



## COMMITTEE WORK SESSION FEBRUARY 20, 2007

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

**Also Present:** Mayor Joseph Kernan-Excused  
Claude Collins-Excused  
John Moss-Excused  
Jeff Pritchard  
Karla Richards

The Committee Work Session convened on Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Council President, James Price. Following a salute to the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silent prayer.

### **Committee Work Session General Discussion:**

Mr. Price reminded everyone wishing to speak to please sign in regardless if their subject is on an agenda item or not.

### **Mayors Salary**

Mr. Jones turned the discussion over to Mr. McGlone since he brought this topic up last year. Mr. McGlone stated that last year he proposed this and didn't feel he had enough votes on Council to pass this so he tabled it and sent it back to Committee to be re-worked. Mr. McGlone proposed staggering the increase out over the next four (4) years. Mr. McGlone suggested an increase to \$15,000 for the first year, \$18,500 for the second year, \$21,500 for the third year and then \$25,000 in the fourth year. Mr. McGlone discussed the article in the Beacon Journal that was published today (see attached). Mr. McGlone discussed the facts and added that Norton is the 8<sup>th</sup> lowest out of the 75 communities and that this is embarrassing. Mr. McGlone indicated he wanted the position to remain part-time, and that full-time Mayors salary ranges from upwards of \$54,000. Mr. McGlone stated that we have been at a standstill the last seven (7) or eight (8) years and in order to move this city forward we need to address this, so lets not waste time. Mr. McGlone stated that he wanted to know what the members felt about either the \$25,000 or the staggered rates. Mr. McGlone stated that at the next work session on March 5, 2007 he would be discussing how to pay for the road program, water and sewer and helping out the Fire Dept.

**Mayors Salary Continued:**

Mr. Jones clarified that this legislation was not tabled, it was sent back to the Committee. Mr. McGlone stated this was correct, it would be brought back to Council and he wanted to have three (3) full reading on this. Mr. Price stated that the Beacon interviewed a lot of Mayors in Summit County, and decided to quote himself and the Mayor. Mr. Price clarified his statement of you get what you pay for. Mr. Price stated that when he met with Mr. McCarthy regarding sewer issues, Mr. McCarthy told him that he needed the Mayor present for any discussions. Mr. Price stated that if anyone wants to do business with your city, it is usually the Mayor that they want to talk to. Mr. Price stated that he was quoted as saying \$20,000 to \$25,000 for an increase. Mr. Price stated that Mr. Moss contacted him to advise that he would no be here today and is excused, as well as Mayor Kernan. Mr. Price stated that this is a position pay change, it is not for the current Mayor, and that we need to keep our personality thing out of this. It's not about making this a full time position, that is a Charter change Mr. Price stated that he would remain neutral on this until he hears all of the facts. Mr. Zita stated that he would support the increase of \$25,000 each year. Mr. Pelot stated that he agreed with Mr. Price, you do get what you pay for and this opens up the position to more candidates. Mr. Pelot stated that he would support the increase to \$25,000 but was unclear about if this was to include benefits or not. Mr. McGlone stated that this is \$25,000 without benefits, and his goal is to look at addressing the issue in the next four (4) year to reconsider full time. This would give us for (4) years to maybe think about going with a full time Mayor. Mr. Pelot discussed whether we have the fund for this, and felt the bigger question for the city is can we afford not to fund this. Mr. Jones stated that this is a big increase and he could not support this. Mr. McGlone asked if it was because he felt we did not have the money for it? Mr. Jones replied that is part of it. Mr. McGlone asked Mr. Jones if an \$80,000 boom mower was more important than the Mayors salary increase? Mr. Jones replied that he was not sure a salary increase would entertain a better candidate or not. Mr. McGlone asked how do you know until we try? Mr. Jones stated that as far as equipment purchases, these departments are out there day in and day out working for the citizens as best as they can with the equipment they have. Mr. McGlone stated that by getting a good city Administrator that would support all of these supervisors and would be able to help move this city along. Mr. McGlone stated that a good Administrator can run a city. Mr. Braman stated that he had said before that he would support a substantial increase like 50% would make it \$16,875 for the first year, he was not sure on the \$25,000 or the graduated increase right now and would think about it. Mr. Mowery stated that he was not sure the city has the money to spend on the Mayors salary increase. Mr. Mowery stated that he does not agree with the comments of you get what you pay for. Mr. Mowery stated that you can pay out a lot of money and still not get what you are after. Mr. Mowery suggested the possibility of dividing up some of the jobs. Just to give out a raise to keep in line with what's in the papers, this is Norton and we are trying to do the best with what we have. Mr. Mowery stated that he could support a small increase maybe up to \$15,000 for four (4) years. Mr. Mowery asked what kind of candidate are you looking for, when this is up to the electors anyway? Ms. Violet Carr, a Norton resident, stated that she has received several calls about the newspaper article, one was a former Treasurer of a school system. We discussed this and they kept saying don't compare this to apples to oranges you have to compare apples to apples. Ms. Carr discussed the difference in populations and the hours required compared to Norton. Ms. Carr stated that after further comparisons it looks like we are not doing so bad for our part time Mayor. Ms. Carr stated that the Mayors position with part-time hours may require about two (2) hours per day, That's 520 hours a year, divided by the current salary of \$11,000 this comes out to \$22.34 per hour. Not exactly chicken feed when you consider what they are doing.

**Mayors Salary Continued:**

Ms. Carr stated that if you have a full time Mayor you pay them more, then we would not need a City Administrator. You either have a properly compensated part-time Mayor or an active and properly compensated City Administrator, but not both. Ms. Carr stated that she could not see paying \$25,000 for a part time Mayor. Ms. Carr stated that it seems that the residents are becoming more active and aware about issues. Mr. Pritchard stated that all of the comments made are correct, however, what jumps out at him as that out of all of these locations we are one (1) of three (3) in terms of part-time Mayors that is not specified. Mr. Pritchard stated that this is a red flag issue that the Charter needs to be more specific and would help Council in their decision making process. Mr. Pritchard stated that some issues are very important and do require that the Mayor be present to make decisions. Mr. Price discussed the facts and figures in the article and asked what do we want or expect from the Mayor and that position? To make it full time would be a Charter change. He would like to see the city grow, what have we done as far as growth? We state that we are a growing community, but what have we done to help it grow? Mr. Price stated that if you have a salary of \$25,000 you are working towards the goal of a full time Mayor. Mr. Price stated that having a strong Mayor would make for a strong city. Mr. Stavarz, a Norton resident, commented on the article and the facts. Mr. Stavarz discussed the Wadsworth Mayor and the fact that it is a part-time position without a City Administrator. Mr. Stavarz stated that this city has both positions and that you are going too far if you go over \$18,000 without benefits. Mr. McGlone moved to add this amended ordinance for the salary of \$25,000 and remove the health care option onto Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Zita. Mr. Jones clarified that this is for \$25,000 with no benefits for a first reading, and Mr. McGlone concurred. Mr. Jones stated that if we are going to make it that attractive, he would be running for Mayor. Mr. Jones stated that he does not need the benefits and he is retired and has the time to dedicate to the community. Mr. Mowery stated that the point is that if you get someone elected because the money looks good, they could spend two (2) hours a week here. The city has a lot to lose if you get someone in that just wants the money. You need someone that is committed to do the job. Mr. Jones stated that if he was to run for this position, he does have the time to dedicate it. You do need someone to watch over Administration, and was not sure if a lot of the people in Administration know their duties. He has seen this over the years since he has been here in the early 90's.

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

Motion passed 5-2.

**Service Dept. Equipment purchase**

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Weinsheimer to address the proposals. Mr. Weinsheimer stated that his request is for two (2) items that were already approved in the 2007 Budget. The first is for a salt truck to add to the current fleet. Mr. Weinsheimer stated that the last salt truck was purchased back in 2001, and he would not be retiring any vehicles with this purchase, and that we currently have a total of five (5) trucks. Mr. Weinsheimer indicated that we budgeted for \$110,000 and the bid came in at \$109,991. Mr. Pelot stated that the Service Dept. did a great job with the recent snow removal. Mr. Weinsheimer indicated that his department worked sixty (60) hours straight and they concentrated on the main roads first then moved on to the secondary roads, unless called out for emergencies. Mr. Weinsheimer stated that we will plow as emergencies arise, we are there and we will do what we have to in order to get help for a resident.

**Service Dept. Equipment Purchase continued:**

We were plowing in driveways in order to get victims out. We helped carry stretchers through twelve (12) inches of snow more than 100 yards to get them out. Mr. Pelot asked about the ages of all of the trucks, and Mr. Weinsheimer indicated that they are from 1997 to 2000. Mr. Pelot inquired about the life expectancy of the trucks, and Mr. Weinsheimer stated that was difficult to say because in the past we had no maintenance plan. Now we do and the vehicles will be able to last a little longer. Mr. Weinsheimer indicated that he would like to see the city have seven (7) trucks at all times. Mr. Pelot asked if we could have the Mayor contact ODOT to pay their fair share for St. Rt. 21 and St. Rt. 585? Mr. Weinsheimer indicated that Mr. Collins has tried this ever since he started to no avail. Mr. Weinsheimer stated that ODOT has even come to him to try and get him to take on another six (6) miles of road South of the Norton line, and Mr. Weinsheimer declined. Mr. Jones inquired about the tank to hold the liquid and if this is needed. Mr. Weinsheimer stated that he doesn't need to for starters. At this point in time he just wants this equipment and will see what it can do. Everyone that has one comment that they love it. Mr. Weinsheimer stated that this equipment could have been in use today patching pot holes even with this weather. Mr. Weinsheimer stated that the materials that we are putting in the pot holes now will not last, it will pop out the next time we plow. You can do much thinner patches with this new equipment and materials. There was discussion on the costs and the valid date of the price guarantee. Mr. Weinsheimer indicated that he discussed this with Mr. Moss and that Mr. Moss was leaning toward buying this and not leasing this equipment, and making a modification to the budget. Mr. Weinsheimer provided a cost analysis showing that this purchase would actually pay for itself, (see attached). Mr. Weinsheimer indicated that the price quote is still in effect. Mr. Price indicated that he discussed this issue with Mr. Moss and that he has a plan. Mr. Jones stated that he would like to move this discussion to the next work session and discuss this further when Mr. Moss can be present. Mr. Jones stated that we have to keep in mind that we still have the purchase of the Service Garage facility. Mr. Jones stated that he did not approve the 2007 Budget. There was discussion about the budget and Mr. McGlone and Mr. Pelot both agreed that these purchases were approved in the Budget. There was discussion on holding off on these purchases until Mr. Moss was present for discussion, and Mr. Weinsheimer indicated that he was not in a rush for this, he could wait. Mr. Weinsheimer indicated that because of the time line for the patch equipment, he prefers one reading, and could go all three readings for the truck purchase. Mr. Braman asked about the life expectancy on this new equipment and Mr. Weinsheimer stated more than five (5) years. Mr. Jones moved to place the purchase for the salt truck on the agenda for the Work Session agenda for March 5, 2007, second by Mr. Braman.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Jones moved to place the purchase of the Dura Patch Model #125DJT on the agenda for the Work Session agenda for March 5, 2007, seconded by Mr. Braman.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

**Contract renewal with Life Force Management-EMS Services**

Mr. Jones stated this was more of a boiler plate type of legislation with no changes, and moved to place this on Councils next agenda for a first reading, seconded by Mr. Zita. Mr. Zita stated that this is for EMS services, and allows Life Force Management to bill insurance companies for the fees. Mr. Jones indicated that this basically was set up so that the city could get our costs back to us. Mr. Zita referred to the costs breakdown that was submitted in the packet.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

**Hotel-Motel Tax:**

Mr. Jones indicated that although this is a smaller item, with Mr. Moss not being here, he would like to see discussed at the next Work Session. Mr. Jones moved to add this to the next Work Session agenda for March 5, 2007, seconded by Mr. Zita.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

**PC Res. #4-2007 Agricultural District-Dayton Nursery Inc.**

Mr. Braman indicated that this application is for Dayton Nurseries and was done several years ago and some where along the way it got lost. Mr. Braman stated that this application clearly meets the requirements and is the proper thing to do. Mr. Jones stated that the former Clerk of Council, Mrs. Hudson neglected to inform the County after Council had approved the application. Mr. Pritchard stated that in the past the Planning Commission and Council had approved this application. Mr. Pritchard indicated that there was a small question on the actual acreage because the County records indicate a slightly smaller amount than what Mr. Dayton submitted. Mr. Braman moved to place this on Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Jones. Mr. Braman stated that there would be a Public Hearing at that time as well.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

**Re-appointments for Boards & Commissions**

Mr. McGlone stated that these re-appointments expire on February 28, 2007. Mr. Pritchard stated that Mr. Drippleman has served on the Building & Zoning Appeals Board and has done quite well. Mr. Pritchard stated that he could not speak about Ms. Darlena Wise because he does not attend the Cemetery Board meetings. Mr. Braman stated that he could speak for Ms. Wise, she is in his ward and he has spoken to her several times. She is very committed to working on the Cemetery Board. Mr. McGlone moved to place these on Councils next agenda with emergency language waiving the second and third readings, seconded by Mr. Pelot.

**Re-Appointments of Boards & Commissions Continued:**

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

Motion passed 7-0.

**Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Jones stated that back on October 2, 2006 he had asked about the new Fire Chief and if he has moved into the community yet. Mr. Collins indicated that he was on a ninety (90) day probationary period. Mr. Jones stated that the ninety (90) days is already past. Mr. Jones stated that he wants to send a memo to Mayor Kernan advising that if Chief Calco does not move into the community as he took this position knowingly, if he doesn't want to move into the community, he should resign from his position. Mr. McGlone asked Mr. Jones if he has discussed this issue with Mayor Kernan? Mr. Jones indicated that he did not, but he should know about my comments from October 2, 2006. Mr. Jones stated that we seem to run into this stuff all the time, these guys take these positions know this. There was no opposition from Council on the memo and Mr. McGlone suggested that Mayor Kernan could respond to Council by the next meeting.

**New Business:**

Mr. McGlone stated that at the next meeting he would like to talk about the tax credit and hoped to have this listed first on the agenda.

Mr. Zita discussed the Administrations request for a baseball field agreement and inquired if we should get moving on this soon. Mr. Zita felt that with the warm weather coming we might need to address this in the near future. Mr. Pritchard stated that the fields will be re-seeded and there would be no play on the ball fields this year, the fields need time to mature. Mr. Pritchard indicated that there is no rush on this. Mr. McGlone inquired if we would be doing the same thing with football or soccer? Mr. Pritchard stated that the new fields are designed for baseball use only. Mr. Pritchard stated that there is something in the works for the soccer fields, and that we need to control any scheduling conflicts.

Mr. Price stated that there is a need to correct the minutes of February 12, 2007, however he did not have his set of minutes with him. It appeared that the minutes show a Council Member voted twice. Mr. Jones stated that it's the February 5, 2007 minutes, on page #7 the roll call vote shows Braman, Pelot, Pelot and Zita. It should be Braman, McGlone, Pelot, Zita.

Mr. McGlone inquired if the meeting for the JEDD agreement is still going forward this Thursday? Mr. Pritchard stated that it was still scheduled, he was not sure if there would be a resolution on that day.

Mr. Jones inquired about the Zumpano Construction for the new building if this was moving forward and the utility hook ups. Mr. Pritchard replied that the project is moving forward and that we had our legal representative send a letter to the City of Barberton stating our position and we feel we are appropriate in our position to continue to move forward with this project.

**Non-Agenda Items:**

Ms. Carr, a Norton resident, stated that she has received wonderful reactions from residents about her chastising the Administration for being misinformed and tardy about the State mandate. Ms. Carr stated that she must have struck pay dirt when she compared our employees and CEO who were not exactly accomplishing their assignments, and her idea of the Donald Trump solution. The residents now realize that this is going to affect everyone and the employees are not doing their jobs and they loved the Donald Trump solution. Ms. Carr stated that this November could be very interesting. The citizens, the sleeping giant is awakening. Democracy is coming back to Norton, we are going to get our city back. We are no longer the citizens who are in over our head, it appears it is the employees.

Ms. Whipkey, a Norton resident, discussed the minutes of February 5, 2007. Ms. Whipkey stated that it was Mr. Mowery who was not present at that meeting. Ms. Whipkey stated that in those minutes she had asked Mayor Kernan about the members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee being appointed and he said that they were appointed but the minutes reflect that they were selected. Ms. Whipkey asked that this be corrected as well. The Clerk of Council stated that she would review the tape to clarify exactly what was said. Ms. Whipkey also stated Mayor Kernan did not say yes it was a valid document, he stated "as far as I know". Ms. Whipkey questioned if the Comprehensive Plan should be Resolution #21-2006 or Resolution #11-2007? The Clerk of Council clarified that the Planning Commissions Resolution is #21-2006 and the Councils Resolution is correct as 11-2007. Ms. Whipkey asked if they are both the same, and The Clerk stated that they are. Ms. Whipkey asked Council to consider turning this down and made it clear that the people will not get to vote on this plan, you are our only vote. Ms. Whipkey stated that the Planning Commission had no intention of the residents being able to do anything about this. There is no mechanism for the residents to file a referendum on this. Ms. Whipkey asked how many residents actually even understand this. There are things in there that we don't need. Ms. Whipkey stated that she has a real problem with something this massive and the residents not having any input whatsoever. Ms. Whipkey discussed Ord #7-2007 Executive sessions, and felt that this should go back and you should make explicit, such as contract talks for police and fire. As far as land purchases, that is not pertinent because this is a public record as to how much money we have to spend on it. Ms. Whipkey discussed Ord. #8-2007 Wards And Boundaries and changing the wards from 10% to 20%. Ms. Whipkey stated that she did not care what the Ohio Revised is, that's what is so wonderful about the Charter, it lets Norton be different. If you go with the 20% you would have eliminated some of the wards voting powers. Ms. Whipkey discussed Ord. #9-2007 Charter Review Commission. Ms. Whipkey stated that Charter Review is its own special commission and does not need to merge with Article X. Ms. Whipkey stated that the Charter does not need to be streamlined, if anything it needs to have teeth put back in it. We need more power, we are losing our checks and balances. We do not need to lose more to where it can be played with. Ms. Whipkey stated that she felt it has been broken already on several occasions. Ms. Whipkey stated that if we cannot uphold our Charter and respect it, why should Summit County or the State?

Mr. Stavarz, a Norton resident, stated that he was disappointed that Administration was not present. Mr. Stavarz discussed an issue he has with a malicious complaint against his business and read the facts aloud (see attached). Mr. Stavarz stated that he understands that small town politics can get pretty mean, but for elected and appointed officials to behave in this fashion.

**Non-Agenda Items Continued:**

Mr. Stavarz stated that there should be some recourse here, at the very least an apology should be made. Mr. Stavarz stated that he would be happy to speak with any of you and show you what this is all about.

**Topics for the next Work Session:**

Service Department Equipment purchases

Hotel-motel tax ordinance

Food ordinance

Listening devices-Mr. Jones indicated that he sent a memo to Mr. Moss in regards to this and a possible upgrade to the sound system. Mr. Jones stated that his idea was to take a percentage from the Time Warner Fund and set that aside until we have enough money to do the whole job. Mr. Pelot agreed that this was a good idea, however he was not sure we could or should wait on the listening devices. Mr. Pelot stated that he wants to be assured that we don't have any issues and get sued over this.

**Adjourn**

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.

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James Price, President of Council

**\*\*These minutes are not verbatim \*\***

**All Committee Meetings will be held at the Norton Safety Administration Building, unless otherwise noted. If you do not have access to Time-Warner Channel #15, you may request to view a copy of any VHS recorded meeting in Council Chambers. Please contact Ann Campbell in the Administration office to make the necessary arrangements at (330) 825-7815 ext. 14.**