



UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE NEWTON CITY COUNCIL

108 N. Van Buren St

Newton, IL 62448

September 21, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER: Joshua J. Kuhl, Mayor
Mayor Joshua Kuhl called the meeting to order.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Alderman David Brown.
Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Alderman David Brown.
3. ROLL CALL: Brenda Phillips, Deputy City Clerk
Physically present: Gayle Glumac, David Brown, Larry Brooks, RJ Lindemann, Eric Blake and Marlene Harris
Also present: Attorney William Heap, Treasurer Melissa Brooks, and Deputy Clerk Brenda Phillips
4. ADOPT OR AMEND AGENDA: Alderman Blake asked #10C to be deleted; Mayor Kuhl added Sarah Kinkade and Tim Dasenbrock to public comments.
Motion was made by Blake, seconded by Brown, to adopt the amended agenda.
Ayes: Glumac, Brown, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris
Nays: None
5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES of September 7, 2021:
Motion was made by Lindemann, seconded by Harris to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2021 meeting of the Newton City Council.
Ayes: Brown, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac
Nays: None
6. APPROVAL OF BILLS & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
Alderman Lindemann reviewed the pre-paids in the amount of \$288,389.07 and the bills and accounts payable earlier today and made a motion to approve the pre-paids and authorize payment of the bills and accounts payable in the amount of \$ 303,910.75. Harris seconded the motion.
Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown
Nays: None
7. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS:
 - a. Andre & Debra Leachman:
 - Updated the council on the 2021 Christmas lights in Peterson Park. With 40 displays now and growing, they expect this year's display to draw more attraction.
 - Christmas Lights in Peterson Park Facebook page has reached over 9,000 people from as far away as Florida.
 - Explained to the council they are working with the electric department to be sure the electric in the park is suffice for their growing displays. They will not be able to do generators like they did last year.
 - Planning to set up the displays beginning the first week of November to have ready by the Friday after Thanksgiving.
 - The Leachman's are concerned about security. In 2020, there were displays messed with and some safety issues. Several ideas were proposed and discussed with council which included barricading off parts of the park.
 - b. Tim Dasenbrock:
 - Tim had spoken a couple years ago with the previous mayor in his interest purchasing the alley south of his business, West Side Lounge. He has asked the new council to research his options. As his building ages, he's needing to shore up the south wall and might be interested in redoing the bathrooms. The council discussed with water, wastewater and electric department heads who were at the meeting, but will need to research further with fire, police, engineering and additionally the property owner south adjoining to the alley.



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c. Sarah Kinkade:

- Thanked the City employees for helping with the 2021 Fall Festival. She said the city employees were very accommodating. With this being her first full year of planning this event, the city employees helped ease the process.
- The ceremony commemorating 20 years since the 911 attacks was beautiful. The American flags throughout the city were beautiful once again.
- Maxine Calvert was awarded Citizen of the Year. Maxine is one of the main organizers of the flowers on the square. This is going to be her last year, so this was a good year for her to win that award.
- The day of the festival was a big win for local businesses.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS OR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS: None

9. OLD BUSINESS:

Comments by Shannon Woodard regarding item #9a:

1. *The Agreement will allow the City Sewer Dept. to begin accepting bulk waste from entities, not specific to Rex Vault, but anyone, including private entities with campers, on a trial or temporary basis.*
2. *The designated dumping location on this trial basis will be determined by the sewer dept. superintendent.*
3. *Plans for permanent dumping location are being considered in the event the trial works out.*
4. *All terms of the Agreement presented will be enforced, and billing will occur on a monthly basis.*

- a. Consider and act on Temporary Agreement for the acceptance of bulk domestic waste water.

Motion was made by Brooks, seconded by Lindemann, to approve a Temporary Agreement for the acceptance of bulk domestic waste water.

Ayes: Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown, Brooks

Nays: None

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consider and act on 2021 Special Event permit application for Homecoming Parade on October 8, 2021

Motion was made by Brown, seconded by Harris, to authorize the 2021 Special Event permit application for Homecoming Parade on October 8.

Ayes: Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown, Brooks, Lindemann

Nays: None

- b. Consider and act on Resolution 21-11 Homecoming Parade Permit.

Motion was made by Harris, seconded by Glumac, to pass Resolution 21-11 Homecoming Parade Permit.

Ayes: Harris, Glumac, Brown, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake

Nays: None

- ~~c. Consider and act on 21-14 Ordinance Requiring a COVID-19 Face Covering Policy for the City of Newton.~~



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d. Consider and act on providing flu shots for all part-time and full-time city employees.

Motion was made by Harris, seconded by Glumac, to authorize providing flu shots for all part-time and full-time city employees.

Ayes: Glumac, Brown, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris

Nays: None

6. STATEMENTS BY:

Glumac: Commented how nice the Fall Festival was this year.

Brown: Fall Festival was very nice and well attended

Received a City Hall update from Mike Swick as follows:

- City Hall will be reroofed in the next couple weeks.
- Hand railing in back is being done now.
- Hot water heaters in the bathrooms have been added.
- Brick work scheduled for this Saturday September 25, 2021
- Waiting quote from ESS janitorial for cleaning city hall.

Brooks: Called a Water and Wastewater Committee meeting October 4, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m. Mayor Kuhl added a Building and Grounds Committee meeting on October 4, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. to discuss the window replacement quotes for front of city hall.

Lindemann:

- Fall festival was nice and fun.
- Thanked the departments for being mindful of their spending.
- Explained to the council that he has reviewed and approved the billing and payment adjustments reports.

Blake: No Comment

Harris: Had a customer call her extending her appreciation to the city departments for the work they did putting down new sidewalk.

City Attorney: No Comment

City Treasurer: Presented an appropriation change

Motion was made by Brown, seconded by Lindemann to make the four (4) following appropriation changes:

- 1. General Fund Police Department, to move \$1,000 from Contingency Fund to Membership Dues**
- 2. General Fund Police Department, to move \$500 from Contingency Fund to Tool Purchase.**
- 3. Water Department, to move \$2500 from Contingency Fund to Building Repair.**
- 4. Wastewater Department, to move \$3,500 from Contingency Fund to Engineering.**

Ayes: Brown, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac

Nays: None

City Clerk: Electric Department PO #223281

Motion was made by Glumac, seconded by Harris, to authorize Electric Department purchase order #223281 for \$12,000 for 8 replacement transformers from T&R Electric

Ayes: Brooks, Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown

Nays: None

Mayor:



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- Thanked the employees, Sarah Kinkade and all those at the Chamber who helped make the 2021 Fall Festival a success.
- Commended the group of St Thomas students who walked Washington Street after the parade picking up trash.
- The Chamber had a couple individuals in their office recently to visit with local businesses with the Back 2 Business grant. There is an abundance of funds left. The mayor would like to see more of our business take advantage. Example would be restaurants, service type businesses, etc. Basically, if a business can show a loss in 2020 from 2019 you should qualify.
- Wished David Brown and his wife Melissa a Happy Anniversary.
- Thanked Mr. Heap's office for assisting him with a removal letter put together to the county which removes the City of Newton from the animal control agreement effective January 1, 2022.
- Reiterated Alderman Brown about waiting on a quote from ESS Cleaning. We are still looking for someone to clean city hall. Asked the council and public to send anyone our way if interested.
- Gave a JEDI reorganization update as follows:
 - Sarah Kinkade – Part-time Economic Development Coordinator
 - Board of Directors:
 - Ryan Probst – Chairman
 - Mark Keller – Vice-Chairman
 - Katie Fehrenbacher – Treasurer
 - Mindy Hartke – Secretary

7. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: **October 5, 2021 at 6:00 PM**

SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Building and Grounds, October 4 @ 6:00 pm;
Water and Wastewater, October 4 @ 6:30 pm.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Litigation and potential litigation.

Motion was made by Harris, seconded by Glumac, to go out of open session and into closed session to discuss litigation, potential litigation pursuant to the exceptions section of the Open Meetings Act pertaining to those areas of discussion.

Ayes: Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown, Brooks

Nays: None

Open session suspended at 6:49 PM

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

Ayes: Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown, Brooks, Lindemann

Nays: None

Open session resumed at 7:02 PM.

Mayor Kuhl announced that during closed session the council discussed litigation and potential litigation.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Ayes: Harris, Glumac, Brown, Brooks, Lindemann, Blake

Nays: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Submitted by Brenda Phillips