



**NORTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2007**

Roll Call: Ken Braman
Brenda Hlas
Tom Jones
Dennis McGlone
Bill Mowery
Scott Pelot
Mike Zita

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

The Regular Council Meeting convened on Monday, September 24, 2007 at 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Dennis McGlone, President of Council, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer.

Mr. McGlone announced that Mayor Price has two proclamations that he would like to present to the families of Doug Turchin and Paige Villers at this time. Mayor Price presented the families with the proclamations were read by Mrs. Campbell.

Mayor Price also swore Mr. Mike Schultz into office as the new Interim Fire Chief, and presented him with his official badge.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Mr. Braman stated that he attended the meeting of September 12, 2007 with the Mr. Ryland, Mr. Moss, Mr. Pritchard, and the business owners on Newpark Drive. The topic of the meeting was the intermittent flooding issues these businesses face. Mr. Braman stated that the city was well thought of for calling the meeting. Mr. Braman stated that several options were discussed, some long term and some that would have a positive impact in the future. Mr. Braman stated that some of these business owners are the city's largest revenue producers and we need to do everything we can to help them.

Mr. Jones discussed the intercom system that has been installed, and asked Mr. Moss to elaborate. Mr. Moss indicated that new speakers and a new microphone at the podium were installed this morning.

Mr. Mowery stated that we have Ms. Candice Poole from the Summit County Rape Crisis Center in the audience tonight to give a presentation. Mr. Mowery moved to amend the agenda to add Res. #65-2007, seconded by Mr. Pelot.

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

Motion passed 6-1.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES:

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of September 10, 2007-Approved as written

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Candice Poole of the Summit County Rape Crisis Center gave a brief presentation regarding sex offenders in local communities. Ms. Poole stated that their goal is to get out and educate the public on the laws on sexual assault and how to protect your family. Ms. Poole provided a power point presentation on CD to the Clerk of Council to run on Channel #15. Ms. Poole also provided informational pamphlets on "Portrait of a Predator" for the public. Mr. Pelot stated that the City of Norton has a link on the website to the Summit County Sheriff's listing of registered sexual offenders, and encouraged everyone review this information.

Mr. Keith Hetrick, a Norton resident, spoke regarding the need for new speed limit signs on St. Rt. 261 due to the speed limit increase to 45 MPH. Mr. Hetrick stated that signs still have not been posted. Mr. Hetrick stated that we really need a traffic light at the north end of the Norton Shopping Center. Mr. Hetrick stated that there is a lot of traffic going in and out of this entrance/exit, especially during the rush hour. Mr. Hetrick stated that if we can find money for baseball fields and playground equipment, we should be able to find money for a traffic light. Mr. Hetrick asked Mr. Jones to provide the residents of a cost breakdown of the savings of the Sheriffs' Office. Mr. Hetrick stated that Mr. Moss, Mr. Ryland and Mrs. Hlas have already given their figures. Mr. Hetrick stated that all we hear is this \$1,400,000.00 saving. It should be broken down and shown the savings, and the Norton residents deserve this information. Mr. Hetrick stated that yes, he is biased towards the Norton Police Dept., and that he does not have a vendetta against Chief Carris.

Mr. Mike Meden, a Norton resident, read from a Letter to the Editor from the West Side Leader on September 13, 2007, (see attached). Mr. Meden stated that we would not save \$1,400,000.00. Mr. Meden stated the budget was passed for the Norton Police Dept. without any question raised about saving money. Mr. Meden discussed the language for Issue #45 where it states "*use any agency other than our own police*", so if this is a money issue why is this anyone other than our own Norton Police Dept.? Why wasn't this brought up when the budget was discussed? Mr. Meden stated that he has heard numbers that the Police Dept., budget is half of the total budget, which is untrue. The actual number is thirty-seven (37) percent, and this figure came straight from the Administrative Officer. Mr. Meden stated we have three (3) ways to spend money in the city; Administration, Service Dept., and Police Dept., so that would be thirty-three percent for each department and an even split. Mr. Meden discussed the hiring of our officers as has been stated, however the proposal states that forty (40) percent must come from outside, so undoubtedly it would not be our same officers. Mr. Meden stated that as of today the City of Norton still does not have anything officially sent to us from the Sheriff's Office, and Mr. Ryland concurred, adding that all we have received is their letter of proposal. Mr. Meden expressed concern about not have any real numbers until a contract is being signed, something is not right here. We are only asking for trouble here. Mr. Meden urged the residents to be cautious towards Election Day; there will be a non-existent PAC with cash donations dropping off lots of leaflets in mailboxes. Mr. Meden stated that he was glad someone raised the question about the \$1,400,000.00 and would like to see the justification on where this figure came from.

Ms. Megan Booth, a Norton resident, stated that there would be savings in going with the Summit County Sheriff's Office, and that Mr. Ryland even said so. Ms. Booth stated that 43% spending of the budget is correct. Ms. Booth stated once again that there is always more than one side to every story. Get your facts, because you can make the numbers do just about anything. The reason we don't have any new numbers to compare is because the Administration is taken forever to get them pulled together, and every time we talk to them it is a little bit different. Ms. Booth stated that you have a copy of the proposal, what more do you need? Put your numbers together and compare them and there you go, why are we wasting so much time. Ms. Booth asked about the money. Ms. Booth discussed the amount of funding the PAC has received, they have billboards out, and she does not see anybody else with billboards and some of the other items. Ms. Booth stated that all she is asking is for the people to look at objectively and with common sense, it is not a personal issue, it's never been personal. Ms. Booth stated the people are trying to bring emotions from people, children, etc., into this and that is just not right. This is about the city, it's about growth and the future of Norton.

Ms. Charlotte Whipkey, a Norton resident, thanked the residents who supported her in the Primary. Ms. Whipkey thanked Council and the Administration for quickly acting on correcting an error on the Charter amendment legislation, known as Issue #44. Ms. Whipkey thanked the Norton Police Dept. for providing protection while we circulated the proposed Charter amendments, known as Issues #43, #44, and #46 and during her campaign. Ms. Whipkey stated that the last few months while out campaigning she has never felt so safe, she even had a police escort some times. However, she wished they kept a more watchful eye on her political signs. Ms. Whipkey stated that she has learned about some untrue statements passed around the community and the fact that she has lost about nine (9) to eleven (11) signs out of seventy-two (72). Ms. Whipkey stated that all of her signs were put up with the property owner's permission and were not an obstruction to sight. Ms. Whipkey stated that one sign was thrown into the trash by the relatives of a police officer, just days before the primary election. Ms. Whipkey stated that signs were being stolen from all over the city, some from a Councilman's yard and even one from her own yard. Ms. Whipkey stated that she had some people tell her that the police took them. Ms. Whipkey stated that when she was out campaigning she was asked how she stood on the SCSO/Police issue and she indicated that she had no opinion yet. Ms. Whipkey stated that she would like to have had an independent audit study on the figures. Ms. Whipkey stated that her main focus has always been for the Charter, and for the people's rights. Ms. Whipkey stated that she has always spoken out against any of the censorship that has taken place here at Council pertaining to the Sheriff's presentation and many other issues. Ms. Whipkey indicated that she did sign the petition, just like many others did, however she signed this because she believes in the people's right to make their own decisions. Ms. Whipkey stated that she never said she was ever in favor of abolishing the Norton Police Department. Ms. Whipkey stated that you would find no minutes stating that she supported either the Norton Police or the Summit County Sheriff. Ms. Whipkey stated that there is not one person that she spoke with that can honestly come forward and say otherwise. Ms. Whipkey stated that she did not carry a petition regarding the Sheriff's Office, and her name is not a circulator. Ms. Whipkey stated that she did not believe the entire Police Dept. was involved in this, however she does believe that some were. Ms. Whipkey stated that the statements about her and her endeavors, was a blatant, barefaced lie.

Ms. Whipkey stressed to the citizens to ask questions, attend meetings, read the minutes, watch Channel #15, and get some answers for yourselves. Don't allow yourselves to be manipulated, demand the truth because you are entitled to it. Make an informed decision, not a hand fed one.

Mr. Greg Carris, Chief of Police, asked to address Ms. Whipkey's comments. Mrs. Hlas moved to allow discussion, seconded by Mr. Mowery.

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

Motion passed 6-1.

Chief Carris stated that he has never heard of these allegations before this meeting. Chief Carris stated that he always finds it interesting that people come in front of the camera and say these things. She did not name any suspects, only knew of a relative of a Police Officer that supposedly did this. Chief Carris stated that he would like to hear about this personally so we can investigate this. Chief Carris stated that he would not stand for this from any of his officers and does not believe that any of this really happened, or else we would have known about it before this. Chief Carris stated that if Ms. Whipkey has any questions to contact him after the meeting or come to his office in the morning.

Mr. George Tomko, a Norton resident, thanked Mrs. Richards, Mr. Moss and Mr. Jones for addressing the sound system issues, the sound is better. Mr. Tomko stated that the flooding issues along Newpark Drive were discussed earlier, and that Comunale is the largest business on Newpark Drive. Mr. Tomko stated that Martin Motors recently spent over \$100,000.00 to address the drainage issues on their property to ensure that they could stay there. Mr. Tomko discussed the cancellation of the last Committee Work Session for lack of items to discuss, and stated that the English language appears to have dropped off of the schedule. Mr. Tomko suggested that Council bring this back on and assign it to a committee, and let's pass this again without a veto from the Mayor, and be more positive about this, it is not funny this is serious.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:-None

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION:

RES #65-2007

Mr. Mowery offered Res. #65-2007 for it's first reading, and asked the Clerk to read it:

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE NORTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND
OPPOSE THE CHARTER AMENDMENT TO ABOLISH THE NORTON POLICE
DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Mowery moved to waive the second and third readings, seconded by Mr. Pelot.

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

Motion passed 6-1.

Mr. Mowery moved to adopt Res. #65-2007, seconded by Mr. Pelot.

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

Motion passed 6-1

INTRODUCTION OF PRIOR LEGISLATION:
RES #63-2007

Mrs. Hlas offered Res. #63-2007 for it's second reading, and asked the Clerk to read it:

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SUMMIT/AKRON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY.

Second reading only.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Mayor Price reminded everyone about the Loyal Oak Cider Festival this weekend. The fireworks, which are sponsored by the Mayors office, will be Saturday evening at dusk. Mayor Price announced that the city will observe Halloween-Trick or Treat on Saturday October 27, 2007 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM and encouraged all neighborhoods to follow this scheduled. Mayor Price announce the Flu Shot Clinic at the Norton Community Center on October 30, 2007 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

Mr. Ryland announced that Chief Calco resigned last week. Mr. Ryland stated that he has appointed Mike Schultz as the Interim Fire Chief. Mr. Schultz has served with the Norton Fire Dept. for sixteen (16) years; promoted to Lt. In 1997 and promoted to Captain in 2000. Chief Schultz is a firefighter/medic and has served as a past Interim Chief under Chief Ramsthaller. Chief Schultz is State certified in Arson Investigation, Tactical Medic, Emergency Vehicle Operations Inspector, Fire/Fatality Investigator, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Basic Trauma Life Support, Paramedic Life Support, NIMS, Hazmat Operations. Mr. Ryland stated that Chief Schultz will serve the city well and asked Chief Schultz to comment on the status of the fire levy.

Chief Schultz stated that the Norton Fire & EMS Saves Lives PAC was formed and we meet every Wednesday at 6:00 PM at Fire Station #1. Chief Schultz stated that last week we had a very good turnout. We have gone door to door to Norton businesses handing out letters asking for their support. Chief Schultz stated that this past Sunday they held a spaghetti dinner fundraiser, which did better than they expected, and thanked those Council members that did attend. Chief Schultz stated that the Life Flight helicopter would be at the Cider Festival landing on Sunday. Chief Schultz stated that they would be going door to door to talk with the residents and provide them with facts as the election gets closer. Chief Schultz encouraged anyone wishing to get involved to come to Station #1 on Wednesday nights at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Ryland stated that the Medina County Engineers has informed the city that they would be making the intersection of Medina Line and Remier Road a four (4) way stop within the next few weeks. Mr. Ryland indicated that he had initially asked for this to be a stop light, and the Medina County Engineers indicated that it is not warranted at this time, however they will continue to monitor this area. Mr. Zita questioned if the light will be flashing red in all directions, and Mr. Ryland replied yes. Mr. Jones discussed the traffic lights installed at the intersection of Greenwich and Hametown Roads, and inquired when these would be activated? Mr. Ryland indicated that the reason this light has not been activated is because there was some initial concern regarding the elevation coming over the bridge heading westbound on Greenwich Road. Mr. Jones stated that the lights are already installed, all we need to do is activate them. Mr. Ryland stated this was correct and that he would look into this. Mr. Pelot stated that a study needs to be done to determine the safety issue coming over the bridge, it's not just a matter of us flipping a switch. Mr. Ryland stated that the traffic study was done to warrant the need to a light, and then the concerns with safety arose. Mr. Pelot asked Mr. Ryland if he could also follow up with the concerns Mr. Hetrick raised earlier with the speed limit signs. Mr. Ryland stated that he found there was a notice changing the speed limit on Medina Line Road from 35 MPH to 45 MPH issued in 2006. Mr. Ryland stated that he has not seen anything indicating a speed limit change for Wadsworth Road (St. Rt. 261) Mr. Hetrick clarified that he meant to say Medina Line Road, not Wadsworth Road (St. Rt. 261). Mr. Ryland discussed the recent meeting with the businesses along Newpark Drive, there were seven business owners that attended the meeting. Mr. Ryland indicated that in light of the meeting we have found some problems we were not aware of. Mr. Ryland indicated that he has asked Osborn Engineering for estimates to raise the level of Newpark Drive eighteen (18) inches to twenty-four (24) inches and redirecting the storm sewers in another direction. Mr. Ryland discussed connecting sewer lines and connecting to the main sewer line, thus abandoning the current packaging plant. Mr. Ryland stated that he has also contacted the Revlis Company about the use of their property for a future retention pond with a minimum of two (2) acres to assist with keeping the flooding off of the roadway. Mr. Ryland stated that the Comunale Company is very concerned with the flooding and that shutting down their company because of flooding impacts the entire nation as far as their business. Mr. Ryland stated that this is an area that we need to look at carefully and address. Mr. Ryland stated that the road surface is in very bad shape, and when this was built over thirty (30) years ago, the size and weight of the trucks are not as great as they are now and the road is crumbling. Mr. Ryland stated that Fred Martin Motors has delivered the new DARE vehicle to the city today. The vehicle is getting the decals placed on it and the lights and equipment are being installed. Mr. Ryland thanked Fred Martin; Adam Huff and Tom Dunn for their generous two (2) year lease for this vehicle.

Mr. Moss thanked Mr. Tomko for his kind comments earlier, adding that it is nice to receive positive comments.

Mr. Pritchard stated that some time ago the draft of the Feasibility Study from URS and has been reviewed by the staff for their comments and input.

These have been submitted back to URS and it is being reviewed at this time. Mr. Pritchard stated that the baseball fields are close to being completed, pending the installation of the bases, and final grading. Mr. Pritchard stated that the playground equipment should arrive and be installed by the end of October or early November. Mr. Pritchard stated that the pond area has been worked and has been re-seeded. Mr. Pritchard stated that the city placed the order for the recycle containers recently with funds received from the grant money received from the Summit/Akron Solid Waste Management Authority.

Mr. Ed Binic, Barberton Health District announced the Flue Clinic dates for October (see attached). Mr. Jones asked about the \$20.00 and if this was for children as well, or discounts for Senior Citizens? Mr. Binic stated that he did not believe there was a discount.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Jones stated that he attended the Summit County Sheriff's Open House this past Saturday with his family. Mr. Jones stated that he was very impressed with what he saw at their training facility. They had the K-9 Unit, Mounted Unit, although no helicopter because it was out in an assignment. Mr. Jones stated that they had lots of handouts for the children Mr. Jones stated that they had a large turnout and he did recognize some Norton residents.

Mr. Jones stated that he was disappointed that he did not see any members from the Administration or Council in attendance. Mr. Jones stated that if you went to it and saw what they can do for the community at a cost saving measure, then you would understand where he is coming from.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. McGlone concurred that we do have agenda items to be discussed and we will have a Committee Work Session on Monday. Mr. McGlone reminded everyone that the next Council Meeting would be on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 7:00 PM due to the Columbus Day Holiday.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mrs. Hlas mentioned that Saturday October 27, 2007 is the Panther Parents Athletic Booster Club is having a Night at the Races at the Moose Club. The doors open at 6:00 PM and tickets are \$15.00. Tickets can be purchased at the football game or contact any Panther Parent, check the school website for their names and numbers. Mrs. Hlas announced a Town Meeting she is holding at the Community Center on October 23, 2007 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Mrs. Hlas stated that the topics would be; Fire levy, Police Charter amendment, other Charter amendments, and anything else the residents would like to discuss.

Mr. Pelot congratulated Interim Chief Mike Schultz on his new position.

Mr. McGlone stated that the legal ad for the proposed Charter amendments and any future legal ads would be published in The Norton Post. Mr. McGlone stated that this is a free publication and delivered to every Norton household on every Sunday morning. Mr. McGlone stated that there is a paper box at the entrance at city hall, and if any resident is not receiving this free paper they could contact their offices.

ADJOURN:

There being no other business to come before the Regular Council Meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM

Dennis McGlone, President of Council

I, Karla Richards, CMC-Clerk of Council for the City of Norton, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes were approved at a Regular Council Meeting held on October 9, 2007.

Karla Richards, CMC-Clerk of Council

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

All Council & 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.