



**NORTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008**

Roll Call: Ken Braman
Brenda Hlas
Tom Jones
Dennis McGlone
Bill Mowery
Scott Pelot
Mike Zita

Also Present:
Mayor David Koontz
Rick Ryland-Excused
John Moss
Mike Lyons
Jeff Pritchard
Karla Richards
Ann Campbell

The Regular Council Meeting convened on Monday, January 28, 2008 at 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Scott Pelot, President of Council, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES:

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 14, 2008 were approved as written.
Minutes of the Committee Work Session of January 22, 2008 were approved as written.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Mr. McGlone explained a modification to Res. #7-2008, in Section 3 the words “and thereafter” have been added.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Don Weigand, a Norton resident, spoke about the proposed gazebo project and suggested that the Norton Lions Club or other civic organizations get involved with this project at no cost to the City. Mr. Weigand stated that the Norton Lions Club was involved with building the foundation for the gazebo at Williams Park and that he did not believe it cost the City any money. Mr. Weigand stated that this would be a good community project to have civic organizations get involved in. Mr. Weigand discussed Issue #45 and that some on Council and the Administration had no idea of the true cost, such as employee comp time. Mr. Weigand suggested that this cost is capped in the future, and he also discussed going to 24/7 dispatching to save money. Mr. Weigand discussed the recall petitions and the reasons for the recall, which he felt they were questionable. Mr. Weigand questioned if Issue #45 was really behind the recall. Mr. Weigand commented on a past lawsuit against the former Norton Chief of Police that was settled for an undisclosed amount not available to the public. If the details were sealed and someone let that information out, then what is the penalty for disclosure under the law? Mr. Weigand suggested that a prosecutor needs to look into this. Mr. Weigand closed by stating that the residents need to be able to vote on taxes and other sensitive issues. We also expect our City employees to be informed, competent and forthright. In turn the City employees should be treated with respect from the community.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC CONTINUED:

Ms. Charlotte Whipkey, a Norton resident stated that there are no novices on Council and that only the Ward One Councilman has served less than the rest. Ms. Whipkey reflected to the January 14, 2008 meeting when the public was asked not to use names when addressing Council and to act with professionalism when at the podium, which the public followed. How come those shoes do not fall on the same side of the bed for everybody? Ms. Whipkey stated that the way she understood Council Rules and Robert's Rules, when in a formal session the President of Council should be asked for permission to speak by all Council members. We behaved, yet we have one Councilperson on a continuous basis that ignores these rules of conduct and speaks out whenever they want to. Ms. Whipkey stated that she is ashamed of the disrespectfulness to the public, Council President and Council. Ms. Whipkey stated that she would like to see this action stopped. Ms. Whipkey discussed previous comments about a memo put out in January 2006 by the Ward One Councilperson. The memo stated that they wanted a committee appointed to look at all aspects adjoining with Barberton. Ms. Whipkey stated that this memo was in response to the fact that he did not want to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Committee because he did not agree with it. Unfortunately for us it would have been better for us if he had. We would have known what was being discussed and what was going on since there were no minutes being kept. That memo said to look at "all aspects" which means good and bad, and to have a backup plan and options available. Ms. Whipkey discussed the maintenance code and that were made that we should get rid of Ward One Councilman because he did not support this code. The maintenance code has a clause in it, which scared her, and it should scare many residents; it stated that your property could be condemned by location and could become a hazard. Ms. Whipkey pointed out that through all of the revisions of the property maintenance code, this is the one clause that remains unchanged. The section about exterior painting, and keeping the outside cleaned up was removed, however this one clause remained unchanged. Ms. Whipkey discussed the article in last weeks Barberton Herald about the recall election date being on the May ballot, and reminded the residents that there is no May ballot, it will be a special election and the costs will come out of our pockets. Ms. Whipkey suggested that Ward One and the petitioners should be the ones to pay the costs for the recall election.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION:

RES #7-2008

Mr. McGlone offered Res. #7-2008 for it's first reading, and asked the Clerk to read it.

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A NEW CAPITALIZATION THRESHOLD FOR CITY FINANCIAL REPORTING.

First reading only.

INTRODUCTION OF PRIOR LEGISLATION:

ORD #6-2008

Mr. McGlone offered Ord. #6-2008 for its second reading, and asked the Clerk to read it:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF NORTON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008.

Second reading only.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Mr. Lyons stated that as a result of the MAD status hearing today, the court date of February 25, 2008 has been changed to a two (2) day hearing on March 31, 2008 and April 1, 2008.

Mayor Koontz, Mr. Moss, Mr. Pritchard and Mr. Binic were all present, however they had no reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Jones discussed the letter of resignation from Mike Lyons, Law Director and asked Mayor Koontz to elaborate. Mayor Koontz stated that this resignation gives a sixty (60) day notice or less to replace Mr. Lyons. Mayor Koontz indicated that this takes effect on March 22, 2008 or sooner if necessary. Mr. Jones stated that the only reason he brought this up was to let the public know. Mr. Pelot stated that at the next Work Session he would like to add a resolution to be drawn up to send to Sen. Kevin Coughlin and Rep. Brian Williams asking them to amend ORC 6115 Mosquito District. Mr. Pelot stated that he would like the law changed to allow for the citizens to have a right to vote on either the creation of a Mosquito District or the addition of other communities to an existing district. Mr. Pelot stated that he would also like to invite the METRO RTA-SCAT bus service representatives to the next Work Session to discuss Issue 8, which is a .25 percent sales tax increase in Summit County.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Koontz announced several community functions, openings to various Boards & Commissions, (see attached). Mayor Koontz indicated that we are looking into setting up a Business Advisory Committee of Norton business owners to advise us as to what the City can do to help bring business to the City. Mayor Koontz stated that we want to increase our businesses, both expansion of the existing businesses as well as getting new businesses into town.

ADJOURN:

There being no other business to come before the Regular Council Meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Scott Pelot, President of Council

I, Karla Richards, CMC-Clerk of Council for the City of Norton, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes were approved at a Regular Council Meeting held on February 11, 2008.

Karla Richards, CMC-Clerk of Council

****NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM****

All Council & Committee Meetings will be held at the Norton Safety Administration Building, unless otherwise noted. If you do not have access to Time-Warner Channel #15, you may request to view a copy of any VHS recorded meeting in Council Chambers. Please contact Ann Campbell in the Administration office to make the necessary arrangements at (330) 825-7815 ext. 14.