



## COMMITTEE WORK SESSION NOVEMBER 5, 2007

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

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

The Committee Work Session convened on Monday, November 5, 2007 at 7:00 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:**

Mayor Price conducted the official swearing in ceremony of Mike Schultz, as the new Fire Chief.

### **English Language:**

Mr. McGlone stated that he wanted all Council members present for the English language discussion and since Mr. Jones is excused tonight, this item will be on the agenda for the next Committee Work Session.

### **Service Garage Purchase Agreement:**

Mr. Zita stated that this agreement is to purchase the service garage facility we are currently renting at 3355 Dorothy Court, and turned this discussion over to Mr. Ryland for the details. Mr. Ryland indicated that the purchase option is due in December and would like to have a head start on the legislation. Mr. Moss indicated that the money is available, \$475,000.00 for the purchase with an additional \$6,000.00 for the acquisition costs, which also includes the rent due for January, 2008.

**Service Garage Purchase Agreement Continued:**

Mr. Ryland indicated that the Ohio EPA has already started their Phase 1 environmental testing today and that it would be completed prior to the purchase agreement. Mr. Zita moved to place this item on Councils next agenda, seconded by Mrs. Hlas. Mr. Pelot asked if we could make the purchase before January 31, 2008, could the \$3,400.00 rent be waived?

Mr. Ryland replied no, and that the lease agreement runs until the time that we make the purchase. Mr. Zita stated that this idea was discussed about six (6) months ago, and since we still have to pay the rent through the end of the agreement.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

**Use of Inheritance Revenue:**

Mr. Zita explained that we have two items that need to have the funds moved accordingly. Mr. Zita stated that there is \$62,500.00 in the Inheritance Account that needs to be moved in order to purchase the Service Garage and also \$27,500.00 in the Inheritance Account that needs moved to the Parks & Recreation Fund to purchase a gazebo for Columbia Woods Park. Mr. Moss explained that the plan for the garage was to purchase this facility with no new debt and to pay cash for it. Mr. Moss stated that it was earlier discussed to sell the old garage, however we would be giving up some cold storage space. Looking at a larger time frame, it does not make sense. We need to protect equipment and it needs to be under roof, until we can afford to build better storage on the newer facility. Mr. Moss stated that this is actually an extra \$62,500.00 and the old garage would still be there and we can still sell that property later. Mr. Moss stated that the Parks fund does not have enough money to construct a gazebo after the ball fields and annual debt service. Mr. Moss indicated that it was uncertain if we can build a gazebo for that price, however it is money that is available. Hlas asked if the Parks Board approved of the gazebo, and Mr. Ryland stated that the Board has been informed and they think it is a great idea, and will be discussing this at their next meeting.

Mr. Zita moved to place the transfer of \$62,500.00 from the Inheritance Account to the Service Garage Fund on Council's next agenda, seconded by Mrs. Hlas.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

**Use of Inheritance Revenue Continued:**

Mr. Zita moved to place the transfer of \$27,500.00 from the Inheritance Account to the Parks & Recreation Fund on Council's next agenda, seconded by Mr. Pelot. Mr. Braman expressed his concerns for the purchase of the gazebo, adding that having a gazebo would be nice, however he felt the funds would be better used in the road program. This year we would be hit with the expenses for St. Rt. 21 and some of our roads are in really bad shape. Mr. Braman stated that although \$25,000.00 is not a whole lot of money, it's a nice start.

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

Motion passed 5-1.

**Unfinished Business:**

None

**New Business:**

None

**Public Comment-Non Agenda Items:**

Mr. Don Weigand, a Norton resident, discussed road repairs and the possibility of assessing the property owners for this in the future. Mr. Weigand stated that gazebos are nice, but roads are needed. Mr. Weigand stated that consolidating services is not popular, and that Council did not deal with this issue in December, as they should have. Mr. Weigand stated that because of that, it has created a lot of polarization within the neighborhoods, it created a lot of laughs on Channel #15, and none of this made Norton look very good. Mr. Weigand stated that he even heard people from Barberton make comments that their Council was better than Norton. Mr. Weigand stated that he does have respect for each of the Council members, however the next time this comes around you need to look at it. Mr. Weigand stated that if the Fire/EMS levy does not go through, perhaps you could do this for a shorter term, financing anything in government for twenty (20) years is hard to do. Mr. Weigand commented on the men on both sides (SCSO-NPD) and that they have to go through a lot every day in their jobs, with domestic violence, etc. Mr. Weigand asked that in the future when something like this comes up that you get it aired out, let us have the information and let us make the decisions without letting your personal feelings and opinions overcome that decision.

**Public Comment-Non Agenda Items Continued:**

Mr. Gilbert Chaney, a Norton resident, discussed the legal notices for the Charter amendments. Mr. Chaney asked whose decision was it to place the legal notice in the Norton Post? Mr. McGlone stated that legal ads were not printed in the post. Mr. Chaney asked whose idea was it originally, and Mr. McGlone answered it was Council's decision. Mr. Chaney asked if the Solicitor/Law Director OK'd it, and Mr. McGlone answered yes. Mr. Chaney stated that you nearly slipped one in on us and you almost got away with it. Mr. Chaney stated that he hoped everyone goes out and makes their will known.

Mr. George Tomko, a Norton resident, discussed an email he received regarding the English language, (see attached). Mr. Tomko stated that there were thirty-three (33) Senators who voted against English as America's official language on June 6, 2007. Mr. Tomko thanked Council for taking the English Language off of the agenda for tonight. Mr. Tomko thanked everyone on for their work on the election, for both sides. Mr. Tomko cautioned the voters not to let anyone tell you how you should vote; you need to make up your own mind.

**Topics for the next Work Session:**

Vote to continue the English language discussion, Non-partisan elections,

**Adjourn**

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM.

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Dennis McGlone, President of Council

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

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