

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
August 8, 2017

The Newton City Commission convened in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on August 8, 2017 at City Hall, 201 East 6th Street. Attending were Mayor Hague, Vice Mayor Nygaard, Commissioners Davis, Koehn and Valentine, City Manager Myers, City Attorney Towle, City Engineer/DPW Loomis, Director of Finance Pickman, Director of Community Planning and Development Bergeron, Director of Communications McDaniel, Chief Metzler, and City Clerk Duerksen.

Barbara Lee with the Salvation Army provided the invocation. The Mayor then led in the Pledge of Allegiance and presided over the items of business.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consider the minutes of the July 25 meeting.**
- 2. Consider an Ordinance adopting the 2017 Edition of the Standard Traffic Ordinance.**

This Ordinance amends Section 21-101 of the Code of the City of Newton, Kansas, to adopt the 2017 Edition of the Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas cities; repeals Section 21-101 of said code as previously amended by Ordinance No, 4921-16; repeals Section 1 of Ordinance No, 4921-16; and repeals Ordinance No, 4940-17, and is assigned Ordinance No. 4944-17.

- 3. Consider an Ordinance adopting the 2017 Edition of the Uniform Public Offense Code.**

This Ordinance amends Section 17-101 of the Code of the City of Newton, Kansas, to adopt the 2017 Edition of the Uniform Public Offense Code for Kansas cities; repeals Section 17-101 of said code as previously amended by Ordinance No. 4922-16; repeals Section 1 of Ordinance No, 4922-16; and repeals Ordinance 4941-17 and is assigned Ordinance No. 4945-17.

- 4. Mayor's appointment: Convention and Visitors Bureau – Ryan Hockenberry, to fill the unexpired term of Alejandra Munoz, term ending August 31, 2019.**

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

REGULAR AGENDA

- 5. Consider closing the parking lot at West Broadway and Main on September 23, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and providing 3 trash receptacles for the Makers Fair.**

9. 2018 Budget Hearing

City Manager Myers summarized the proposed 2018 budget. There would be a 3.043 mill levy increase which consists of 2.3 mills to address continued needs of General Fund and the other 0.743 would be for outside agency funding. The Federal Fund Exchange dollars will be used to fund street maintenance and a portion of the mill levy will go into the bond and interest fund to free up sales tax dollars for other General Fund needs. The proposed budget includes adding one building inspector position, some funding to equipment replacement reserves, and some capital maintenance/equipment replacement funding for Sand Creek Station Golf Course, and Warkentin House repairs.

A. Conduct the public hearing on the 2018 budget.

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:45 p.m.

Jason Mitchel, 400 N. Poplar, said the budget creeps up each year as the City continues to pay on projects from previous commissions and will for a long time. He felt the City should take care of what they have instead of investing in new projects all the time. He suggested if places like the Meridian Center and Sand Creek Station Golf Course were on the cusp of being self-sufficient, maybe it is time to sell them.

Ron Eggert, 2107 Sherwood Avenue, said he saw nothing in the budget to implement the downtown task force plan like signage, implementation of a new slogan, etc. or funding for the renovation of the Law Enforcement Center.

There being no one else to speak, the public hearing was closed at 7:55 p.m.

B. Consider approval of the 2018 City of Newton budget.

Commissioners noted they do not take the tax increase lightly and commended staff for the sacrifices that have been made throughout the departments.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Koehn seconded to approve the 2018 budget as published. Motion carried.

C. Consider adoption of an Ordinance attesting to the increase in tax revenues for the 2018 Budget.

An Ordinance attesting to an increase in tax revenues for budget year 2018 for the City of Newton, Kansas was considered.

MOTION: Commissioner Koehn moved and Vice Mayor Nygaard seconded this Ordinance, assigned 4946-17, be approve as presented. Motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Valentine seconded to approve the request to close the parking lot on West Broadway and to provide trash receptacles on September 23 for the Makers Fair. Motion carried.

6. **Consider closing 5th Street from Poplar to Plum on September 30, 2017 from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and providing 1 trash bin set and 50 traffic cones for the Red Hot Chili Pepper 5K to benefit the United Way.**

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Nygaard seconded, to close 5th Street from Poplar to Plum on September 30 for the Red Hot Chili Pepper 5K and to provide one trash bin and 50 traffic cones. Motion carried.

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

- A. **Recognize Newton Police Officer and School Resource Officer Jon Adkins for his having received the President's Award from the Kansas Juvenile Officers Association.**

Lt. Hall presented NPD Officer/School Resource Officer Jon Adkins with the President's Award (the highest honor) from the Kansas Juvenile Officers Association. Officer Adkins is not only engaged with students during the school hours, but he spends his free time helping coach middle school football and track, and is a volunteer for various organizations.

- B. **Recognize Newton High School welding teacher Mike McConnell for his being named the 2017 Kansas Teacher of the Year by the Kansas Association of Career and Technical Education.**

Melinda Rangel, NHS Assistant Principal and Director of Career and Technical Education, introduced NHS welding teacher Mike McConnell, who was named 2017 Kansas Teacher of the Year by the Kansas Association of Career and Technical Education. Mr. McConnell works with all ages of students from area schools, as well as adults.

Amy Bunton, Utility Billing Clerk, reported on the outcome of the City employee 2017 school supplies drive. In 2015 employees collected 300 items and over 900 items were collected this year. Bunton was commended for inspiring employees to get involved and being so generous.

8. **Present the 2017 Residential Yard of the Year Award to Curtis and Chris Allen, 314 Glendale Avenue.**

The City received nominations for 17 different properties for Yard of the Year. Staff narrowed the list down to the top four properties and reviewed those selections. Curtis & Christine Allen, 314 Glendale, are the recipients of the 2017 Yard of the Year Award. They have created an outdoor living space for cooking, dining, sitting and relaxing. Mayor Hague presented the Allens with a \$50 gift certificate to a local greenhouse.

10. Consider a Resolution establishing an events policy.

Changes have been made to the special events policy and Commissioners asked to postpone voting on the policy until the revisions can be vetted by event organizers. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

11. Consider a contract for engineering services to design sanitary sewer improvements to serve Lots 1-8, Block 1, Autumn Glen 4th Addition.

This contract with MKEC Engineering Inc. is for design of sanitary sewer for Autumn Glen 4th Addition. Once the design is complete, those plans will be brought to the Commission for approval and a bid date will be set.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Koehn seconded to approve the contract for engineering services with MKEC Engineers, Inc. Motion carried.

12. Receive a report on the rural water tender project from Chief Metzler.

Chief Metzler reported the department developed a budget support team to identify and pursue alternative funding sources to support their mission. The group has focused mainly on grants and partnerships to secure equipment and training not otherwise funded by their budget. The team applied for a grant from the Kansas Forest Service to acquire a vehicle suited for use as a water tender. They received a 5-ton cargo vehicle, which is free through the grant. The budget team also applied for an equipment grant through the same agency and was awarded an \$8,000, 50% matching grant to purchase the water tank, fire pump, hoses and other equipment needed to convert the cargo vehicle. The conversion work will be done by Fire/EMS crews.

13. Consider voting delegates and alternates for the League of Kansas Municipalities Annual meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Nygaard seconded to appoint Mayor Hague, Commissioners Valentine and Koehn and City Manager Myers as voting delegates at the League of Kansas Municipalities annual meeting. Motion carried.

14. Citizen's Forum.

Wayne Valentine, 321 East 12th, reported on the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature issues they will debate, which will be recommended to the Kansas Legislature when it convenes in January.

Commissioners were reminded of upcoming meetings: August 14 - a servant leadership work session starting at 4:00 p.m. at the Meridian Center; August 22 - a joint work session with the Harvey County Commission starting at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

MOTION: Commissioner Valentine moved and Commissioner Koehn seconded to recess to executive session to discuss data furnished to the City from a developer for a prospective project within the City with the justification being to discuss data related to financial affairs or trade secrets of corporations, partnerships, trusts or individual proprietorships and to return to open session at 8:45 p.m. in the City Commission chambers. Motion carried.

The Commission recessed to executive session at 8:30 p.m. and returned to open session at 8:45 p.m. Mayor Hague announced no binding action was taken during executive session.

15. Adjournment.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk