



**NORTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING/WORKSHOP  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2006**

Roll Call: Ken Braman  
Tom Jones (Excused)  
Dennis McGlone  
Bill Mowery  
James Price  
Scott Pelot  
Mike Zita

Also Present: Mayor Joe Kernan  
Claude Collins  
Jeff Pritchard  
Karla Richards  
Ann Campbell

Norton City Council convened for a special meeting and all day workshop on Saturday, February 4, 2006 at 9:08 AM in the Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Council President, Michael Zita.

**Mayor Kernan:**

Mayor Kernan discussed the importance and need of a master plan, the zoning code update and a road program. Mayor Kernan stated that this years road program is the first time in a while that the city has had funding available for this. Mayor Kernan stated that the city is continuing to look for more money within the budget to fund this. Mayor Kernan discussed the impact of the potential future developments on our school system. Mayor Kernan stated that this year he has set up a Charter Review Commission to work on the charter. Mayor Kernan discussed the NES facility, and that there is interest to get this back up and running. Ohio Edison has already sold enough energy to begin Phase I of this project. Mayor Kernan discussed the Rony property (Golf Course Community) project, and the fact that this project has been turned over to a different developer. Mr. Pritchard added that he has been working with this new developer to help get this project going. Mr. Collins commented on the NES project adding that they have requested a 30-month extension and have asked Council for a resolution of support so they can submit this to the Ohio Power Siting Board.

**Presentation by Norton City Schools:**

Ms. Karen Wilson, Superintendent was present along with Stephanie Hagenbush-Treasurer, Ken Caldwell-Business Manager and Laura Leonti-School Board President. Ms. Wilson discussed the academic growth and presented the members present with a power point presentation handout (see attached). Ms. Wilson discussed the No Child Left Behind bill and the impact this has on our schools. Ms. Wilson discussed a recent facilities study and the end result was to tear down buildings and rebuild in the future. Ms. Wilson discussed the fact that Norton School District was rated #2 in the County. Ms. Wilson stated that she would like the School District to begin community outreach discussions to find out what the residents want for future growth and revenue options. Ms. Wilson stated that she would like to see the Cornerstone School building become a YMCA, which would be the anchor to our community. Mr. Price discussed the concept behind Norton 21 School. Ms. Wilson stated that this school was started in order to pursue alternative teachings and concepts. Ms. Wilson stated that this has worked so well that we have applied this to the other schools. Ms. Wilson stated that being able to do more with less might actually hurt the school system down the road. Ms. Wilson discussed the conditions of the building at Grill School and the need for more land to develop more school space. Mayor Kernan discussed the concept of a campus like structure for all of the schools in one location. Ms. Wilson stated that this would require more land to develop this. Mr. Caldwell discussed a finding by the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission and that they recommended at least 30 acres for a new high school. Mr. Caldwell stated that our district

would need at least 100 acres to develop the campus structure. Mr. Caldwell discussed the potential costs to refurbish buildings instead of new structures.

**Mr. James Williams-Licensed Parliamentarian:**

Mr. Williams gave a brief power point presentation (see attached) and explained the different motions and their effect on understanding how motion work.

**Road TAC Presentation by Mr. Dowling:**

Mr. Dowling, along with Mr. Easterling, Diana McBride, Collene Bussey, Dave Koontz were present for the discussions. Mr. Dowling stated the city comparisons on how other communities fund their road programs. Mr. Dowling stated that the members have discussed all possible types of funding, and came up with a survey they would like to circulate (see attached). Mr. Dowling stated that this survey could possibly be accessed on the city's web page, as handouts at community events and other meetings. This survey would provide the city with the pulse of what the residents want and the ways they are willing to pay for it. Mr. Dowling discussed a road levy and the fact that it would need to be submitted to the Board of Elections by August 24, 2006 in order to be on the November 6, 2006 ballot.

**Jeff Pritchard Planning Director Presentation:**

Mr. Pritchard discussed all of the development projects going on within the city. Mr. Pritchard indicated that there is a potential of 1,292 residential units or about a 30% increase in our housing. Mr. Pritchard discussed the idea of the school campus, however he questioned where this could be built since property is disappearing rapidly. Mr. Pritchard stated that Strickland's Ice Cream shop should be completed sometime this May, and the potential medical facility, which will employ about 40 people. Mr. Pritchard discussed Norton Commons on Rt. 585 & Rt. 21, which will have a gas station, a bank, grocery store and restaurants. Mr. Pritchard discussed the NES facility and that this looks very promising for the city. Mr. Pritchard discussed a potential building for Fire and Police training in conjunction with the City of Akron on current PPG property. Mr. Pritchard stated that with all of this new and potential growth; we are starting to get the attention of future developers. Mr. Pritchard stated that his main concerns are water, sewer, stormwater, and transportation issues. Mr. Pritchard stated that we have to have a master plan in place along with a land use plan to guide the development in the right direction. Mr. Pritchard discussed the fact that he felt our industrial parks are all substandard. Mr. Pritchard stated that the city needs to address the investment of a salt dome, the acquisition of the Service Garage very soon. Mr. Pritchard stated that we need a plan to guide us in the right direction, and without a plan we will not be able to control what happens or where it happens. Mr. Pelot mentioned the legal standpoint from the developers side and the lack of a master plan prohibits is from turning down potential projects. Mr. Pritchard strongly agreed, adding that right now all we have is a land use map and that we must have both.

**Adjourn:**

There being no further business to come before it, the Special Council Meeting/Workshop adjourned at 1:15 PM

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Michael Zita, President of Council

I, Karla D. Richards, Clerk of Council of the City of Norton, do hereby certify the foregoing minutes were approved at a Regular Council Meeting on Monday, February 13, 2006.

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Karla D. Richards, Clerk of Council