



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2005**

Committee Members Present: Brenda Hlas
Dennis McGlone
Bill Mowery
Scott Pelot
James Price
Mike Zita
John Conklin

Administration Members Present Mayor Joseph Kernan (Absent)
Claude Collins (Absent)
Jeanne Zerga
Jeff Pritchard

The Committee of the Whole convened for a meeting on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Brenda Hlas, President of Council.

Committee of the Whole General Discussion:

None

Summit County Building Services:

Mrs. Hlas introduced Mr. Joe Schivano, Chief Building Official for Summit County. Mrs. Hlas indicated that she asked Mr. Schivano to speak about the services the County offers for building inspections, etc. which we currently outsource elsewhere. There was general discussion as to the services they provide and the fact that the City of Norton would receive 20% of the inspection fees charged that could go back into our General Fund. Mr. Schivano provided everyone with a hand out of information. (See Exhibit A).

Engineering Plan Review Fees:

Mrs. Hlas introduced our Municipal Engineer, Rick Esdinsky and turned the discussion over to him. Mr. Esdinsky indicated that he has reviewed our fees and found that we have no schedule for recovery of some of the costs involved. We are not charging fees on some items and should be in order to offset the expenses. Mr. Esdinsky stated the intention is not to make money, but the principal idea here is to recover costs for time spent on reviews. Mr. Esdinsky indicated that the initial idea was to have his department more self funded instead of coming from the General Fund. With so many subdivisions already in the works, we need to move forward on this issue. Mr. Pelot moved to have legislation prepared for Councils next agenda, three full readings, and no emergency language, seconded by Mr. Conklin.

Roll Call: Yeas: Pelot, Conklin, McGlone, Mowery, Price, Zita, Hlas
Nays: None

Motion passed 7-0.

Police Cruisers:

Chief Carris was present and spoke about his request to purchase three new cruisers at State approved contract pricing. Chief Carris indicated that one cruiser was wrecked recently and needs to be replaced. Chief Carris stated that his department really needed four cruisers, but could get by with three for now. There was discussion as to the number of vehicles we currently have in use (10) and the fact that there was a total of 294,000 miles traveled in 2004. Mrs. Hlas explained that there was money left over in the 2004 Budget, which enables the purchase, and Mrs. Zerga added that she recommended this purchase now. Mrs. Hlas also indicated that the money in the 2005 Budget for vehicles would go towards the purchase of new cruisers in 2006. The total estimate to replace the vehicles is \$75,000.00, minus the insurance money of approximately \$8,000.00, which will reduce this figure. Mr. Conklin moved to place this item on Councils next agenda, waiving second and third readings as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Zita.

Roll Call: Yeas: Conklin, Zita, McGlone, Mowery, Pelot, Price, Hlas
Nays: None

Motion passed 7-0.

Rezoning Application R6-2004:

Mr. Pelot opened the discussion on this request which a zoning change from RU-1 to R-1, at 4210 S. Hametown Road, the former Pander property. There was brief discussion and there appeared to be no conflicts with the request. Mr. Pelot moved to place this legislation on Councils next agenda, all three readings, seconded by Mr. Conklin.

Roll Call: Yeas: Pelot, Conklin, McGlone, Mowery, Price, Zita, Hlas
Nays: None

Motion passed 7-0.

Noxious Weed Ordinance Revision:

Mr. Mowery indicated that this past summer he spent a lot of time working with realtors in getting various properties mowed. Mr. Mowery indicated that this revision of the ordinance helps to address this issue more rapidly, is stricter, and more explicit. Mr. Mowery moved to place this legislation on Councils next agenda, all three readings, seconded by Mr. Zita.

Roll Call: Yeas: Mowery, Zita, McGlone, Mowery, Pelot, Price, Hlas
Nays: None

Motion passed 7-0.

Service Materials Bid:

Mr. Conklin explained that the need for this ordinance is to authorize the bidding process for materials for the Service Dept. The Service Department needs various materials such as culverts, pipes, limestone, asphalt, etc.. Mr. Conklin explained that this is done each year for the same types of items. Mr. Conklin moved to place this legislation on Councils next agenda, waiving the second and third readings, as an emergency, seconded by Mr. McGlone.

Roll Call: Yeas: Conklin, McGlone, Mowery, Pelot, Price, Zita, Hlas
Nays: None

Motion passed 7-0.

CCA Income Tax Collections:

Mrs. Zerga explained the need to either go with CCA for income tax collections or else buy new software program, and hire a new employee. Mrs. Zerga explained the cost difference with each scenario, as well as the pros and cons of each. Mrs. Zerga stated that Mr. Conklin initially had some concerns with CCA, which were raised by his personal accountant. Mrs. Zerga indicated that she contacted Mr. Flickinger, the Finance Director for Barberton, and he indicated there are no problems with CCA at this point. Mrs. Zerga stated that if Council decided to go with CCA, she would recommend a letter from the City of Norton be inserted with the forms CCA sends out, explaining to the residents the process, need, legalities, etc. Mrs. Zerga stated that by using CCA we would still have the one employee in her office to work as a liaison with the residents to answer questions, etc. Mrs. Zerga stated that her office would still work on collecting delinquent accounts on a daily basis. Mrs. Zerga stated that as of last June there were 432 delinquent accounts owing a total of \$72,000.00 and as of today that number is down to 103 delinquent accounts owing a total of \$16,000.00. Mr. Zita inquired as to how long would we outsource, and Mrs. Zerga indicated that it is up to Council and that if we are pleased with their services there may not be a reason to bring it back. Mr. Price stated that he could not support this. There was discussion as to the Prosecutors Hearings for delinquent taxpayers, and the lack of procedures on follow up when they fail to appear for the hearings. Mr. Conklin moved to place this legislation on Councils next agenda, three full readings, no emergency language, seconded by Mr. Pelot.

Roll Call: Yeas: Conklin, Pelot, McGlone, Hlas
Nays: Mowery, Price, Zita

Motion passed 4-3.

City Wide Trash Haulers:

Mrs. Hlas discussed the need for public hearings and input to discuss this with the public. Mr. Hammell, a Norton resident came forward and stated his concerns and is against this. Mr. Hammell felt there would be more rules, restrictions, etc, and less flexibility. Mr. Hammell stated that the only problems with the way it is now is that some residents like to think the barrels are yard ornaments, and others leave them sit out at the curb too long. Mr. Conklin stated that we could hold Public Hearings on February 22, 2005 during the Committee of the Whole, and again on March 7, 2005 Committee of the Whole, and again on March 21, 2005 Committee of the Whole. There was discussion on the fact that there is no opt-put program, and this may be an issue. There was also discussion about senior citizens that only have one or two trash bags a week, and we should offer a discount for them. Mr. Judge, a Norton resident, suggested that we should send a letter to every occupant, and you could recover the costs by adding a non-refundable fee to those submitting a bid package. Mr. Judge indicated that the post office could assist with the listing by supplying a list of occupants. There was discussion about the five different zip codes, which could cause a problem. Mr. Pritchard indicated that he has a database from the Summit County GIS system that could be used. Mr. Carris Sr., a Norton resident inquired if the City of Norton would have any funds coming back into the General Fund for such a program. Mr. Pritchard answered that the Summit Akron Solid Waste Authority would provide \$1.00 per capita to go for education, recycling, etc. which would be about \$11,520.00, but only if this is a mandatory program. Mrs. Hlas indicated that we have two choices here, one is to do legal ads or notices in the papers and the other option is to do a mailer to the residents.

City Wide Trash Haulers continued:

Mr. Conklin stated that we should hold several public hearings, and that we could borrow the money from the Rainy Day Fund to pay for the costs of the mailer. Mr. Conklin moved to borrow the money from the Rainy Day Fund, get it reimbursed when the bids are done, and if it fails on Council floor, then we swallow the loss at \$1500.00, seconded by Mr. Pelot. Mr. Pelot stated he would really like to look at addressing an opt-out provision in the agreement.

Roll Call: Yeas: Conklin, Pelot, McGlone, Price, Zita, Hlas
Nays: Mowery

Motion passed 6-1.

Mr. Mowery was excused in order to get to work.

Water & Sewer Access Fees:

Mrs. Hlas indicated that this was sent back to Committee at our last Council meeting because of issues with the information in the table, which she found out later, was incorrect. Mrs. Hlas indicated that there would be no action on the issue this evening since Council did not get the legislation until after 6:30 PM. Mr. Ken Greenbank, a Norton resident was upset with the fact that he and others have waited over 2 ½ hours to discuss this, only to find out that it would not be discussed. Mr. Greenbank felt that they should have been told this at the beginning of the meeting. Mrs. Hlas stated that she would like to explain the way it was discussed earlier is that the fee will be based on the meter size when you install your sewer. Mr. Judge indicated that these residents and business owners should have been notified when the fee was increased. Mr. Judge also stated that now we are being charged an extra \$4,000.00 because we did not connect, and that the city should consider grandfathering them in because these extra fees are totally unfair. Mr. Judge read a brief report on his recollection of the history on the public meetings and the fees, (see attached Exhibit B). Mr. Judge discussed that he contacted numerous contractors and was told they were not interested in doing the job in Norton, citing the mess that occurred on Wooster Road West. There was further discussion on the issue and Mrs. Hlas indicated this subject would be discussed in two weeks and would be the first item on the agenda.

New Business:

Mr. Conklin discussed the need for the Service Dept. to purchase a concrete saw and street roller. Since there will not be a Road Program this year, if the Service Dept. had this equipment they could make the proper repairs to the roads. Mr. Conklin moved to have legislation prepared to authorize the bidding process to purchase this equipment, seconded by Mr. Zita.

Roll Call: Yeas: Conklin, Zita, McGlone, Pelot, Price, Hlas
Nays: None

Motion passed 6-0.

Old business:

None

Adjourn:

There being no other business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 PM.

Brenda K. Hlas-President of Council

Date approved: January 24, 2005

*****THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM. THE AUDIOTAPE WILL BE
ARCHIVED IN THE CLERK OF COUNCIL'S OFFICE***