



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
JANUARY 17, 2006**

Committee Members Present: Ken Braman  
Tom Jones  
Dennis McGlone  
Bill Mowery-Excused  
Scott Pelot  
James Price  
Mike Zita

Also Present: Mayor Joseph Kernan  
Claude Collins  
Jeanne Zerga-Excused  
Jeff Pritchard  
Chief Carris  
Ted Weinsheimer  
Karla Richards

The Committee of the Whole convened for a meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Council President, Mike Zita.

**Committee of the Whole General Discussion:**

**SBC Enhanced 911 Equipment:**

Mr. McGlone turned the discussion over to Chief Carris for the details. Chief Carris stated that the total costs for this is \$42,000.00. Chief Carris stated that our current system does not support cellular calls and this is an enhancement for our current 911 system. Mr. Collins stated that this was calculated into this year's budget. Chief Carris stated that the grant is pre awarded for \$20,000.00 and we need to kick in \$22,000.00 total for our portion. Chief Carris stated that right now when a cell call is received on 911 dispatch couldn't track the caller or their location. Chief Carris stated that all cellular providers charge their customer's .32¢ per month for 911 Enhancement. This money will come back to the city from the State of Ohio. Chief Carris stated that this would require two pieces of legislation, one for applying for the grant and one for the actual purchase. Mr. Jones inquired if other communities have this; Chief Carris replied that Barberton has it, and maybe Wadsworth. There was discussion if this needed emergency language and Chief Carris indicated that it could go all three readings, and if he received notice that the grant was awarded, he may come to Council and ask to suspend readings. Mr. McGlone moved to place this request to apply for the grant on Council's next agenda, seconded by Mr. Pelot. This will have three full readings and may suspend readings if necessary.

Roll Call: Yeas: McGlone, Pelot, Braman, Jones, Price, Zita  
Nays: None

Motion passed 6-0.

**SBC Enhanced 911 Equipment continued:**

Mr. McGlone moved to authorize the purchase of the 911 Enhancement system to be placed on Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Pelot.

Roll Call: Yeas: McGlone, Pelot, Braman, Jones, Price, Zita  
Nays: None

Motion passed 6-0.

**Request for Service Dept. Vehicle:**

Mr. McGlone turned this discussion over to Mr. Weinsheimer for the details. Mr. Weinsheimer stated that this was included in the 2006 Budget for his department. This vehicle would have a snow plow and salt spreader installed. Mr. Weinsheimer stated this would need two pieces of legislation one to purchase the cab and chassis from Valley Ford for \$36,056.00 and one for the stainless steel bed and body from Gledhill for \$25,575.00. Mr. Collins added that this 1-ton vehicle is slightly smaller than other vehicles and would be able to be utilized in areas the other trucks could not go due to size. There was discussion on the number of vehicles in the department, Mr. Weinsheimer stated that we currently have three 1-ton vehicles in the fleet. Mr. Weinsheimer stated that right now we are replacing two truck beds because of the damage from the salt. Mr. Weinsheimer stated that from now on any vehicles we buy would have stainless steel beds. Mr. Weinsheimer asked for emergency language with this because Valley Ford is holding this vehicle, and it may be 6-9 months to order another one. Mr. McGlone stated that we would also need to suspend the second and third readings. Mr. Pelot questioned if this new vehicle should be undercoated, and Mr. Weinsheimer stated that it would be done before the stainless steel bed goes on. Mr. McGlone moved to place legislation on Councils next agenda for the purchase from Valley Ford for \$36,056.00 for the 1-ton dump truck cab & chassis, seconded by Mr. Price.

Roll Call: Yeas: McGlone, Price, Braman, Jones, Pelot, Zita  
Nays: None

Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. McGlone moved to place legislation on Councils next agenda for the purchase from Gledhill for \$25,575.00 for the bed and body, seconded by Mr. Price.

Roll Call: Yeas: McGlone, Price, Braman, Jones, Pelot, Zita  
Nays: None

Motion passed 6-0.

**AFSCME Contract Agreement**

Mr. McGlone stated the contract agreement with the AFSCME Clerical, and Service Dept. provides for a 1% salary increase in 2006; a 2% in 2007 and 2% in 2008. Mr. McGlone stated that beginning July 1, 2007 these employees would contribute to health care, \$20.00 per pay for family and \$10.00 per pay for singles. Mr. McGlone turned the discussions over to Mr. Collins for the details. Mr. Collins stated this was correct, the only exception was a 3% raise for Clerical Secretary in the third year due to compressing several job titles.

**AFSCME Contract Agreement continued:**

There was also the change for spousal coverage. Mr. Collins explained that when a spouse of a city employee is employed elsewhere they must use that company as the primary insurance, and the City of Norton would be the secondary insurance. Mr. Collins stated that the AFSCME Union is scheduled to vote on the contract this Thursday, and suggested that Council pass this regardless of the voter turnout. Mr. Collins stated that this is for the approval of the fact-finding report. Mr. Collins indicated that this same package is what is being presented to the Police & Fire. Mr. Jones questioned if he felt the Police Department would also follow suit and accept this. Mr. Collins stated that yes he hoped so, this is setting a pattern. Mr. Collins also stated that with the changes to the prescription costs, this would help the city financially. Mr. Collins stated that generally you want everyone to take the generic drug vs. the formulary drug, it is less expensive. Mr. Collins stated that the salary increases of 1% would cost the city \$5,800.00 for the Service Dept. and \$3,500.00 for the Clerical for a total of \$9,000.00. Mr. McGlone questioned if this was in the 2006 Budget, and Mr. Collins stated that it was not, however Mrs. Zerga indicated she can work with this figure this year, but next year who knows. Mr. Jones inquired as to the number of police officers, and Mr. Collins stated that the city has 16 full time and 5 dispatchers for a total of 21. Mr. Pelot asked if this contract is binding for both sides for three years? Mr. Collins stated that was correct. Mr. Collins indicated that this also needs two pieces of legislation one for the Service Dept. and one for Clerical. Mr. McGlone moved to place the AFSCME Service Dept., contract on Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Braman.

Roll Call: Yeas: McGlone, Braman, Jones, Pelot, Price, Zita  
Nays: None

Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. McGlone moved to place the AFSCME Office/Clerical contract on Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Braman.

Roll Call: Yeas: McGlone, Braman, Jones, Pelot, Price, Zita  
Nays: None

Motion passed 6-0.

**Nature Works Grant:**

Mr. McGlone turned this discussion over to Mr. Pritchard for the details. Mr. Pritchard stated that the purpose for this grant is to replace the playground equipment at Columbia Woods Park. Mr. Pritchard stated that this equipment dates back to 1970 and some items have been removed or replaced for safety reasons. Mr. Pritchard stated that he needs a Resolution of Support from Council to apply for the grant. Mr. Pritchard stated that he is applying for \$29,000.00 and the deadline to file is February 1, 2006. There is a total of \$93,000.00 in grant money available for all of Summit County. Mr. Pritchard asked for the suspension of the second and third readings. Mr. Pritchard stated that there was \$60,000.00 set aside in the 2006 Budget for this purpose and we may not hear about the status of the grant till the end of this year or beginning of next year. This would be a 50% match for the city, and the funds are already in place. Mr. Pritchard stated that every community that applies will have an on-site inspection of the current playground areas and assess the need accordingly.

**Nature Works Grant Continued:**

Mr. Pelot asked if the playgrounds are up to standards with soft mulch materials, and Mr. Pritchard answered yes, however we still need to address the safety issues with the equipment, and we really should focus on equipment for 5-12 year olds. Mr. Braman mentioned that he was at the park for the Historical Society's corn roast this summer, and noticed how badly this was needed. Mr. Pritchard stated that his research into this showed that when the Loyal Oak School was razed some of that equipment was brought to the Columbia Woods Park. Mr. Pelot mentioned the possibility of doing fundraisers to generate the revenue, and Mr. Pritchard stated that at one time there was interest by the Norton Lyons or the Kiwanis Club, however he suggested these organizations focus on other projects. Mr. McGlone moved to place this on Councils next agenda with emergency language and waiving the second and third readings, seconded by Mr. Price.

Roll Call: Yeas: McGlone, Price, Braman, Jones, Pelot, Zita  
Nays: None

Motion passed 6-0.

**Cell Tower Contract Reconsideration**

Mr. McGlone turned this discussion over to Mr. Collins for the details. Mr. Collins stated that last August we were presented with a request from Cingular to modify their contract. Council discussed this and decided to say thanks but no thanks at that time. As of December 7, 2005 Cingular has asked the city to reconsider this again. Mr. Collins indicated that we are only in the second year of our first five-year lease. Mr. Collins stated that the newest consideration is for \$1432.22 per month, with no escalations. Mr. Collins stated that Cingular has implied that they can come in and take the tower down if we decline. Mayor Kernan stated that there is a 30-day notice to terminate the contract, however Cingular has to pay us the lease amount for six months. Mr. Pritchard stated that during the construction phase of this tower, it was stated that they need this tower in order to enhance the services to their customers. Mr. Pritchard stated that we also have co-locator fees and we do receive rent from this. Mr. McGlone suggested we turn this down. Mr. Collins stated he felt this contract is too new to be discussing renegotiating. Mr. Pelot suggested we counter offer. Mr. Jones suggested we hold off until North Canton decides what they are doing with their reconsideration offer. There was further discussion and all members present agreed to once again say thanks-but no thanks.

**Gardner Phase III request for Engineering**

Mr. McGlone turned the discussions over to Mr. Collins for the details. Mr. Collins stated that this would be two pieces of legislation, one for the engineering costs and one to apply for the grant. Mr. Collins stated that he received the best price for the engineering from URS at a cost of \$39,800.00. Mr. Collins indicated the total costs for the project was \$374,750.00 and involves Hartzel, Long, Parkway and Wilbur Drives. Mr. Price inquired if this was a 50/50 split on the grant and Mr. Collins stated this was correct. Mr. Collins stated that remaining costs of \$187,000.00 would be assessed to the residents. Mr. Price inquired if new fire hydrants would be included as part of the project? Mr. Collins stated that yes there would be several new hydrants. Mr. Collins stated that some of the existing hydrants have no pressure to them, and are inadequate. Mr. Pritchard discussed his recent research on wells and water in the city dating back to 1964 and that back then this waterline replacement area was discussed.

**Gardner Phase III request for Engineering**

Mr. McGlone moved to place this item on Councils next agenda, going for three full readings, seconded by Mr. Price.

Roll Call: Yeas: McGlone, Price, Braman, Jones, Pelot, Zita  
Nays: None

Motion passed 6-0

**Agricultural District:**

Mr. Zita discussed the application to renew an agricultural district, which was just received today. Due to the very short time frame for Council to act he would like to discuss this now. Mr. Pelot stated that renewals are filed every few years and the property owners receive a different taxing bracket from Summit County. Mr. Pelot stated that this request is from the Beddow Family Trust for a total of 265.5 acres. Mr. Pritchard indicated that he has received a copy of this request and would address this immediately in order to get this back to Council within the proper time frame. Mr. Pelot moved to place this item on Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Braman.

Roll Call: Yeas: Pelot, Braman, Jones, McGlone, Price, Zita  
Nays: None

Motion passed 6-0.

**Old business:**

Mr. Zita stated that the Annual Workshop would be held on Sat. February 4, 2006 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM here in Council Chambers.

**New Business:**

Mayor Kernan announced that the CCA (Tax collection agency) staff would be available to all Norton residents to assist with filing their tax forms on the following dates:

- March 9, 2006 from 1:00 PM-4: 00 PM -Community Center
- March 23, 2006 from 1:00 PM-5: 30 PM-Community Center
- April 8, 2006 from 9:00 AM-3: 00 PM-Community Center
- April 13, 2006 from 10:00 AM-7: 00 PM-Council Chambers

Mayor Kernan stated that Norton resident Brock Kreitzburg (Gary & Linda Brummond's son) made it to the US Winter Olympics Bobsled Team, and congratulated him.

Mr. McGlone inquired on the status of the Finance Directors position. Mayor Kernan stated that he as interviewed 9 applicants so far. One applicant did file late and he will be meeting with this person for an interview soon.

Mr. Pelot stated that he will be on vacation next week and will not be in attendance at the Council meeting.

**Adjourn:**

There being no other business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

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Michael Zita, President of Council

*Date approved: January 23, 2006*

***\*\*THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM. THE AUDIOTAPE WILL BE  
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