



**ANNUAL COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION WORKSHOP
MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2008**

Roll Call:	Ken Braman	Also Present:	Mayor Koontz
	Brenda Hlas		Rick Ryland
	Tom Jones		John Moss
	Dennis McGlone-Excused		Jeff Pritchard
	Bill Mowery-Excused		Karla Richards
	Scott Pelot		Ann Campbell
	Mike Zita		

Norton City Council and Administration gathered for the Annual Council and Administration Workshop on Monday, March 31, 2008 at approximately 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building.

Mr. Pelot-Council President-Opening remarks:

Mr. Pelot welcomed everyone to the fourth Annual Council and Administration Workshop, and thanked the guests for coming to speak. Mr. Pelot also thanked Ann Campbell and Karla Richards for the meal provided. Mr. Pelot explained the need for the Workshop, which allows us to provide insights to solutions to improve our city. Mr. Pelot welcomed Mr. Greg Bachman, Summit County Engineer, Mr. Brian White, Summit County Planning Engineer, Mr. Brian Stormer, Summit County Engineers office and Mr. Greg Rehmer, Executive Director from United States Representative Betty Sutton's office. Mr. Pelot stated that Attorney Amanda Gordon from Roetzel & Andress Law Firm would be arriving later in the evening to discuss TIF (Tax Incentive Financing)

Summit County Engineer-Mr. Greg Bachman gave a PowerPoint presentation on roundabouts. Mr. Bachman stated that they have installed a new roundabout in Copley. Mr. Bachman indicated that the accidents in that area are already down from nine (9) to two (2) in this area since the roundabout was installed a year and a half ago. Mr. Bachman discussed a potential concept plan for a roundabout in Norton at the intersections of Cleveland Massillon Road and Eastern Road. Mr. Bachman indicated that this area ranked fifteenth (15) in the severity, and would cost an estimated \$500,000.00 to construct. Mr. Bachman stated that they might consider a three (3) way split for this cost with Norton, Barberton and New Franklin to help offset the cost. Mr. Bachman also discussed a new roundabout underway for Riverview Road and Smith Road. Mr. Bachman indicated that roundabouts are a coming trend here in the United States, and that Europe has approximately 10,000 roundabouts and we currently have approximately 2,000 in the United States. Mr. Bachman also discussed storm water issues, adding that we were hit especially hard with heavy rainfall in 2003 and 2004. Mr. Bachman stated that there was a huge need for a regional storm water basin and the if we pulled all of the communities together we could leverage the fees and grant funding with everyone involved. Mr. Bachman indicated that initially the Army Corp. of Engineers had interest with this concept, however after Katrina hit, they lost interest. Mr. Bachman stated that funding was the main concern and that the Army grants would be 65% and the rest would be shared by those communities affected. Mr. Bachman stated that the new Summit County Executive-Mr. Pry is very committed and concerned with this area and has dedicated \$150,000.00 in funding for this effort.

Mr. Bachman discussed a new plan for the Copley Yard Riparian Plan and the intent to redevelop the flood plain area along Pigeon Creek. Mr. Bachman stated that he was eager to work with the staff at Norton on an opportunity to do the same thing here. Mr. Bachman indicated that this type of work would not require special permits from Ohio EPA, and others. Mr. Bachman stated that the thirty (30) mile trail on the Ohio Erie Canal Towpath is to be completed by 2009. Mr. Bachman indicated that his department is looking at working together more and partnering their efforts and creative funding in the future.

Mr. Pelot introduced Ms. Amanda Gordon of Roetzel Andress for her presentation regarding TIF (Tax Increment Financing). Ms. Gordon introduced her assistant Jason Markee. Ms. Gordon discussed the details of a TIF and provided the attached handouts. Ms. Gordon explained the benefits of a TIF, which include improvements to utilities, road improvements, water detention basins, traffic lights, public trails, etc. Ms. Gordon explained that some of the uses are not required to be immediate and can be projected uses for the future.

Mr. Pelot thanked everyone for coming and for providing their information. Mr. Pelot stated that he is very interested doing what we can to address the constant flooding issues in the city.

Mayor Koontz also thanked those who spoke and appreciated their comments.

Mr. Moss stated that we do have the opportunity to grow as a city, however the need for sewer and water is holding the city back. Mr. Moss indicated that using the process of a TIF is one way at looking to address this issue without having to ask the citizens to contribute.

Mr. Pritchard stated that if we are successful with the Cleveland-Massillon Road widening project, zoning is also a very important and critical component to this. We could then set the state for potential projects for the city; the TIF then becomes a very important aspect.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to come before it, the Council and Administration Workshop adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Scott Pelot, President of Council

I, Karla Richards, CMC-Clerk of Council for the City of Norton, do hereby certify the foregoing minutes were approved at a Regular Council Meeting on Monday, April 14, 2008.

Karla Richards-CMC, Clerk of Council