



COMMITTEE WORK SESSION JULY 2, 2007

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

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

The Committee Work Session convened on Monday, July 2, 2007 at 7:01 PM, in Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Council Vice-President, Scott Pelot. Following a salute to the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silent prayer.

Committee Work Session General Discussion:

Mr. Pelot suggested that due to the number of residents signed up to speak, everyone should try and limit their comments to one time at the podium, and reminded everyone about the five minute rule.

DARE Grant:

Mr. Mowery explained that this is a duplicate of what Council approved last year, however this year the grant amount available is \$10,308.00. Mr. Mowery stated that a resolution from Council is needed in order to submit the grant application. Mr. Mowery moved to add this to Councils next agenda, waiving the second and third readings, seconded by Mr. Zita

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

Motion passed 6-0.

Fire/EMS Budget & Levy Discussion:

Mr. Mowery opened the discussions and turned this topic over to Mr. Moss for the details. Mr. Pelot announced that we have received the final numbers from the Summit County Auditors, which are \$805,916 for Summit County, \$439.00 for Wayne County for a total of \$806,355.00. Mr. Moss distributed a new packet of updated information (see attached), adding that this amount is approximately \$20,000.00 less than what we originally anticipated. Mr. Ryland stated that he really did not have any new information to add, and that the meeting scheduled for today was cancelled by the full-time Firefighters Union until Thursday. Mrs. Hlas expressed her concerns with the \$1.00 difference in the numbers from what Wayne County certified and what Summit County submitted. Mr. Moss stated that he has reviewed this and that Wayne County rounded their number up from \$439.00 to \$440.00. Mrs. Hlas stated that he would like to add a new whereas clause to the proposed legislation (see attached) to take 35% of the revenue and set it aside for capital improvements. Mrs. Hlas indicated that would include; maintenance, equipment service contracts, radio access costs, equipment, equipment fund, vehicles and the new station. Mrs. Hlas stated that total comes up to \$251,500.00. Mrs. Hlas stated that she originally thought that 31.5% was \$254,000.00 and after discussing this with Mr. Ryland this afternoon he felt that 35% was a better figure, which comes to \$282,224.00. Mr. Ryland stated that if you add up the numbers they calculate between 32% and 35% and is everything except the personnel costs involved. Mr. Ryland stated that the key point is the flexibility that you take away when you denote a certain percentage. Mrs. Hlas stated that by doing this the residents will know that this is set aside for a new building and to purchase equipment. Mr. Moss stated that by using the suggested percentage this could limit the amount available for spending many years down the road. Mrs. Hlas stated that she has two brother-in-laws who are former Fire Chiefs and one of them suggested to use a percentage rather than a specific dollar amount. Mr. Pelot asked at what point would we have the funds for a new facility, and Mr. Moss replied we have projected to finance \$106,000.00 annually over twenty (20) years for a \$1,400,000.00 facility. Mr. Ryland discussed his concerns with the ISO ratings as Chief Calco had discussed at an earlier meeting. Mr. Jones questioned the language in Section 1 where it states: *“at a rate not exceeding 3 mills for each one dollar of valuation”* and that this was inconsistent with 3.0 as stated in the first whereas clause. Mr. Moss stated that he believed that these have the same meaning. Mr. Jones suggested that these numbers are consistent. Mr. Braman also questioned the valuation language and Mr. Moss explained that it is correct and that the amount subject to the tax is the total valuation of \$268,784.883, which is divided by 1,000 then multiplied by three (3). Mrs. Hlas stated that if this 35% for capital improvement is not in here she could not support a 3 mill levy. Mrs. Hlas stated that she felt it is important for the residents to know that 35% is going to be where it is supposed to go and not be sucked up in operating expenses. This is not limiting us, it will state that we really want a new building, new equipment and that we will be able to maintain those. Mr. Jones asked Mr. Moss if he was comfortable with that figure, and Mr. Moss replied that his comments were just off the top and that he needs time to look at this more.

Fire/EMS Budget & Levy Discussion continued:

Mr. Pelot stated that if everyone is in agreement with the 35% figure and we could have Mr. Moss review this in detail. Mrs. Hlas suggested that Mr. Lyons and Mr. Moss review the proposed changes by Thursday so that Council has the time to review this before Monday. Ms. Megan Booth, a Norton resident, questioned what was wrong with the line items as Mr. Moss had originally prepared since he took everything into consideration, and why do we now need to adjust that? Mr. Mowery stated that this would state the exact amount and the limitations and that the residents will know exactly where it goes. Mr. Pelot stated that Mr. Moss' document is a work sheet, and Ms. Booth asked if that worksheet should become part of the resolution? Mr. Pelot stated that you would be limiting yourself tremendously if it was part of the legislation. Ms. Booth disagreed, stating that in a certain year the 35 % is either not enough or not needed but you are obligated to spend it. Mr. Pelot clarified that it doesn't mean that it gets spent, it only means that a specific amount is set aside. Mr. Pelot stated that he agreed with the 35% and felt that the residents would support a levy knowing that we would get a new building, new trucks and equipment. Mr. Mowery stated the most important thing is that the residents would continue to have their services. There was further discussion and providing this is approved by Mr. Lyons and Mr. Moss it would be amended on Monday. Mr. Zita asked what is the alternative, and Mr. Pelot indicated that the Fire/EMS Dept. would run out of money if this levy does not pass. Mr. Ryland concurred adding that the Fire/EMS Dept. would run out of money sometime this fall. Mr. Moss concurred, adding we are also in trouble next year due to increase in costs. The problem will not be resolved until the levy proceeds begin to come in, we still have to deal with the short-term situation even with the 3 mil levy. Mr. Pelot indicated that the revenues generated from this levy would not be realized until 2009.

Council Rules-Agenda Layout & Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Zita indicated that this could be broken out into three (3) issues. Mr. Zita stated that the last time Council Rules were revised was September 5, 2006, and has been in place since then. Mrs. Hlas indicated that her concern was that we are spending too much time on Council floor amending or adding to the minutes. Mrs. Hlas stated that in order to streamline the process, we could follow some of the suggestions outlined in the packet, with a few exceptions. Mrs. Hlas suggested the Clerk of Council should be notified by 1:00 PM or 2:00 PM on Mondays of any additions or corrections. They would be typed up as was done last Monday, have the Clerk of Council concur that what is being added was actually stated, and a copy of the changes would be submitted to all Council members. We can just approve the minutes as corrected in front of us, without having to go into all the details. Mrs. Hlas stated that if there are any typos any Council member could contact the Clerk of Council so that she can make the changes and have a clean copy ready for the President to sign once they are approved. Mr. Zita stated that if Council decides to change the procedures for approval of minutes, Section 502 would also need to be amended.

Council Rules-Agenda Layout & Approval of Minutes continued:

Mrs. Hlas stated that she had concerns because in the past we approved additions to the minutes, only later to find out that what was added was never stated. Ms. Violet Carr, a Norton resident, spoke about watching the tape of the last meeting and noticed that one Council woman seemed interested in making our minutes more condensed. Ms. Carr wondered if this was due to lack of experience in the legal and corporate world. A few seminars and meetings cannot possibly enlighten anyone for the need for in depth minutes. Ms. Carr stated that she was taught by the best on how to do minutes, and every minute had to be correct because it meant something important. Ms. Carr spoke about past experiences with corporate law and union negotiations, and that legal opinions were formed on the minutes, they should not be condensed. We have had to go back sometimes nearly forty (40) years and what someone says and the manner in which it is stated is very important. Ms. Carr stated that Mrs. Richards has done a lot of in depth work with her minutes, it does not need to be condensed or made shorter, we need a full record that is kept in writing. Ms. Carr related to what happened at Watergate and the CIA, all of those papers counted. Why leave out half of what is stated? What do you fear? Is there a reason to leave it out? Maybe you do know that minutes are important and what is looked up. We don't need them condensed down; we need them full boar. Ms. Brenda Anderson, a Norton resident discussed the minutes that were discussed on June 25, 2007. Ms. Anderson thanked Ward 1 Councilman for being diligent and precise with the minutes, and applauded Mr. McGlone for accepting the minutes as amended and corrected with or without a vote. Ms. Anderson discussed Charter Section 3.10, which states: *"The Clerk of Council shall keep an accurate and complete journal of all the proceedings of Council"*. Ms. Anderson stated that the key words are accurate and complete. Ms. Anderson discussed Council Rules Section 502, which gives a Council President the power to address the members of Council for correction and modifications. It is clear in these two documents how important the minutes are, and they must be clear and precise. The minutes are a source of public information, which defines public as *"of or relating to businesses or community interest"* The minutes provide a history not only on ordinances, they also show how each Council person has voted. Ms. Anderson stated that times, dates, and voting records have always been a concern of the voters, hence the need for Sunshine Laws. If information is altered behind closed doors of Council, the whole truth can be withheld, no need for Sunshine Laws. Ms. Anderson stated that the reporting of inaccurate information would allow for censorship to rear its ugly head. Ms. Anderson stated that much of what would be edited could be what the public stated. The minutes belong to the public since the Council meetings are public. If the minutes are altered corrected, or modified, it must be done publicly, as they were recorded publicly. The true colors of the power hungry appointed councilperson are shown when it is suggested that the information needs to be deleted or misrepresented knowingly. Ms. Anderson urged Council to raise the bar and follow the Charter and Council Rules as they stand. Ms. Charlotte Whipkey, a Norton resident, agreed with Ms. Anderson' comments, adding that corrections to the minutes need to be made in public.

Council Rules-Agenda Layout & Approval of Minutes continued:

Ms. Whipkey stated that you would be breaking the Charter and you are breaking it every time you mention that it does not have to be exact. Ms. Whipkey stated that she appreciates the fact that our Clerk of Council has gone to school and was taught a way to do this, however she does not care what she was taught in class about her minutes being too lengthy, we need that length. Ms. Whipkey stated that with no offense to our Clerk, but those people who taught her are not sitting on Council and are not in the audience, and they are not written in our Charter. A question was raised about the actual vote; we want to know and see how our council votes, and how they relate. We will be looking at them mightily hard when it comes to voting this fall. Ms. Whipkey stated that this information needs to be recorded correctly and the votes should not be cut out. Ms. Whipkey stated that if you want the corrections in writing, you need to give the public that opportunity. It seems like its giving executive sessions right before our eyes. Ms. Whipkey discussed the proposed method of attaching the corrections to the back of the minutes; it makes it too difficult and is totally unacceptable. Ms. Whipkey stated that there is nothing wrong with the way the minutes are done now, this would not get them posted in the web site any faster, it would not make them available to the public any faster. Ms. Whipkey commented on a question all vacancy candidates were asked when they were interviewed, which was if we have the time to commit to this job? Ms. Whipkey suggested that if Council doesn't have the ten (10) or fifteen (15) minutes to go over these minutes, then perhaps those of you who appointed our appointed councilperson made a poor choice. Ms. Whipkey discussed censorship and the layout of the agenda. Mr. Pelot stated that he only asked everyone to try and limit his or her trips to one so that everyone has a chance to speak. Ms. Whipkey stated that she believed this is a personal vendetta between our Ward 1 Councilperson and our appointed Councilperson. This is supposed to be open to us and we need all information available to us as easily as possible. Mr. Tomko, a Norton resident, stated this is simple, it works and if it isn't broke then don't try to fix it. Ms. Booth stated that Mr. Tomko was right, Council has bigger fish to fry, and there are more important things that need to be looked at. Ms. Booth stated that the minutes are fine and there has not been a problem with them. Ms. Hlas stated that there seems to be a misunderstanding here, what she stated was that the minutes do not need to be verbatim, word by word or blow by blow. What she did state was that if the minutes need to be corrected or amended she was not objecting to that, she was just concerned about the time spent on this. Mrs. Hlas stated that she never suggested we do away with the roll call votes and some of the other things that were stated this evening, she just meant that we don't need to dwell on the minutes at the beginning of the meeting. Mrs. Hlas stated that she has no personal vendetta against Mr. Jones, he just happens to be the one who is correcting them every week. Mr. Jones questioned Mrs. Richards as to who receives the minutes to look at prior to the regular Council meeting? Mrs. Richards answered Mrs. Hlas, Mrs. Fisher in Administration, herself and sometimes Mrs. Campbell if she has the time.

Council Rules-Agenda Layout & Approval of Minutes continued:

Mr. Jones asked who appointed these people to sanitize the minutes. Mrs. Richards stated that when she became the Clerk of Council she asked for a volunteer from Council to review the minutes for additions or corrections. At one time it was Mr. Conklin, after that it was Mrs. Hlas, then it was Mr. Braman. Mrs. Richards indicated that once Mrs. Hlas was appointed back to Council, Mr. Braman turned those duties back over to her. Mrs. Richards stated that there is nothing in Council rules that states a Council member must review the minutes for pre-approval. Mr. Jones stated that we have one individual that got upset with him last week because he corrected the minutes relating to an ordinance. Mr. Jones stated that he was elected and not appointed and he felt comfortable going over and correcting the minutes and looking for items. Mr. Jones suggested that because he corrected something that related to Mrs. Hlas, it got under her skin and wondered if that is what brought this about. Mr. Jones asked Mrs. Richards what time she comes in on Mondays, and Mrs. Richards replied between 10:30 AM and 11:00 AM because she is here until sometimes 9:00 PM or later. Mr. Jones stated that with the proposed changes, he doesn't have a fax machine so he would have to be here on Monday between 10:30 and 12:00 noon to get the corrections to her. Mrs. Richards stated that in the past Mr. Jones has telephoned with his suggested changes and that worked fine. Mr. Jones stated that sometimes there are things left out of the minutes that he feels pertinent to the public. Mr. Jones stated that this is time being wasted, we have more important things to do, such as our Fire Fighters waiting to speak on important issues. Mr. Jones stated that he is opposed with where we are going with this, it is pathetic. Mrs. Hlas stated once again that she is not against having the minutes amended and corrected, only the time wasted going over them. Mrs. Hlas gave an example of Mr. Jones asking for something to be added to the minutes, all of Council approving of this. Mrs. Hlas stated that she asked at that time if this was stated and Mr. Jones said yes. Then after the fact, she finds out that those statements were never stated, that is what she is objecting to. Mrs. Hlas stated that as long as the Clerk of Council can verify what was stated is correct, she has no problem with that. Mr. Jones informed Mrs. Hlas that he is doing his own recording tonight, so there won't be a problem. Mr. Mowery stated that he would have liked to spend the last 25 minutes discussing safety issues, this is time better served elsewhere. Mr. Pelot stated that Mrs. Richards would continue to do the minutes as is for now. Mr. Pelot suggested that if any Council member felt something important should be in the minutes they could state "for the record" before making their comments, that way it would automatically be stated in the minutes. Mr. Zita stated that this discussion would remain on Matters Referred. Mr. Pelot stated that he would like to also look at the agenda layout at a later time, and to keep that on Matters Referred list.

English Language:

Mr. Zita briefly discussed this issue and raised concerns about enforcing this legislation if adopted. Mr. Jones questioned how this was voted on in 2005 and Mr. Mowery stated that the vote was 4-3 and the Mayor vetoed it, and the vote to override the veto was also 4-3. Mr. Jones stated that this was a step in the right direction, and was all in favor of this. Mr. Zita expressed his concerns again on enforcing this issue. Mr. Jones stated that this is something that would gain momentum within the State. Ms. Barb Vimont, a Norton resident, spoke stating that if this passed businesses will not want to locate there. The businesses that are here will either move or declare this unconstitutional and would only make Norton a laughing stock once again because we are standing out from the rest of the country. Ms. Vimont stated that we have a lot of people out there that speak many different languages, Canadians, Mexicans, Germans, Irish, etc. If it were not for these immigrants we would not be what we are today. We have immigrants here fighting for our freedoms and rights; she cannot justify turning our backs on them. Ms. Vimont stated that the only thing this would do if adopted would be to affect government documentation, and is just another waste of our time when we have other important issues such as the Fire/EMS, Police and all the other issues. Mr. Tomko stated that all you need to do is go to www.englishfirst.org. Mr. Tomko stated that he was asked to provide names of cities that have done this. Mr. Tomko stated that yes, the immigrants made this country as great as it is and fought all the wars including today. However, what is happening now is that they are not assimilating into our culture, they remain in their own group, they have their own grocery stores, etc. and they are not mixing with the public. Mr. Tomko discussed Oak Point, Farmers Branch, and Dallas, Texas that have legislation on English language. Mr. Tomko indicated that Australia and Canada also have problems and they are working on it. Mr. Tomko stated that Nashville, TN has passed legislation recently, however the same thing happened there as it did in Norton. Mr. Tomko discussed the concerns with enforcement, and stated that is what we have a Law Director for. Mr. Tomko stated that this would only get worse if we don't do something now. Mr. Tomko stated that this nation started out as an English speaking nation. Mr. Pelot suggested this issue remain on the Matters Referred list until Council returns from summer recess.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Mr. Braman stated that Mr. McGlone asked him to mention that Council would be discussing the tax credit and utility fee issues when we return from summer recess.

Non-Agenda Items:

Mr. Tomko spoke about the NES facility and asked if that deed was still in escrow and are we still paying taxes on that? Mr. Tomko discussed the situation with the Johnson Meadows Project and would like to know what is going on there. Mr. Tomko discussed the 2007 Budget and that there was an appropriation set aside for listening devices as demanded by the American Disabilities Act, its been seven (7) months nothing has been done. Mr. Tomko stated that he talked with Mr. Moss on this, and asked whose job is it to carry this out? Mr. Jones stated that he has met with Mr. Moss and they are currently working on this. Mr. Jones stated that the listening devices are not cheap and deferred this to Mr. Moss. Mr. Moss stated that the cost really depends on the type of environment you have. One of the problems with sound is if you have a noisy environment and you amplify that all you are really doing is amplifying the noise, its just louder noise. If you purchase better electronics for the room the costs could be substantial. Mr. Moss stated that purchasing the headsets for \$1,000.00 does not solve the noise problem. Mr. Jones indicated that he and Mr. Moss would continue to work on this issue. Mr. Jones suggested possibly pulling the old microphones out and using some type of a pack like you see on the news, which can be very expensive. Mr. Tomko suggested checking with Barberton High School and other schools.

Mr. Christan Cloen, a national representative of the International Association of EMT's and Paramedics spoke regarding the Fire/EMS levy. Mr. Cloen stated that recent talks about closing the Norton Fire Department are both dangerous to the residents, and insulting to those who put their life on the line to protect the residents. Mr. Cloen stated that by closing down this department, Norton residents would see an increase in response times. Mr. Cloen discussed the potential response times and distances traveled if the city used various other communities: City of Barberton between 1.8 miles and 5.6, Copley Twp. Between 2.2 miles and 7.9, Doylestown between 1.2 miles and 8.1, New Franklin between 4.4 miles and 10.9, Wadsworth between 2.1 miles and 8.2. This adds anywhere from 1.8 minutes to 10.9 minutes to the response times. Mr. Cloen stated that the Administration claims an increase in revenue if outsourced. Mr. Cloen stated that the union agreed to a lower wage increase in the first year of their contract and was willing to work with the Administration on years two (2) and three(3). Mr. Cloen stated that the employees are willing to work with city officials. Mr. Cloen stated that the Administrations statements of the unions being greedy and uncooperative is not true and that by refusing to bargain is making light of this situation.

Mr. Carl Housley, Local 4219 of the IAFF, concurred with Mr. Cloen's statements. Mr. Housley stated that the actions by Mr. Ryland at the Committee of the Whole meeting on June 18, 2007 were appalling. Mr. Housley stated that by Mr. Ryland blaming the demise of the Fire Division on the full time Fire Fighters by misconstruing the wording in the fact finders report, as if we would actually receive that money.

Non-Agenda Items continued:

Mr. Housley indicated that Mr. Ryland has inflated the numbers, the hours worked, the numbers of shifts, etc. Mr. Housley stated that to this date the full-time and part-time Fire Fighters have never controlled the schedules, shifts, and hours worked or spending of any funds. Anything over \$20.00 must be approved by the Chief, the Finance Director and the Administrative Officer. To characterize us as greedy is as far from the truth as you can get, since we have not had a raise since January 1, 2005 when other city employees have received raises. We have not refused to meet with the Administration to try and settle an agreement, and we currently have a meeting scheduled for this Friday morning. If it is not settled at that time, we will be holding an informational picket on July 9, 2007 prior to the Council meeting. Mr. Housley stated that in spite of what is going on, the Fire Fighters will continue to serve and protect the citizens of Norton as we have always had.

Ms. Megan Booth, stated that there has to be a way to work this out to keep the Fire Dept. and it is very important on many different levels. Ms. Booth stated that the budget needs to really be looked at and if there are ways to save it you save it, but not at the expense of losing valuable assets like our Norton Fire Dept. We have heard about the services we could lose, but the other side of that is that our homeowners insurance would increase because we don't have our Fire Dept, as well as extra medical costs if they don't receive prompt attention. Ms. Booth urged everyone to think long and hard on this issue to keep these services.

Mr. Bill Helmick, a Norton resident, stated that these people have been the star of our city for many, many years. Mr. Helmick stated the he would support the 3 mill levy, however he is concerned with the statements that we will run out of money later this fall even if we do pass this levy. Mr. Helmick asked the Mayor, Council, Mr. Ryland and Mr. Lyons what needs to be done to get back to negotiating to come to a resolution to cover this city for these services until the levy is hopefully approved? Mr. Helmick stated that for years our Fire Dept. had no trouble getting levies passed. Mr. Helmick stated that something has happened in this city in the past several years that things have gotten out of hand. Mr. Helmick stated that Council controls the money strings in this city and now all of the sudden we are in a dire straits situation not just with the Fire/EMS. Mr. Helmick stated that he is behind the Fire/EMS employees for their service, and when you call for them and they arrive, you thank God that they are there. Mr. Helmick stated that he believed something could be done internally to keep our Police Dept. intact. Mr. Helmick stated that someone needs to sit down with the Finance Director and get to real apples and apples comparison of what we are going to get from the Sheriff's offer. If we have to, reduce staff down to the point so that we have a direct comparison. Mr. Helmick stated that we need to do something about this, you just can't throw them out of town.

Non-Agenda Items continued:

Mr. Robert Copen, Norton Fireman's Association, spoke on behalf of the part-time Norton Fire Fighters. Mr. Copen stated that they are asking for Council to exhaust every possible measure to find another financial solution rather than disbanding their department. The citizen's lives and property are in danger. Mr. Copen stated that the part-time employees feel they have been blacked listed in the papers and on television with unfair figures and misleading quotes. Mr. Copen stated that the city has two (2) unions; one (1) is the volunteers, which was started because the previous Administrator refused to talk with them and they formed a union so they would have a voice. The second is the full-time union. Mr. Copen stated that the volunteers worked hard with the city, to help save the city money, and now here we are less than two (2) months later considering closing the doors. Mr. Copen asked what benefits would the citizens receive, who will provide the level of service our Norton Fire Fighters provide, and what are the fiscal benefits for the citizens? We would not even consider the Sheriff because we wanted our own Police Dept., but now we don't want our own Fire Dept? Something is wrong here. Mr. Copen stated that when Mr. Morgan was here there was a monthly meeting held between the part-time Fire Fighters, the Safety Committee and the Fire Fighters and they ironed out any problems we had. Then we got a new city Administrator who came in and said he didn't want to hear anything about the Fire Dept. How did we get in this financial mess, it's because the Administrator didn't want to hear about it. Mr. Copen discussed the pay they receive, adding that they don't do it for pay, they all like the job they do, and they are dedicated.

Ms. Alice Wagner, a Norton resident, spoke in support of the Norton Fire/EMS Dept. Ms. Wagner stated that if it wasn't for our Norton Fire Dept., she would not even be standing here today, they saved her life three (3) times. We have to keep our Norton Fire Dept.

Mr. Jones commented on the Norton Police Dept., and was appalled because our Administrator took issue by saying that he was biased towards the Police Dept. Mr. Jones stated that he did not think this was very appropriate and he should have never used that word. Mr. Jones stated that in a second breath, Mr. Ryland states that we are in trouble with the Fire Dept., he didn't say he was biased, just that we are going to outsource it. Mr. Jones stated that residents are mad about this. Mr. Jones stated that he has the proposal from the Sheriff's office, he stands by it and he wants it to go to the people to vote on it, not Council because they refused. Mr. Jones stated that he felt we could save some money, there is no reason not to look at it. Mr. Jones stated that we do need these Fire Fighters. Mrs. Hlas stated that Council intends to go forward with the 3 mill levy, however she has no desire to outsource the Fire Dept. and will be pushing for this levy. Mr. Zita stated that he was also in support of the levy and our Fire Fighters. Mr. Zita stated that he served as a Norton Paramedic and a Fire Fighter for thirteen (13) years. Mr. Zita stated that he does not want to send either Police or the Fire/EMS Depts. away, these are our safety forces.

Non-Agenda Items continued:

Mr. Mowery stated that our safety forces are proud people of our community and we are not going to lose you, we need you. Mr. Mowery stated that he would support the levy. Mr. Mowery stated that we need our Police Dept. and we need these employees as well. Mr. Mowery stated that he believes this issue can be resolved. Mr. Braman stated that he also supports the Norton Fire/EMS Depts., and the levy. Mr. Pelot agreed, adding that the levy is not an issue with anyone on Council. Mr. Pelot stated that he supports the Fire/EMS and our Police Dept., for their services. Mr. Pelot stated that when contract negotiations start they are tense, they get blown out of proportion, drug out, etc. Mr. Pelot stated that comments were made with the media and that only exasperates the problem, and he did not feel this was intentional. Mr. Pelot stated he also supports the 3 mill levy.

Topics for the next Work Session:

Council Rules, Agenda Layout, Approval of Minutes, Tax credit, utility fees. Mr. Mowery stated he received information from the Summit County Rape Crisis Center and will be inviting them for a presentation in the near future. Mr. Pelot added that he had asked that a link be added to the city web site to log on to see the listing of registered sex offenders, which is now posted. Mr. Pelot announced the Barberton Mosquito Abatement District bi-weekly schedule for Norton residents; Tuesday-4th Ward, Wednesday-2nd Ward, Thursday-3rd Ward and Friday-1st Ward.

Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Scott Pelot, Vice-President of Council

****NOTE: 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.