

## CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 26, 2019

The Newton City Commission convened in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on February 26, 2019 at City Hall, 201 East 6<sup>th</sup> 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, Deputy Chief Roberson, Chief Murphy and City Clerk Duerksen.

Pastor Clint McBroom with First Church of God 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 February 12 special meeting, work session and regular meeting.**

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

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

- A. Recognize Newton High School Students selected to participate in the All-State Honor Ensembles sponsored by the Kansas Music Educators Association (KMEA).**

The City Commission honored Newton High School students who were selected to participate in the All-State Honor Ensembles sponsored by the Kansas Music Educators Association. Newton had one of the best representations of all 5A schools, including four students out of nineteen in the jazz band.

- B. Recognize All Angles Collision Center for collaboration with Newton Fire/EMS.**

The City Commission recognized, All Angles Collision Repair and Regier Construction, Inc. for their collaboration with Newton Fire/EMS on its new water tender truck. Kansas Forest Service provided the truck which is on loan for three years, after which it will be titled to the City. These great community partners and the hard work of our employees made this project possible.

- 3. Receive the 2018 year-end financial report.**

The 2018 year-end financials were presented. General fund came in above the policy limit of an unencumbered reserve balance at 15% of annual expenditures. Projected revenues were short but staff kept expenditures well under budget. Utility funds were kept at or above their reserve levels for 2018. It was noted that Finance keeps a monthly snapshot of City finances on the website.

**4. Receive the 2018 Newton Public Library year-end report.**

Ann Adrian, NPL Board Chair, shared the 2018 Library year-end report. The Library continues to offer the summer reading program to keep up reading skills, provides technology learning for all, meets the evolving education methods such as Sunflower eLibrary, digital magazines, etc., and implements literacy initiatives. The Library Board is clear that they want to move forward with a plan for the Library. The visioning task force will be reporting back to the City in six months on those plans to move forward.

**5. Consider a request to close Athletic Park Circle on March 16 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. for the St. Gregory's Day parade.**

The Sand Creek Summer Daze committee is taking what had been a neighborhood parade, to Athletic Park for the community to participate in. Beside the parade, there will be an inflatable sheep toss, men in kilts competition, an Irish accent contest and the Wichita Caledonian Pipes & Drums will perform. Proceeds from the event will benefit BCAPA (Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts) and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Harvey County.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hague moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded to approve the request to close Athletic Park Circle on March 16. Motion carried.

**6. Consider a temporary alcohol permit for St. Gregory's Day Parade and Festival on March 16, 2019 at Athletic Park.**

A beer tent will be set up for the parade and festival at the 4-H building.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded to approve the temporary alcohol permit for the St. Gregory's Day Parade and Festival. Motion carried.

**7. Sand Creek Station 3<sup>rd</sup> Addition special assessments:**

**A. Consider approving an Agreement allowing special assessments to be re-levied against Lots 1-5, Block B, and Lots 1-4, Block A, Sand Creek Station 3<sup>rd</sup> Addition.**

**B. Consider adopting an Ordinance allowing special assessments to be re-levied against Lots 1-5, Block B, and Lots 1-4, Block A, Sand Creek Station 3<sup>rd</sup> Addition.**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hague moved and Commissioner Kreie seconded to table this item to the next meeting. Motion carried.

**8. Consider an Ordinance amending Chapter 3 of the City Code (Animal Control Regulations).**

The draft Ordinance was presented. Two individuals spoke regarding the Ordinance needing further refinement. Staff shared a willingness to meet with the individuals to review their concerns.

Tad Langhove, Newton Pet World, spoke on the Ordinance being vague and needing to be more detailed on issues such as barking.

Mike Weber, Chisholm Trail True Value store owner, asked to have some input into the changes to the Ordinance because his business would be affected.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hague moved and Commissioner Davis seconded to table this item. Motion carried.

**9. Suderman Addition drainage pond:**

**A. Receive plans and specifications for construction of a drainage pond to serve Suderman Addition.**

Recently, the City platted 40 acres for industrial growth in Newton. A drainage plan is required to address storm water quantity and quality issues for the plat. The plan calls for a pond to intersect and slow down flow that drains toward Prairie View and to hold additional flow that will be generated with new impervious area on the site once it begins to develop. The estimated costs of the project is \$160,000, which would be paid from sewer capital reserves. The materials dug out for the pond will be used for City maintenance operations.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded to approve the plans and specifications to serve Suderman Addition. Motion carried.

**B. Set date and time to receive bids.**

**MOTION:** Vice Mayor Koehn moved and Commissioner Kreie seconded to set March 19 at 11:00 a.m. to receive bids. Motion carried.

**10. Consider an Ordinance establishing the dates and times for sale and discharge of fireworks for 2019.**

An Ordinance establishing certain days and hours during which the retail sale and discharge of certain fireworks shall be permitted within the City of Newton, Kansas, and establishing the amounts of the application fees and performance bonds required for permits to engage in the retail sale of fireworks in the City of Newton, Kansas, all as provided under Ordinance No. 4226-97 of the City of Newton, Kansas was considered.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Koehn seconded this Ordinance, assigned 4979-19, allowing for sales and discharge on June 29 through July 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and sales on July 4 from 7:00 a.m.

to 8:00 p.m. and discharge from 7:00 a.m. to midnight with a \$2,500 application fee and \$1,000 performance bond be approved. Motion carried.

**11. City Manager's Update.**

- Aviation Director Palmer recently gave a presentation at an American Association of Airport Executives conference on "Airport Roles in Emergency Management." Communications Director McDaniel presented at the KACM conference on "Social Media: Engagement Successes & Cautionary Tales."
- The 2020 budget development process is underway. Staff will be meeting with each department to work on portions of the budget.
- The South Central Transportation Coalition meeting with KDOT Secretary Julie Lorenz was held. Regional transportation needs were discussed.
- Another community child care meeting is being scheduled. There will be an effort to involve major employers whose employees and recruitment efforts are being impacted by this shortage.

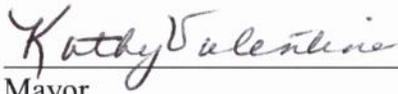
**12. Citizen's Forum.**

There was no one to speak.

In other business, it was suggested a public forum be held to discuss utility rates ideas and concerns. Commissioners would also like the letter from the City Manager to go out in the water bills explaining the utility rates. Staff was thanked for ending the year with a healthy balance. It was noted that Newton Medical Center is partnering with Shriners' Hospital for Children, for a telehealth location in Newton.

**13. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk