

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
October 9, 2018

The Newton City Commission convened in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on October 9, 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 Attorney Towle, City Engineer/DPW Loomis, Director of Finance Pickman, Director of Communications McDaniel, Chief Metzler, Chief Murphy and City Clerk Duerksen.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Consider approval of the minutes of the September 25 work session and regular meeting.**

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

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

- A. Recognize Aaron Hurst who received the Kansas Health Care Worker of the Year from the Kansas Hospital Association.**

Aaron Hurst, laboratory supervisor of quality systems, who was named a 2018 Kansas Health Care Worker of the Year by the Kansas Hospital Association, was recognized by the Commission.

- B. Recognize Jim Heinicke, member of the Newton Medical Center Board of Directors, who was named 2018 Trustee of the Year by the Kansas Hospital Association.**

Jim Heinicke, Newton Medical Center Board member, who was named a 2018 Trustee of the Year by the Kansas Hospital Association, was recognized by the Commission.

Val Gleason noted some other accomplishments of Newton Medical Center.

- The Newton Wound Care and Hyperbaric Oxygen Center has gained the prestigious accreditation by the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Society. This is the second one in Kansas.
- NMC was recently named a “Top 100 Great Community Hospital”.
- Dr. Craig was mentioned in the US News and World Report’s 2019 Best Hospitals edition for his Own the Bone program. This is the second consecutive year for receiving this recognition.

3. Consider a request to close Athletic Park Circle on October 27, 2018 for the Monster Dash 5K/fun run.

MOTION: Commissioner Kreie moved and Commissioner Davis seconded to approve the request to close Athletic Park Circle on October 27 as presented. Motion carried.

4. Planning Commission.

A. Receive the recommendation of the Newton/North Newton Area Planning Commission of the Suderman Final Plat.

At their October meeting, the Planning Commission unanimously voted to approve the final plat for the Suderman Addition. This property is owned by the City and is an expansion of the Kansas Logistics Park. It is zoned I-2 General Industrial District.

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

B. Approve the Suderman Final Plat.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Hague seconded to approve the Suderman Addition Final Plat. Motion carried.

5. Consider approval of a contract for the purchase of the property in the Newton Industrial Park.

The property at 1930 SE Ninth St. had been owned by Grafco LLC since 2008, but the company went out of business before becoming fully operational. Grafco's development agreement included a clause reconveying the property to the City if the land was not developed. Harvey County was unaware of the reversionary clause and listed the land for auction, and it was purchased by Keely Clipper for \$2,100. When Ms. Clipper became aware of the unpaid specials and development restrictions on the industrial land, she agreed to sell the lot to the City for the price she paid.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded to approve the contract for the purchase of property in the Newton Industrial Park in the amount of \$2,100. Motion carried.

6. Status update on the conditions of 519/521 N. Main Street buildings.

On September 24, bricks from the 1930s façade above A Pawn Shop fell, knocking down the large awning and littering the sidewalk with debris. Since then, the sidewalk and one lane of Main Street have remained cordoned off. The building's owners have been working with a structural engineer, as well as their insurance provider and the City's Historic Preservation Commission to find a solution.

The building is a contributing property in the Downtown National Historic District, with the 1930s as its “period of significance.” The brick collapse exposed a second layer of brick underneath, which is believed to be from 1878. The engineer’s preliminary report is that the instability appears to be limited to the eastern wall/façade and that the western side is stable and safe for business operations. The instability appears to be in the original 1878 wall. The engineer has preliminarily recommended two options to remediate the situation: 1. Installation of a permanent brace inside the building to stabilize the wall; 2. Removing the east façade and underlying 1878 structural wall and completely rebuilding the eastern portion of the building. It might also be possible to remove the 1930s façade and seal the 1878 brick as the external wall, if it is repairable, but the building’s historic listing would then need to be amended, with approval from the State and National historic preservation offices. The property owner has indicated his intention to restore the building, but until a decision has been made about the manner of rebuilding, the area will remain barricaded.

Commissioners expressed concerns about the extended period of time that Main Street traffic has been affected. A timeline has not been set for the repairs, but the property owners so far are making good faith efforts to make progress.

7. City Manager’s Update.

- The upcoming community events were reviewed.
- The Fire/EMS Department received the Community Innovation Award under the category of Community Health from the League of Kansas Municipalities.
- Newton Police Department K-9 Bella and Cpl. Hawpe recently won Master Tracker award as the best tracker team.
- The Joint Legislative Transportation Task Force held their regional meeting in Newton on October 4. Testimony was presented by the City Manager and Chip Westfall presented for Harvey County.
- Director of Aviation Palmer will be at the National Business Aviation Association Exhibition as part of the South Central Kansas team.
- The REAP economic development Summit will be held on November 1 at WSU Hughes Metroplex.

8. Citizen’s Forum.

Pam Stevens, Chamber Director, thanked the City departments (Parks, Street, Sanitation, Police, & Fire) for all the help in setting up for Taste of Newton.

9. Conduct an executive session to under attorney-client privilege.

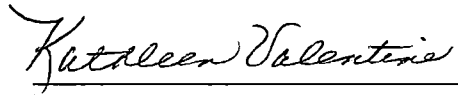
MOTION: Mayor Valentine moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded to go into executive session to consult with the City Attorney and Senior Legal Counsel on matters under attorney-client privilege; to return to open session at 7:50 p.m.
Motion carried.

The Commission went into executive session at 7:40 p.m. and reconvened at 7:50 p.m. No action was taken.

In other business. Takeaways from the League meeting were shared. There will be a celebration for receiving the federal drug free community grant at the Meridian Center on October 10. A suggestion was given to use citizens to make phone calls for the community survey.

10. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk