



**NORTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022**

The Regular Council meeting was convened on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. by Paul Tousley, President of Council. Mr. Tousley noted that over the holidays, Mr. Tom Jones, former Council member passed away and requested that he be remembered during the moment of silent reflection. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silent reflection.

Roll Call:	Jamie Lukens Ben Bates Joe Kernan Scott Pelot (excused) Charlotte Whipkey Doug DeHarpert Paul Tousley	Also Present: Mayor Mike Zita Robert Fowler Pamela Keener Justin Markey Kerry Macomber
------------	---	---

Mr. Tousley opened the floor for anyone wishing to make comments regarding Mr. Jones. Mr. Tousley acknowledged Mr. Jones had served 16 years in this community and if you lived in the community he affected you and wanted to share his appreciation for that. Mr. Kernan shared that they first served together in the late 1990's and even though they didn't always agree, he felt that Mr. Jones always had the best interest of Norton at heart and appreciated all the service that he did make in the City of Norton and wants to remember him for that.

SWEARING-IN FIRE FIGHTERS:

Mayor Zita performed the swearing in procedure for three full time Fire Fighters: Analyse Amstutz, Grant Masl and Michael Eisenhauer.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – Mr. Tousley reminded the audience that this is a public forum, language and comments should be respectful. Also, opinions are welcome, but should be directed to all of Council and not any one individual.

Barbara McLaren, 3864 Valley Drive, Norton OH 44203 – Ms. McLaren addressed Council about the intersection of Higgins and Shellhart. She referenced a meeting last summer with the Mayor where he indicated that intersection would be a right turn only and another resident from the area told her tonight that they were under that assumption also. I've had information placed in the boxes at City Hall that went nowhere so Ms. McLaren provided a packet of information pertaining to the question of the intersection and her previous Public Records Requests to each of the Council member. She also provided a new Public Records Request to Mayor Zita (copy attached herewith). Ms. McLaren stated that Mr. Tousley stated last week that he would put the interests of the residents as a top priority and questioned why Council was not working on a reprimand for Mr. Fowler because he did not comply with her previous Public Records Requests stating she did not receive what she requested. She said there is no accountability and consequences; people are doing what they want but they are supposed to work for the residents. She also stated that even though the public may not like what is said, but they should not be lied to or deceived. She stated you sit behind COVID and in her

opinion it makes you look more deceitful when you don't answer; there is no communication with residents.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE-Reports from Standing Committees

Mr. Tousley acknowledge receipt of the December 2021 Financial Reports.

Ms. Whipkey announced the Mosquito Abatement District (MAD) is having a meeting this Thursday and since we were kind of looking at the newbies to take that position encouraged them or any Council member that may want to serve on the District Advisory Council (DAC) attend the meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of December 13, 2021 were approved as submitted.

Minutes of Special Council Meeting of December 15, 2021 were approved as submitted.

Minutes of Organizational Meeting of January 3, 2022 were approved as submitted.

Minutes of Committee Work Session of January 3, 2022 were approved as submitted.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Zita thanked all those that participated with Christmas trees and holiday displays as they were very nice and stated that the ornaments from the Memory Tree can be picked up at City Hall through the end of the month.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

Res. No. 1-2022

Mr. Tousley introduced Res. No. 1-2022 for its first reading and asked the Clerk to read it:

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICE OF JACK GAINER FOR HIS SERVICE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY OF NORTON COUNCIL – WARD 1; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading only.

Res. No. 2-2022

Mr. Tousley introduced Res. No. 2-2022 for its first reading and asked the Clerk to read it:

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICE OF DENNIS MCGLONE FOR HIS SERVICE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY OF NORTON COUNCIL – WARD 2; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading only.

Res. No. 3-2022

Mr. Tousley introduced Res. No. 3-2022 for its first reading and asked the Clerk to read it:

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICE OF DAN KARANT FOR HIS SERVICE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY OF NORTON COUNCIL – WARD 3, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading only.

Res. No. 4-2022

Mr. Kernan introduced Res. No. 4-2022 for its first reading and asked the Clerk to read it:

A RESOLUTION DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH THE SUBMISSION OF THE QUESTION OF AN ADDITIONAL TAX LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENT, OR MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS, EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES FOR POLICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.19(ZZ) OF THE REVISED CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading only.

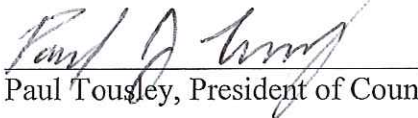
INTRODUCTION OF PRIOR LEGISLATION - None

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Whipkey referred back to Res. No. 4-2022 and asked if there was any idea of how many new homes that were not included in the County's estimate, but will be added to the levy later. She also asked about the impact of KDA tax abatement exemptions, which will not be included in this. Ms. Whipkey stated she was guessing that some of the \$600,000 + exempted would actually be from non-taxable City property. Mr. Markey said he does not have the specific information on the break down but he can request it. KDA has been exempted and abated for several years so that would probably not be included in the pending exemptions listed by the County. It would have to be new properties that would be abated in the future, but he can try to get that information.

ADJOURN

There being no other business to come before the Regular Council Meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.


Paul Tousley, President of Council

I, Kerry Macomber, Clerk of Council for the City of Norton, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes were approved at a Regular Council Meeting held on January 24, 2022.


Kerry Macomber, Clerk of Council

****Note: these minutes are not verbatim****

Original signed and approved minutes are on file with Clerk of Council.

January 10, 2022

Barbara McLaren
3864 Valley Drive
Norton, OH 44203

Mike Zita, Mayor
4060 Columbia Woods Drive
Norton, OH 44203

Mr. Zita,

This letter serves as a request for access to and production of "public records" under Ohio Revised Code § 149.43, the Ohio Public Records Act. Pursuant to R.C. § 149.43 (B)(1), all public records shall be promptly prepared and made available for inspection to any person at all reasonable times during regular business hours. Upon request, a public office or person responsible for public records shall make copies available at cost within a reasonable period of time.

For the purpose of this request "document" means the originals, or any copies when originals are not available, unless otherwise stated, and any non-identical copies, whether different from originals because of notes made on such copies or otherwise, and writings of every kind and description, whether inscribed by hand or by mechanical, electronic, e-mail, photographic, or other means, as well as phonic, such as tape records or visual representations of oral statements, conversations or events and including, but not limited to correspondence, letters, agreements, reports, records, price lists, quotations, memoranda, financial statements, telephone call slips, information stored in computers, teletype messages, internal memoranda, notes, reports, contracts, records of meetings, conferences, or telephone or other conversations or communications, computer printouts and computer stored data.

I spoke at last weeks council (1/3/22) and referenced the impromptu meeting on Higgins Drive last summer with Emma, her mom and myself. You acknowledged the meeting and indicated a right turn only from the golf course development and Shellhart was a likely course of action restricting traffic flow onto Higgins.

However, at last weeks meeting when asked, you would not speak to that or the current plan for the intersection, only saying "you know what it is". This is a very simple request for you, it is public information and not a secret.

Please respond with a written current plan/description for the intersection of Higgins and Shellhart and traffic pattern onto the road directly across from Higgins entering the development (Higgins extension?) for entrance and egress to the development. Also include a printed copy of any schematic/drawing, emails or any reference under the Ohio Public Records Act listed above.

Thank you for your effort in providing all information requested within an accepted ten business days. Any delays please have the courtesy to notify via contact info provided. Since this letter has been delivered to you in person and in public at the 1/10/22 if you would like Ms. Mcomber to time stamp, please request it at this time.

Sincerely,
Barbara McLaren

330-697-3150
mclaren.barbara38@gmail.com

