

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE NEWTON CITY COUNCIL

108 N. Van Buren St

Newton, IL 62448

February 6, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mark Bolander, Mayor
Mayor Mark Bolander called the meeting to order.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Alderman Robert Reisner
Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Alderman Robert Reisner.
3. ROLL CALL: Rosetta York, City Clerk
Physically present: **Steve Rubsam, David Brown, Robert Reisner, Scott Bloomberg**
Absent: **Larry Brooks and Eric Blake (Blake arrived at 6:10 PM)**
Also present: **Attorney Max Tedford, Treasurer Melissa Brooks, Clerk Rosetta York**
4. ADOPT OR AMEND AGENDA: **Remove Item 8C**
Motion was made by Bloomberg, seconded by Reisner, to adopt the amended agenda.
Ayes: Rubsam, Brown, Reisner, Bloomberg
Nays: None
5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES of January 16, 2018
Motion was made by Reisner, seconded by Rubsam, to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2018 regular meeting of the Newton City Council.
Ayes: Brown, Reisner, Bloomberg, Rubsam
Nays: None
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS:
Ethan Yost and Brendan Shurman from Boy Scouts Troop 156 introduced themselves. They were here to observe a City Council meeting to help earn a badge.
7. OLD BUSINESS:
 - A. Consider and act on advertising for Dues and Donations applications to distribute \$5500 budgeted fund with application deadline of March 16, 2018 at 5:00 PM.
Motion was made by Brown, seconded by Rubsam, to authorize the advertising for Dues and Donations applications to distribute \$5,500.00 budgeted, with a deadline of March 16, 2018 at 5:00 PM.
Ayes: Reisner, Bloomberg, Rubsam, Brown
Nays: None
 - B. Consider and act on 5 Year Plan as prepared by Connor & Connor for the Newton Water Department.
Motion was made by Rubsam, seconded by Reisner, to approve the five-year plan as prepared by Connor & Connor for the Newton Water Department.
Ayes: Bloomberg, Rubsam, Brown, Reisner
Nays: None
8. NEW BUSINESS:
 - A. Consider and act on approving 2 Wastewater employees attending Illinois Wastewater Conference \$300.00 each plus allowable expenses.
Motion was made by Reisner, seconded by Bloomberg, to authorize two Wastewater employees attending the Illinois Wastewater Conference at a cost of \$300.00 each plus allowable expenses.
Ayes: Rubsam, Brown, Reisner, Bloomberg
Nays: None
 - B. Consider and act on authorize City Attorney to amend Revised Codebook Chapter 1, Section II on the job descriptions of collector and billing clerk.
Motion was made by Rubsam, seconded by Brown, to authorize City Attorney to amend Revised Codebook Chapter 1, Section II on the job descriptions of City Collector and Billing Clerk.
Ayes: Brown, Reisner, Bloomberg, Rubsam
Nays: None
9. COMMITTEE REPORTS OR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:
Reisner – The Street Committee met January 22, 2018 and discussed sidewalk replacement, a five-year plan for the Street Department and the Decatur Street traffic pattern. John Stone presented a drawing of the public parking lot near Cobblestone Inn.
Blake – The Dues & Donations Committee met January 22, 2018 and discussed the budgeted amount for Dues and Donations, advertising dates, and deadline for applications. The committee will meet again March 19 to decide on awarding the funds.
Blake – The Negotiations Committee met January 22, 2018 and distributed the current union contract to councilmen to study. The committee will meet again with the union to open negotiations at a later date.
Bloomberg – The Police Committee met January 29, 2018 and discussed personnel in executive session. In open session the committee discussed building repair and security issues with city hall.
Rubsam – The Finance Committee met January 30, 2018 to discuss the next phase of the River Walk Trail Project including pledges and monument(s), received an update of the Revolving Loan Fund meeting, and discussed Police Department impound fees.

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Rubsam - The Water Committee met February 1, 2018 and discussed the south water tower cleaning. The committee went into executive session to interview applicants for the water department position. A second interview will be held at a later date for three of the applicants.

10. STATEMENTS:

Council Members

Bloomberg: Chief Swick and Paul Conlin are seeing several property maintenance code violation in the City, such as recreational vehicles or campers are not allowed to be hooked to city utilities and used as a residence.

Blake: Jasper County Animal Control report

Reisner: None

Brown: None

Rubsam: Thanks to TSC. Tractor Supply Company has moved their trailer that block the sidewalk.

City Attorney: None

City Treasurer:

1. Motion was made by Bloomberg, seconded by Rubsam, to make the following appropriation changes in the Electric Fund – move \$1,000.00 from the contingency fund to Tool Repair.

Ayes: Reisner, Blake, Bloomberg, Rubsam, Brown

Nays: None

2. Mike Shaw from South Central has found that the RLF can be used with the housing grant.

City Clerk (Park PO):

Clerk York presented a purchase order for the Park for painting the pool.

Motion was made by Brown, seconded by Reisner, to authorize Park Department purchase order:

Dreyer Painting, for painting the pool at a cost of \$14,653.60.

Ayes: Blake, Bloomberg, Rubsam, Brown, Reisner

Nays: None

Mayor:

- ✓ Read some information from "HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment 2018" based on 2015 data for Effingham and Jasper Counties. Median Incomes have improved for both counties.
- ✓ There will be a Water Committee Will meet February 12, 2018 for final interviews.
- ✓ JEDI is forming a Marketing Committee
- ✓ A citizen complained about the railroad crossing at Liberty and Decatur. The City signed an agreement to repair that crossing last September. We think it will be fixed this year.

11. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: **February 20, 2018 at 6:00 PM**

SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS: **Annual JEDI Celebration on February 21, 2018 at 11:30 AM at the Sunrise Center and Water Committee 2-12-18 at 6:00 PM**

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Litigation, potential litigation, personnel, purchase of real estate and sale of real estate

Motion was made by Bloomberg, seconded by Blake, to go out of open session and into closed session to discuss litigation, potential litigation, personnel, purchase of real estate and sale of real estate pursuant to the exceptions section of the Open Meetings Act pertaining to those areas of discussion.

Ayes: Bloomberg, Rubsam, Brown, Reisner, Blake

Nays: None

Open session suspended at **6:32 PM.**

Motion was made by Bloomberg, seconded by Rubsam, to go out of closed session and back into open session.

Ayes: Rubsam, Brown, Reisner, Blake, Bloomberg

Nays: None

Open session resumed at **7:25 PM.**

Mayor Bolander announced that during closed session the council discussed litigation, potential litigation, personnel, purchase of real estate and sale of real estate.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Bloomberg, seconded by Brown, to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Brown, Reisner, Blake, Bloomberg, Rubsam

Nays: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Submitted by Rosetta York

