



## COMMITTEE WORK SESSION NOVEMBER 19, 2007

**Committee Members Present:** Ken Braman  
Brenda Hlas  
Tom Jones  
Bill Mowery  
Mike Zita  
Scott Pelot  
Dennis McGlone

**Also Present:** Mayor James A. Price  
Rick Ryland  
John Moss  
Jeff Pritchard  
Karla Richards  
Ann Campbell

The Committee Work Session convened on Monday, November 19, 2007 at 7:02 PM, in Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Council President, Dennis McGlone. Following a salute to the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silent prayer.

### Committee Work Session General Discussion

#### English Language:

Mr. McGlone briefly discussed the English Language and questioned if Council wanted to pursue this matter, and if so, we could discuss this in 2008. Mr. McGlone asked the Clerk of Council for a roll call to keep this item on the Matters Referred list.

Roll Call: Yeas: Braman, Jones  
Nays: Hlas, Mowery, Zita, Pelot, McGlone

Motion failed 2-5 to keep English Language on the Matters Referred list; therefore it will be deleted. Mr. McGlone stated that although this item is not on the agenda tonight, he would like to discuss the tax credit issue. Mr. McGlone thanked Mr. Richard Easterling for his letter he submitted to Council dated November 15, 2007. Mr. McGlone stated that if Council members feel that they are totally against this and feel that they would never support this, please vote no on this. Mr. McGlone stated that if Council were in favor of this issue, he would like to see discussions in January or February of next year.

**English Language Continued:**

Mr. McGlone asked the Clerk of Council for a roll call to keep this item on the Matters Referred list. Mr. Pelot stated that he has been working on an idea for full reciprocity, or at least at percentage of it, coming back to the City of Norton Mr. Pelot stated that he is not opposed to the tax credit unless we can get reciprocity.

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

Motion passed 7-0 to keep this item on the Matters Referred list for future discussions.

**2008 Annual Budget:**

Mr. Jones stated that this item would not be discussed since Council has nothing in front of them from the Finance Director. Mr. Moss indicated that last Friday he worked very hard trying to get this prepared for Council, however he now has the information and presented it to Council. Mr. Pelot stated that he had asked the Clerk of Council to send an email to Mr. Lyons for his input on passing a temporary budget, and he questioned if we are at a disadvantage in passing a temporary budget? Mr. Moss stated yes, and he explained his concerns with temporary budgets, and that it can be a nightmare and he would prefer not adopting a temporary budget. Mr. Moss suggested avoiding this option because you end up robbing Peter to pay Paul. Mr. Moss reminded Council that even if they officially adopt the 2008 Budget, Council always has the full authority to go back and review it at any time after adoption. Mr. Moss indicated that what he has presented to Council tonight does not include the Police Department transfers, advances and summary because we are still busy cutting the Police Department's budget. Mr. Moss briefly explained the layout, and notations on the various pages and specific columns. Mr. Moss stated that any column that is shown boxed and in bold would reflect very new and recent calculations. There was discussion on the self-insurance fund and the substantial increase in the amounts. Mr. Moss explained that with the recent information provided we do anticipate a significantly higher increase. Mr. Pelot questioned if we have considered pooling our city with other communities for better pricing? Mr. Ryland answered no; this would be a difficult task to take on. Mr. Moss added that we do not have streamlined insurance premiums and they have discussed various other ideas internally such as union negotiations. Mr. Ryland indicated that in 2007 we had two (2) employees that were involved with the increase, and that we are looking very hard at reducing this figure. Mr. Jones asked how far down, and Mr. Ryland indicated that it could possibly come down to \$700,000.00. Mr. Moss discussed new information the city received just today for the widening of Cleveland-Massillon Road in the near future. Mr. Moss discussed the addition of three new funds relating to grant money received from Ohio Public Works Commission. Mr. Pelot questioned whether or not these funds would have to be separate pieces of legislation or if this could all one piece, and asked the Clerk of Council to check with Mr. Lyons on this.

**2008 Budget Continued:**

There was further discussion on this issue and Mr. McGlone stated that discussions would continue at the next Committee Work Session on December 3, 2007.

**New Levy Fund for Fire/EMS:**

Mr. Jones briefly discussed this issue and asked Mr. Moss to explain the details. Mr. Moss explained that we need to set up a new fund to receive the 30% of the levy revenue. Mr. Moss indicated that we already have a fund established for the Fire/EMS. Mr. Jones moved to place this item on Council's next agenda, waiving the third reading, seconded by Mrs. Hlas.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

**CRC Resolution #10-2008:**

Mrs. Hlas stated that she has gathered information from other communities and was shocked at what she discovered. Mrs. Hlas stated that of the other communities she researched only six (6) of them still hold partisan elections and that Norton is one of them. Mrs. Hlas stated that when she reviewed the various charters, she found that New Franklin and Green are identical. Mrs. Hlas suggested that we go with nonpartisan elections and hold no primary. Mr. Pelot and Mr. Braman stated that they would still like to see primary elections to narrow it down if you have many candidates. Mr. Pelot added that if you do away with a primary you could end up electing a Mayor with less than twenty-one (21) percent of the vote depending on the number of votes. Mrs. Hlas explained the details of Green and New Franklin's Charter and when a primary would be necessary depending on the number of candidates running. Mr. Pelot stated that he liked this approach and Mrs. Hlas stated that if we go this route and it does not seem to be working, the Charter Review Commission would be convening again in a few years and they could address this. Mr. Braman indicated that he liked how Green and New Franklin are doing this. Ms. Charlotte Whipkey, a Norton resident reminded Council that when modifying the Charter each item must be listed separately. There was further discussion and it was agreed upon that this would remain on the Matters Referred list and carry over into 2008 with a draft of the suggested changes discussed tonight.

**Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Pelot discussed Ord. #77-2007-Appropriations for a gazebo at Columbia Woods Park which was sent back to the Committee. Mr. Pelot suggested that we take this amount and add it all to the appropriations for the garage purchase. Mr. Zita stated that this is still just a shell game. Mrs. Hlas stated that according to the 2008 Budget they already have the necessary funding for the garage and suggested we leave this where it is as a back up.

**Unfinished Business Continued:**

Mr. Jones stated that he would rather see this money used for the roads. Mr. Ryland indicated that this amount would only do about 2.2 miles if we use chip and seal. Mr. Ryland stated that we are getting very aggressive with the road program for next year and are looking at doing twenty-five (25) miles of road next year and twenty (20) miles for every year thereafter. Mr. Ryland stated that this would be a combination of grindings, 405 paving, and chip and seal. Mr. Ryland stated that he and Mr. Pritchard met this morning with GPD Group who is working together with ODOT and AMATS. Mr. Ryland stated that for the city's portion of \$500,000.00 we would be looking at widening Cleveland-Massillon Road. Mr. Ryland encouraged Council not to let the \$27,500.00 for the gazebo and completing the 2000 plan for updating the park get in the way. Mr. Jones asked where this plan or idea came from in the first place? Mr. Ryland stated that there are plans on file in Mr. Pritchard's office for the renovation of Columbia Woods Park, which include a gazebo, among other things. Mrs. Hlas stated that the revenue from Time Warner is supposed to be earmarked for the parks and that within the 2008 Budget that money should be there. There was further discussion and Mr. Pelot suggested that this item remain on the Matters Referred list for discussion in 2008.

**New Business:**

Mr. Jones congratulated the City of Green for the recent announcement that they are listed as the sixteenth (16<sup>th</sup>) best place in the continental United States for raising children. Mr. Jones stated that the Mayor and Council of Green should all be very proud of this statement.

**Public Comment-Non Agenda Items:**

Mr. Bill Kern, a Norton resident, commended Council on their commitment to this community and their hard work toward the common good. Mr. Kern discussed Issue #45 and that as a voter he was frustrated in trying to get the financial figures from 2006 for the actual costs, and revenue. Mr. Kern stated that this financial information is still not listed in the city's website. Mr. Kern stated that he was bombarded with information from both sides. Mr. Kern stated that he felt Council should have listened to the presentation from the Sheriff. Mr. Kern suggested that the city post a rough financial summary to the website every four (4) or six (6) months to keep the public informed. Mr. Kern stated that he was pleased to hear Mr. Ryland's discussion about an aggressive road program. Mr. Kern discussed making the berms and roads safer for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, especially at all of the bridges along State Route #21.

**Topics for the next Work Session:**

Mr. McGlone stated that the 2008 Budget, Employee Health Care and ODOT Consent legislation would be discussed at the next Work Session on December 3, 2007. The Clerk of Council mentioned Mr. Moss's request to post the 2006 CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) on the city's website, which needed Council's approval. Mr. Jones indicated that he has a problem with some of the information being incorrect, such as the organization chart not reflecting Council, the Mayor information, etc.

**Topics for the next Work Session Continued:**

Mr. Moss indicated that Mrs. Tompkins brought this error to his attention when the draft was prepared. Mr. Moss indicated that he contacted the Secretary of State's office and requested this information be corrected. Mr. Moss stated that their office stated that this would not be corrected, and he suggested the city could make a reference on the website as to the corrections. There was no objection to posting this information on the web site with the corrections as suggested.

**Adjourn**

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

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Dennis McGlone, President of Council

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

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