. A total of 1,100 responses were received: 965 online and 135 hard copies. Ninety-one percent said they would like to see the pool renovated and features added, which would cause them to visit the pool more often. The results of the survey will be shared with Newton Rec Commission at a work session on August 9.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Koehn moved and Commissioner Hague seconded to take up the matter of allowing a motorized vehicle on Sand Creek with specific permission as a new business item. Motion carried.

Staff presented an option to amend Ordinance 4705-09 Section 15-202 (a) to read “no motors or engines of any kind shall be used for the propulsion of any boat or watercraft while in or upon Sand Creek without specific written authority from the City”.

An Ordinance amending Article 2 of Chapter 15 of the Code of the City of Newton, Kansas, pertaining to Sand Creek regulations; and repealing original Article 2 of Chapter 15 of the Code of the City of Newton, Kansas was considered.

MOTION: Commissioner Kreie moved and Commissioner Davis seconded this Ordinance, assigned 4963-18, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

10. City Manager’s Update.

- The community library task force will meet on August 1 to begin the visioning process.
- Staff is working with bond counsel for the upcoming bonding process.
- REAP – the economic incentive task force is meeting to talk about best practices and policies for economic development incentives; a regional transportation task force has been formed.

11. Citizen’s Forum.

Deb Hamm, USD 373 Superintendent, thanked the Commission for the civil discussion on the budget. She then invited them to a joint meeting sometime in the near future.

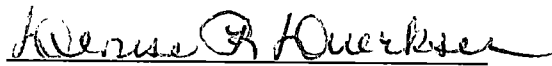
12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk