



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE NEWTON CITY COUNCIL

108 N. Van Buren St

Newton, IL 62448

November 2, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER: Josh J. Kuhl, Mayor
Mayor Josh Kuhl called the meeting to order.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Alderman Marlene Harris.
Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Alderman Marlene Harris.
3. ROLL CALL: Rosetta York, City Clerk
Physically present: Gayle Glumac, David Brown, RJ Lindemann, Eric Blake and Marlene Harris
Also present: Attorney William Heap, Treasurer Melissa Brooks and Clerk Rosetta York
Absent: Larry Brooks
4. ADOPT OR AMEND AGENDA: No Changes
Motion was made by Harris, seconded by Glumac, to adopt the proposed agenda.
Ayes: Glumac, Brown, Lindemann, Blake, Harris
Nays: None
5. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of October 19, 2021.
Motion was made by Lindemann, seconded by Harris, to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021 of the Newton City Council.
Ayes: Brown, Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac
Nays: None
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS: None
7. COMMITTEE REPORTS OR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS: Water and Wastewater Committee Meeting 10-25-2021, Personnel Committee Meeting 10-25-2021 and Finance and Audit Committee Meeting 10-26-2021
Brooks-Water and Wastewater Committee Meeting 10-25-2021:
Discussed handheld meter reading devises at an estimate of \$16,880.00 split between water and wastewater. (Electric Department will also share the cost.)
Discussed vac truck.
Discussed the testing of wastewater.
The Newton Wastewater Treatment Plant was nominated for the plant of the year award.
The bids for the 2001 Ford Ranger being sold by the Water Department will be opened at the next Council Meeting on November 2, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.
Tonight: Tyler was asked about the lead pipe testing being mandated by the State of Illinois. He said it had to be completed by 2024
Blake-Personnel Committee Meeting 10-25-2021:
Met to discuss office personnel and possibility of needing to hire help. Committee has decided to look into hiring part-time help for city collector/clerk office. Will be put on agenda for next Council meeting on 11-2-21. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.
Lindemann-Finance and Audit Committee Meeting 10-26-2021:
A TIF application for a new building on Washington street was discussed.
The 2021 Tax Levy was discussed. Rather than raising rates, it was decided to reduce the city's property tax rates by roughly 2%. Other committee matters were discussed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM.
Tonight: Alderman Lindemann said "Speaking of levy or tax levy for next year, it was discussed. I guess this year is the first time since two thousand seven, I looked it up, Newton is lowering their rates. We are keeping the amount of money we are levying the same, but due to that, our overall tax rate will be lowered by roughly two percent."
8. OLD BUSINESS:
Herb Meeker: The following is not verbatim.
Did the City buy all of the Griffith Estate? Answer-No, only 62 acres.
Is the Appleshed road the property line? Answer-It is the west property line.
"The main thing is, this is going to be helping Alliance Tractor and then any other development that might be coming in that area. That's correct, right? And you're not planning to turn any of that into like an industrial park or anything like that. That was one question from somebody to me." Answer-It is for commercial and/or businesses.
A. Consider and act on 21-XX Ordinance Approving The 2021 Amendment to the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Redevelopment Plan and Project for Redevelopment Project Area No. 1.
The purpose of tabling the ordinance is to extend the deadline.
Motion was made by Harris, seconded by Glumac, to table 21-XX Ordinance Approving The 2021 Amendment to the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Redevelopment Plan and Project for Redevelopment Project Area No. 1 to be voted on at the February 1, 2022 City Council Meeting.
Ayes: Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown
Nays: None
B. Consider and act on Wolf Eye Care, Inc. TIF application for \$50,000.00 over a five-year period at 201 W. Washington St.
Motion was made by Lindemann, seconded by Blake, to authorize



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Wolf Eye Care, Inc. TIF application for \$50,000.00 over a five-year period at 201 W. Washington St. reimbursement for TIF illegible funds per agreement.

Ayes: Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown, Lindemann

Nays: None

C. Open the bids for the 2001 Ford Ranger truck.

There are nine (9) bids at this time.

- 1. Heidi Lindemann \$2,027.50
- 2. Jerry Bower \$ 455.00
- 3. Jolyn Bigard \$1,101.00
- 4. Nicole Zumbalen \$ 556.00
- 5. Clark Bigard \$1,115.85
- 6. Jim Brooks \$ 510.00
- 7. Tom Eaton Jr. \$ 226.01
- 8. Doug Ragsdale \$ 500.00
- 9. Nathan Cash \$ 510.00

D. Consider and act on awarding and authorizing the bid for 2001 Ford Ranger truck.

Motion was made by Blake, seconded by Glumac, to award and authorize Heidi Lindemann's bid to purchase the City's 2001 Ford Ranger pickup for \$2,027.50.

Ayes: Harris, Glumac, Brown, Blake

Nays: None

Abstain: RJ Lindemann

E. Consider and act on purchasing the handheld meter reading devises.

Motion was made by Harris, seconded by Lindemann, to authorize purchasing two (2) handheld meter reading devises for \$16,880.00 for Water, Wastewater and Electric Departments (a shared expense).

Ayes: Glumac, Brown, Lindemann, Blake, Harris

Nays: None

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consider and act on a letter of support for Indiana Railroad's grant application.

Motion was made by Harris, seconded by Glumac, to authorize a letter of support for Indiana Railroad's grant application.

Ayes: Brown, Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac

Nays: None

B. Consider and act on a \$500.00 donation from the City of Newton for Indiana Railroad's grant.

Failed for a lack of a motion.

C. Consider and act on approving Christmas bonuses for all present full-time and part-time employees, who have worked at least 3 months and are currently working, of an extra eight hours pay or an eight hours day off with pay to be taken by the last pay period in April 2022.

Motion was made by Blake, seconded by Harris, to authorize Christmas bonuses for all present full-time and part-time employees, who have worked at least 3 months and are currently working, of an extra eight hours pay or an eight hours day off with pay to be taken by the last pay period in April 2022.

Ayes: Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown

Nays: None

D. Consider and act on a \$250.00 donation to the 2021 INRD Santa Train \$250 for coats, hats and gloves for families in need.

Motion was made by Blake, seconded by Glumac, to authorize a \$250.00 donation to the 2021 INRD Santa Train \$250 for coats, hats and gloves for families in need.

Ayes: Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown, Lindemann

Nays: None

10. STATEMENTS:

Council Members:

Glumac: Thank you to the Electric Department for getting on the outage so quickly, safely, working with Ameren and having no damage to city equipment.

Brown: Also, thanks to Electric Department. Brown asked the Council for a consensus for the Newton PD to purchase TWO (2) COMPLET Kits with a trade in of the old ones for a final cost of \$7,510.00.



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Consensus was granted. It will be on next council meeting agenda.

Lindemann: No Comments

Blake: Thanks to Electric Department.

Harris: Thanks to Electric Department.

City Attorney: No Comments

City Treasurer: Tax Levy Statement

Treasurer Statement:

“The treasurer’s office has determined that the City would need to levy \$694,000 for the tax year 2021. The amount to be levied will not exceed the 2020 tax year levy extended by more than 5%.”

City Clerk: Water Department PO # 6525

Motion was made by Harris, seconded by Lindemann, to authorize Water Department purchase order #6525 for \$16,880.00 to United Systems.

Ayes: Harris, Glumac, Brown, Lindemann, Blake

Nays: None

Mayor:

1. I'll do the same as Gail and most of the council. Thank you to the Electric Department for their quick response on Tuesday, October 26 power outage. Even though it wasn't something on our end. They were diligently trying to get things fixed and within a short amount of time.
2. I also need to thank the first responders for setting up for the square traffic lights and making sure everything was ok at Circle K.
3. Christmas lights in the Peterson Park, they got started on them, I think, over this last weekend. I know that they had quite a few volunteers. Thanks again to the electric department for taking time out of their day to get out there and help them get some cords stretched out and power where they need it.
4. And then lastly, great work by R.J., Melissa and this council for the two percent reduction in our current tax levy. And like R.J. said, not since 2007. Thank you to R.J. and Melissa for all their hard work over the last couple of weeks.

11. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 6:00 PM

SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Insurance Committee Meeting 11-4-2021 at 6:00 PM

Zoning Public Hearings at 6:00 PM on 11-9-21

Electric 11-8, 11-9 or 11-10 not sure yet

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Potential litigation, purchase of real estate and personnel

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

Ayes: Glumac, Brown, Lindemann, Blake, Harris

Nays: None

Open session suspended at 6:37 PM

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

Ayes: Brown, Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac

Nays: None

Open session resumed at 7:28 PM.

Josh Kuhl announced that during closed session the council discussed potential litigation, purchase of real estate and personnel

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

Ayes: Lindemann, Blake, Harris, Glumac, Brown

Nays: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Submitted by Rosetta M. York