

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 25, 2018

The Newton City Commission convened in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on September 25, 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, Director of Finance Pickman, Chief Metzler, and City Clerk Duerksen. Assistant City Manager McElroy, City Engineer/DPW Loomis, Director of Communications McDaniel were absent.

Pastor Amos McCarthy with First United 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 September 11 work session and regular meeting and the September 20 agenda review.**
2. **Consider an ordinance amending schedules regarding the re-levying of special assessments against certain properties within Autumn Glen 4th Addition and the Fieldstone Addition.**

This Ordinance of the City of Newton, Kansas, amends property schedules included within Ordinance 4968-18 and 4969-18, which reassessed certain special assessments against residential properties located within the City, and is assigned Ordinance No. 4971-18.

3. **Mayor's appointment: Harvey County Economic Development Council, Commissioner Rod Kreie to fill the vacancy of Rod Nicholson, term ending 4-30-2019; Library Board, David Jackson, II to fill the unexpired term of Jennifer Mueller, term ending 4-30-2019.**

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Kreie seconded to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. **Recognition of community service and achievement:**
 - A. **Recognize Mike McConnell, welding technology teacher at Newton Senior High School (Newton USD 373) who was named as a semi-finalists for Teacher of the Year.**

Lisa Moore, Newton High School Principal, introduced Mike McConnell, welding technology teacher, who was named as a semi-finalist for Teacher of the Year in Region IV. Mr. McConnell stated he was humbled by the award.

5. **Consider a proclamation declaring October 7-13, 2018 as Fire Prevention Week.**

Fire Marshall Crittenden read the proclamation declaring the week of October 7-13, 2018 Fire Prevention Week.

MOTION: Commissioner Hague moved and Commissioner Kreie seconded to approve the proclamation as presented. Motion carried.

6. Consider a proclamation declaring October 15-19, 2018 as Business Women's week.

Ellen Yocum noted the Kansas BPW Chapter is celebrating their 100th year in October. She then read the proclamation declaring the week of October 15-19, 2018 as Business Women's Week.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Koehn moved and Commissioner Kreie seconded to approve the proclamation as presented. Motion carried.

7. Consider approval of an amended version of an agreement to extend the Interlocal Agreement between the City, USD 373 and the Newton Recreation Commission, with revisions as approved by the USD 373 Board of Education.

Changes have been made to the original interlocal agreement adopted by the City. After presenting the agreement to USD 373, they asked for minor wording changes. The new agreement reflects those changes. With discussions underway regarding improvements to the swimming pool and ballfields at Centennial Park, the agreement states the parties, in good faith, (although non-binding) will consider undertaking these projects and consider an increase in the dedicated mill levy from .8 mills to 1.0 mill at some time in the future. USD 373 and the NRC have each approved the agreement.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded to approve the amended Interlocal Agreement as presented. Motion carried.

8. Consider closing Main Street from 5th to 7th Street on October 31 for the Halloween Walk.

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

9. Discuss possible community surveying options as to municipal swimming pool improvements in relation to other community needs.

Discussion was held on the possibility of conducting a community survey to see what amenities citizens want and would be willing to pay for. Opinions expressed included the cost of such a survey, the need for the survey to be scientific with statistically valid results, having good information to move forward for future budgets, that a good survey was already done and that the Commission was elected to make such decisions.

MOTION: Commissioner Hague moved and Commissioner Davis seconded that staff develop several options, including costs for conducting a community survey that is statistically reliable, and bring those back for consideration at a later date. Motion carried.

10. Receive an update on passenger rail.

Commissioner Hague reported on his trip to the Amtrak Customer Advisory Committee Conference. Senator Moran has proposed an amendment to the transportation bill that has passed the Senate and has moved to conference committee. It was reported Amtrak will now continue their long distance services past the December 31 deadline, which means no bus service from Dodge City to Albuquerque. Work will need to be done during 2019 with the Colorado, New Mexico and Kansas transportation departments to get maintenance dollars in their budgets. It was suggest that communication with Kansas Legislators continue as well as urging KDOT to support rail.

11. City Manager's Update.

- Upcoming community events were reviewed.
- Deputy Chief Dunlavy and the City Manager were asked to assist with a tour of some of the NMC facilities with Senator Moran. The new police department satellite office was highlighted. Emphases was given on the challenges presented for both hospitals and law enforcement due to cutbacks in funding for mental health and substance abuse services.
- The City development team has been busy with several industrial prospects.
- A celebration of the Centennial Park improvements is being planned.
- Preparation continues for the October Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Task Force presentation.
- Police and Fire/EMS are raising money for the annual Holiday Helpers Program. Families in need will be provided food packages to help them through the holidays. Last year they raised \$14,000 and provided food packages to over 200 area families.

12. Citizen's Forum.

Norm Oding, 617 Allison, invited the Mayor to give a short welcome at the Kansas Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention being held at the Meridian Center on November 9 & 10.

Pam Stevens, Chamber CEO, invited the Commission to the Taste of Newton on October 4 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

In other business it was noted that Pam Stevens received the Kansas Partner in Prevention Award at the Kansas Prevention Conference in Topeka.

13. Adjournment

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



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk