

NEWTON CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

August 14, 2018

The Newton City Commission convened in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on August 14, 2018 at City Hall, 201 East 6th Street. Attending were Mayor Valentine, Vice Mayor Koehn, Commissioners Davis, and Kreie, City Manager Myers, Assistant City Manager McElroy, City Attorney Towle, City Engineer/DPW Loomis, Director of Finance Pickman, Director of Communications McDaniel, Deputy Chief Dunlavy, Chief Metzler, Chief Murphy and City Clerk Duerksen. Commissioner Hague was absent.

Pastor Clint McBroom with First Christian Church provided the invocation. The Mayor then led in the Pledge of Allegiance and presided over the items of business.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Consider approval of the minutes of the July 24 work session and regular meeting and August 9 agenda review.**

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

2. **Recognition of community service and achievement:**

- A. **Recognition of the Ultimate Martial Arts team that competed at the United Taekwondo Alliance Grand Nationals in Shreveport, Louisiana.**

The Ultimate Martial Arts team was honored. The team brought home 25 medals.

3. **Consider an application for a cereal malt beverage license for La Laguna, 123 W. Broadway.**

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded to approve the cereal malt beverage license for La Laguna as presented. Motion carried.

4. **Receive a special event request from Peace Connections, 209 S. Pine, for use of picnic tables for an open house on August 28 and to waive fees for tables.**

MOTION: Vice Mayor Koehn moved and Commissioner Kreie seconded to waive the fees for the picnic table for Peace Connections open house. Motion carried.

5. **Rolling Hills 6th Addition water & sewer improvements:**

These improvements are being paid by the developers through special assessments.

A. Receive plans and specification for water improvements in Rolling Hills 6th Addition.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Kreie seconded to accept the water plans and specifications to serve Rolling Hills 6th Addition. Motion carried.

B. Consider an Improvement Resolution finding advisable and authorizing the water improvements.

This Resolution finds advisable and authorizes the water improvements for Rolling Hills 6th Addition.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Koehn moved and Commissioner Davis seconded this Resolution, assigned I-1175, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

C. Consider an Ordinance establishing Water District 14-C.

An Ordinance creating Water District 14-C in the City of Newton, Kansas was considered.

MOTION: Commissioner Kreie moved and Commissioner Davis seconded this Ordinance, assigned 4964-18, be approved. Motion carried.

D. Receive plans and specifications for sewer improvements to serve Rolling Hills 6th Addition.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Kohen seconded to accept the sewer plans and specifications to serve Rolling Hills 6th Addition. Motion carried.

E. Consider an Improvement Resolution finding advisable and authorizing the sewer improvements.

This Resolution finds advisable and authorizes the sewer improvements for Rolling Hills 6th Addition.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded this Resolution, assigned I-1176, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

F. Consider an Ordinance establishing Sewer District 28-F.

An Ordinance creating sewer district 28-F in the City of Newton, Kansas was considered.

MOTION: Commissioner Kreie moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded this Ordinance, assigned 4965-18, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

G. Set date and time (September 6 at 11:00 a.m.) to receive bids for water and sewer improvements.

MOTION: Commissioner Kreie moved and Commissioner Davis seconded to set the bid date as September 6 at 11:00 a.m. Motion carried.

6. Consider an agreement extending the 2004 Interlocal Agreement with USD 373 and the Newton Recreation Commission.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Koehn moved and Commissioner Kreie seconded to table this item. Motion carried.

7. Consider action to reassess and re-levy certain outstanding special assessments.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded to table this item to the August 28 meeting. Motion carried.

A. Receive an agreement and waiver allowing special assessments to be levied against Lots 1 through 8, Block 1, and Lots 26-30, Block 1 Autumn Glen Fourth Addition.

B. Receive an Ordinance allowing special assessments to be levied against Lots 1 through 8, Block 1, and Lots 26-30, Block 1 Autumn Glen Fourth Addition.

C. Receive an agreement and waiver allowing special assessments to be levied against the Summer Crossing Addition.

D. Receive an Ordinance allowing special assessments to be levied against the Summer Crossing Addition.

8. Presentation of community alert software system.

An overview of the community alert system was presented. Residents can sign up to receive text alerts for a variety of events, including weather warnings, road closures, City announcements, community events and more. There is no cost to residents to sign up.

9. Consider City appointments to the USD 373 visioning team.

The School District has asked that the City make two appointments to their visioning team. This team will help the district decide whether or not to proceed with another bond issue.

MOTION: Commissioner Kreie moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded to appoint Commissioner Davis and Roger Gillispie. Motion carried.

10. Consider voting delegates for the League of Kansas Municipalities annual conference.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded that Mayor Valentine, Vice Mayor Koehn, Commissioner Kreie and City Manager Myers be designed the voting delegates for the League of Kansas Municipalities annual conference and Assistant City Manager McElroy and City Clerk Duerksen be designated the alternates. Motion carried.

11. Consider an appointment of the REAP Board of Directors.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Koehn moved and Commissioner Davis seconded to appoint Commissioner Kreie to the REAP Board of Directors. Motion carried.

12. Continue discussion of municipal swimming pool and centennial ball field improvements.

The Commission continued their discussion on the municipal swimming pool. They recently met with the Recreation Commission to discuss possible options for the pool, which will need about \$100,000 in maintenance and equipment replacement before the 2019 swim season. Previously, Commissioners directed staff to prepare two options: to simply fix the necessary maintenance issues, or to renovate the pool and add some new water features. The idea of building a large-scale water park – at a cost of \$3 million to \$5 million – was dismissed as too expensive and not necessary to meet community needs. A \$1.7 million renovation proposal was developed, including a new baby pool, wet bubble pool, family slide, bath house upgrades, diving boards, shade structures and other features. A community survey about the pool received 1,100 responses, with 91 percent in favor of a renovation and 79 percent saying the proposed improvements would cause them to use the pool more often.

Staff reviewed the proposed financing plan which is to combine the pool renovation and a new \$900,000 ballfield at Centennial Park into one bond issue and have the Public Building Commission make the bulk of the bond payments. The PBC is funded by .8 mills each from the City, the Rec Commission and the School District for the purpose of maintaining and improving recreation facilities. The funding agreement between the three entities is scheduled to expire in 2024, so it would need to be renewed by all three before the pool project could begin. The City and Rec Commission are proposing to increase the PBC contribution to 1 mill from each entity to help increase the revenue and possibly pay off the bonds faster.

Commissioners differed in their opinions on whether to spend \$100,000 on maintenance and study the best plan for the future, or to move forward with the \$1.7 million in improvements to the pool and \$900,000 to ballfields. Concerns expressed included not listening to what the public said in the survey, and not having the interlocal agreement with the NRC and School Board updated to include the pool funding.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Mayor Valentine seconded to move forward with the \$1.7 million in swimming pool improvements and \$900,000 in

ballfield improvements and to renew the interlocal agreement with the School District and Recreation Commission with an additional .2 mill increase. Motion did not pass. Vice Mayor Koehn and Commissioner Kreie voted nay.

Following further discussion, consensus of the Commission was to present an updated interlocal agreement with the .2 mill increase to the NRC and School District before moving forward.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded to take up the request for a tax abatement by Future Foam, Inc. as a new business item. Motion carried.

Future Foam is looking at an expansion project and would like to request a tax abatement. Further information regarding the tax abatement will be presented at the public hearing on August 28. A Resolution establishing a time and date to conduct a public hearing by the governing body of the City of Newton, Kansas, to consider granting an exemption from ad valorem taxation for certain property for manufacturing purposes proposed to be improved, expanded and equipped by Future Foam, Inc. was considered.

MOTION: Commissioner Kreie moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded this Resolution, assigned G-1190, be approved, subject to staff finalizing the legal description. Motion carried.

13. City Manager's Update.

- The upcoming community events were reviewed.
- A joint meeting with City and County Commission is set for September 11 at 4:00 p.m. to review the law enforcement center plans and costs and to talk about airport facilities improvement plan.
- The conceptual plans for ballfields at Centennial Park are being finalized. A meeting with the user groups to get feedback will be planned.
- The Library Visioning Task Force will meet on September 12 to receive a presentation from Paul Hawkins, executive director of the South Central Library System.
- There is a joint legislative task force looking at the future highway plan for the state. They will be meeting on October 4 at the Meridian Center. The EDC is getting meetings organized with local industries to hear about their transportation issues.
- Chief Metzler and Dr. McFarland presented at the International Fire Rescue conference in Dallas on leading the multi-generational fire service.
- DPW Loomis recently presented at the Kansas Environmental Conference. She spoke on the "Kansas Clean 20 Consortium" which is a consortium of cities who have pooled resources and expertise in order to develop best practices related to cities' NPDES permit. Loomis was instrumental in getting that group organized.

14. Citizen's Forum.

There was no one to speak.

In other business, the League has invited the Mayors of the 24 largest cities in Kansas to participate in a meeting with the White House Intergovernmental Affairs Office on August 16. Vice Mayor Koehn will be attending for Newton and will be paying his own way and expenses. Everyone was reminded to shop local as it helps the local sales tax. Drainage projects along Slate Creek and at Centennial Park continue. Due to wet weather projects are behind. The restroom/concession project at Centennial is complete with a few punch list items to be done. The Warkentin House painting is complete. Work continues on the water line break at 5th and Elm. Staff hopes to get the paving complete by the start of school. Senator Moran's office is working to get a minibus bill passed that would require Amtrak to take \$50 million of their money to fix the positive train control issues. They would also be required use the \$3 million TIGER grant money as promised.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Kathy Valentine

Mayor

ATTEST:

Denise R. Hauke

City Clerk