



**NORTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2007**

Roll Call: Ken Braman
Brenda Hlas-Excused
Tom Jones
Dennis McGlone-Excused
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 Special Council Meeting convened on Tuesday, September 4, 2007 at 6:30 PM, in Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Scott Pelot-Vice President of Council, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer. Mr. Pelot thanked everyone for attending the Special Meeting tonight, adding that this there was a couple of pieces of legislation that we wanted Mr. Lyons to be present to make sure the language was correct.

INTRODUCTION OF PRIOR LEGISLATION:

ORD #59-2007

Mr. Zita moved to offer the proposed amended version of Ord. #59-2007, and asked the Clerk to read it:

AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF NORTON A PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 5.05 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORTON, TO ABOLISH THE NORTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AS OF JANUARY 1, 2008, AND TO REQUIRE THE CITY TO PROVIDE POLICE SERVICES THROUGH A CONTRACT WITH EITHER THE ~~SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT~~ OR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OTHER THAN THE CITY OF NORTON.

Mr. Zita moved to amend Ord. #59-2007 with the changes, seconded by Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones indicated that we also added language in Section 2 and asked the Clerk to read it:

AND PROVIDING POLICE PROTECTION FOR THE CITY AS PROVIDED IN GENERAL LAW DURING ANY LAPSE OF POLICE PROTECTION.

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

Motion passed 5-0.

INTRODUCTION OF PRIOR LEGISLATION CONTINUED:

Mr. Zita offered Amended Ord. #59-2007 for its second reading, and asked the Clerk to read it:

AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF NORTON A PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 5.05 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORTON, TO ABOLISH THE NORTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AS OF JANUARY 1, 2008, AND TO REQUIRE THE CITY TO PROVIDE POLICE SERVICES THROUGH A CONTRACT WITH EITHER THE SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S ~~DEPARTMENT~~ OR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OTHER THAN THE CITY OF NORTON.

Mr. Zita moved to waive the third reading, seconded by Mr. Jones.

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

Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Zita moved to adopt Amended Ord. #59-2007, seconded by Mr. Jones. Mr. Zita stated that this vote being taken this evening is to fulfill a requirement by the Ohio Constitution that forces Council into passing this ordinance after signatures were collected by petition. We are required to pass it this evening, so to be placed on the ballot at the General Election on November 6, 2007 for the residents to decide. Even though this is a process that needs to be followed, I am, as well as, always have been in favor of keeping our own Norton Police Department. Mr. Zita asked Mr. Lyons if he had any comments to add, and Mr. Lyons had no comments. Mr. Pelot stated that passing this onto the Board of Elections does not mean that Council as a whole supports this, to the contrary. When this legislation was first brought before Council, it was turned down; we did not support this as a whole. Mr. Pelot stated that he continues to support our Norton Police Dept. Mr. Pelot stated that Norton is at a crossroad and we need to make a tough decision. Its time to stand up and speak out, support our Police and vote no to abolish the Police Department and keep our Fire Levy. Mr. Mowery stated that he has always been in favor of our Norton Police Department, and that we have an affordable department and we will keep it that way. Mr. Mowery stated that this legislation is the biggest farce that has ever been presented to the people. Mr. Mowery stated that he is actually glad that it is going to the people for their vote. Mr. Mowery stated that you don't just dismantle things that are working well, you work with it and make things happen. Mayor Price asked Mr. Lyons if he could veto this, and Mr. Lyons answered no. Mayor Price stated that he is in favor of the Norton Police Dept. and if he could veto this legislation, he would. Mr. Ryland asked for clarification on the newly added language in Section 2. Mr. Lyons stated that if this becomes a part of the Charter, it would be a matter of interpretation. Mr. Lyons explained that this language was added because it is the language in the proposed Charter amendment. It is a catch all provision, giving Council the authority to provide police services in the event of a lapse in coverage, and is an open-ended provision. Mr. Ryland indicated that if the voters approve this, it would have to go out for bid. Mr. Lyons stated that if that were the case, the city might not be able to accomplish this by January 1, 2008.

ORD #59-2007 continued:

Mr. Lyons stated that this provision would allow the continuation of the Police Dept. to continue while the disbanding is effectuated. Mr. Braman stated that he supports the Norton Police Dept., and that the voters have to make the decision. That is the process and hopefully it will go well.

Mr. Zita moved to waive the third reading, seconded by Mr. Jones.

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

Motion passed 5-0.

ORD #60-2007

Mr. Zita offered Ord. #60-2007 for its second reading, and asked the Clerk to read it:

AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF NORTON A PROPOSAL TO AMEND ARTICLE IX OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORTON BY ADDING SECTION 9.05, TO PROHIBIT ANY MAYOR OR MEMBER OF COUNCIL WHO IS VOTED OUT OF OFFICE AT AN ELECTION OR REMOVE BY PETITION FROM HOLDING AN APPOINTED POSITION WITHIN THE CITY OR SERVING ON ANY BOARD OR COMMISSION, INCLUDING ADVISORY BOARDS, FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THAT TERMINATION.

Mr. Zita moved to waive the third reading, seconded by Mr. Braman. Mr. Jones noted a typographical error in the title; the word remove should be removed. Mr. Zita questioned what this has to do with the waiving of the third reading? Mr. Lyons stated that has nothing to do with waiving the third reading, and can be corrected without a motion.

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

Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Zita moved to adopt Ord. #60-2007, seconded by Mr. Braman. Mr. Jones clarified that the typographical error can be fixed if Council passes this tonight? Mr. Lyons replied, yes, and the language in the ordinance does have the word as removed.

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

Motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURN:

There being no other business to come before the Regular Council Meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM

Scott Pelot, Vice-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 September 10, 2007

Karla Richards, CMC-Clerk of Council

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

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