

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES January 23, 2007

The Newton City Commission convened in regular session on January 23, 2007 in the City Commission room at 201 East 6th Street. Attending were Vice Mayor Heck and Commissioners Scott and Treaster. Also attending were City Manager Heinicke, City Attorney Myers, City Engineer/DPW Loomis, Director of Finance/City Clerk Ahsmuhs, Community Development Director Johnson, PIO McDaniel, and Deputy City Clerk Duerksen. Mayor Nightingale and Commissioner Harris were absent.

Retired Pastor June Cline provided the invocation. The Vice Mayor led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag and presided over the meeting.

Evelyn Gregg, High School Spanish Teacher, introduced exchange students that are part of the Kansas Paraguay Partners. Students are placed in homes for three to five weeks and learn about culture, historic events, and civic opportunities. Those attending were Elena Sanchez, advisor, Adriana Rojas, Carolina Mussi, David Cantero, Alan Zillich, and Guilliano Mora.

The Commission moved to item # 5.

5. **Manager's Update**

- Six candidates have filed for the City Commission: Kim Harris, Jason Mitchell, Veronica Mosqueda, Jim Nickel, Walter Silvernale and Racquel Thiesen. The election will be April 3.
- On January 18 local Harvey County officials and one Marion County official attended a KDOT meeting to lobby to make US-50 from Emporia to Hutchinson a four lane highway.
- City Hall Day at the Capitol will be January 25.
- Staff has received a draft of potential retail matches from the Buxton Company.
- REAP's executive committee will discuss the new transportation plan and look at working together as a region on the plan.

The Commission moved to item #6.

6. **Presentation of award for South Anderson Avenue improvements.**

Vice Mayor Heck presented an award to City Engineer/DPW Loomis from the Kansas Ready Mixed Concrete Association for the South Anderson paving project. The project has been recognized as the best project of the year in concrete for Newton's population category. The City has won this award five times in the past six years.

The Commission moved to Item #8.

8. Receive McGrath Consulting Group, Inc. with the presentation of the Fire/EMS station location and resource deployment study.

Dr. Tim McGrath presented a report on the Fire/EMS Station Location and Resource Deployment Study. The study analyzed trends in demands for fire and emergency medical services and made recommendations on the location of future stations and various management issues. Dr. McGrath noted that response time to emergencies was good and the equipment was well maintained and adequate. He suggested looking at a 27-day work cycle instead of the current 19-day cycle. The longer the cycle, the less overtime paid. The goal should be to increase staffing in the most effective manner.

Dr. McGrath determined that Newton can be adequately served by two Fire/EMS stations. The current stations are not in the ideal location, and he presented two options to remedy this. Option #1 would be to move Station #1 to the area of N. Main and 12th Street. Station #2 should be relocated to the S. Kansas and SE 12th area. No additional apparatus or personnel would be needed for this option. The estimated cost for this relocation would be \$1.9 million.

Option #2 would be to move Station #1 to the N. Main and 12th Street area, Station #2 would stay at its current location, and Station #3 would be built at 100 SW 24th Street. Another engine and seven additional personnel would be needed for a third station. The cost for this would be approximately \$2.1 million initially, but its long term cost would be much higher due to the ongoing expense of staffing a third station.

Miscellaneous recommendations made by Dr. McGrath include improving tracking of mutual aid calls, purchasing a fifth ambulance, station location setbacks, investment in pre-emption equipment, switching to the Commercial Incident Data Recording System upon the retirement of the IT person, annual review of ambulance rates, higher non-resident EMS rates, and increasing the capital improvement budget for facilities. City Manager Heinicke noted at this point the Commission and staff will need to digest the information and address possible changes during the budget session.

The Commission moved to item #4.

4. Citizen's Forum

A. Receive a request to close Main Street from 5th Street to Broadway and 6th Street to Oak on May 5 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the 3rd Annual Downtown Car Show.

Mike White, MWA entertainment, requested Main Street be closed from 5th Street to Broadway and 6th Street to Oak for the 3rd Annual Downtown Car Show on May 5 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They are expecting 200 cars to participate in the

show again this year. Mr. White noted last year's show was voted the number one car show in the state. The Commission will vote on this item at a future meeting.

The Commission took a five minute break at 8:00 p.m. The Commission reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Review minutes of January 9, 2007 meeting.
2. Old Main paving
 - A. Receive plans and specifications for paving of Old Main from Turkey Red to 24th Street.
 - B. Consider an Ordinance designating Old Main as a main traffic way.
 - C. Consider a Resolution finding advisable and authorizing funding for the street improvement.
 - D. Set date and time to receive bids.
3. Consider a Resolution adopting the National Incident Management System as the City's standard for emergency management and operations.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Consider the sale of the Axtell Clinic building.
9. 12th Street water tower
 - A. Conduct a public hearing on a proposed loan from the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund.
 - B. Consider a Resolution authorizing the completion of an application to KDHE for a loan from the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund.
 - C. Consider an engineering design agreement with PEC.
10. Consider an interlocal agreement for the joint operation of the Channel 7 PEG channel by the City, USD 373, Bethel College and Newton Healthcare Corporation.
11. Receive bids and award contract for Old Main water line improvements.

12. Executive session
13. Old business
14. New business
15. Adjournment

Since no quorum was present and action could not be taken, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk