



COMMITTEE WORK SESSION SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

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

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

The Committee Work Session convened on Tuesday, September 4, 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. Braman turned this discussion over to Mr. Pritchard for the details. Mr. Pritchard stated that he has reviewed the entire documents. Mr. Pritchard stated that the Summit-Akron Solid Waste Management Authority is a plan to continue to serve and provide an area for disposal of waste, to promote recycling programs, and to operate their recycling center. Mr. Braman stated that there is nothing really new, we are already in this program. Mr. Braman stated that they have also provided the new recycle containers for the parks, and Mr. Pritchard concurred. Mr. Pelot stated that the plan indicates there would be no generation fee increases for the next five (5) year plan. Mr. Braman moved to place this on Councils next agenda for a first reading, seconded by Mr. Mowery.

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

Motion passed 5-0.

Council Rules:

Mr. Zita noted a change to page #4 Rule 101, asking to delete the entire last sentence because it conflicts with our Charter Section 3.16. There was no objection to that change. Mr. Zita indicated that he would like to keep this in the Committee until the end of the year, so we can review this and make any necessary changes. Mr. Zita indicated that he would like to keep the agenda layout and the minutes also in Committee until the end of the year.

Agenda Layout:

Mr. Zita stated that Mr. Moss suggested it several weeks ago to move the public comment towards the top. This would allow the public to speak prior to Council getting into the discussions. This would provide comments prior to addressing business of Council. We do not need to decide on this tonight, this is just up for discussion. Mr. Pelot stated that he had also suggested this for both meetings. Mr. Pelot stated that when a resident asked a question, it is communication from the public, and we are not supposed to answer their question. Mr. Pelot stated that we sit up here like a bunch of bumps on a log and everyone may not understand that. Mr. Pelot stated that if the public comments come first, then we can hopefully address their concerns. Mr. Pelot stated that he was in favor of this adjustment Mr. Zita agreed adding that by moving the Reports from Officers Boards and Commissions up on the Council Meeting agenda, it would address these issues prior to getting into the legislation process.

Minutes:

Mr. Zita discussed the proposed disclaimer at the bottom of the minutes, and this is something we can continue to discuss. Mr. Pelot stated that he understands that this has become an issue lately. Mr. Pelot stated that in his experience with corporate business meetings, the minutes are designed for a general synopsis of the discussions that took place, and contain special details, votes, roll call, etc., and are not intended to be verbatim. Mr. Pelot reminded everyone to keep in mind for the future that we also have the video and audio recordings. Mr. Pelot discussed the proof reading of the drafted minutes and that typically one Council member does this. Mr. Pelot stated that Mr. Braman has done this as well as Mrs. Hlas and himself. Mr. Pelot stated that Mrs. Hlas has asked to be relieved of this duty. Mr. Pelot suggested that all of Council receives an emailed draft for their review and they can send their suggestions and changes back to the Mrs. Richards. This way everyone has the opportunity to review them prior to printing the packet. Mr. Jones stated that Mrs. Richards does a fine job with the minutes, he has no problem with what she does, and Mr. Braman did a fine job reviewing them. Mr. Jones indicated that he had a problem when Mrs. Hlas was doing them because there was one instance where she completely missed a particular ordinance that was left out. Mr. Jones agreed with Mr. Pelot's suggestion, he does read the minutes. Mr. Jones stated that he was looking for something in the January 2006 minutes and could not find it, and felt it was important. Mr. Jones stated that he understands copies of the tapes can be provided however getting a tape requires some very interesting ways of getting it. Mr. Pelot suggested that if Council wishes to make changes to the drafted minutes they could email it back to Mrs. Richards, copy the rest of Council for their information.

Minutes continued:

Mr. Pelot stated that this allows Mrs. Richards to have the time to verify that something was truly stated. Mr. Braman raised his concerns with short time limits to handle this process. Mrs. Richards agreed, and with a short week like this one it could be difficult. Mr. Pelot suggested that Mrs. Richards email all of Council of the tight time lines and the deadline she expects to have their input. Mr. Jones stated that several times he has called Mrs. Richards ahead of time to correct a typographical error, which is easy to do especially when we have a long night. Mr. Pelot stated that he felt there was more important things to address other than going over issues with the minutes. Ms. Charlotte Whipkey, a Norton resident, stated that she agreed with the agenda layout for the Work Sessions, however suggested moving the Communications from the Public on the Council Meeting agenda in between New Legislation and Previous Legislation. Ms. Whipkey asked when does the public have input on the minutes? Mr. Pelot stated that it is a Council meeting, and if you have something you wanted to see something in the minutes, you should contact your Councilperson. Ms. Whipkey reminded Council that according to the Charter the minutes are supposed to be an accurate and complete journal? Ms. Whipkey stated that she understands that the audio is destroyed once the minutes are approved. Mrs. Richards indicated that she does retain the audio recordings on the hard drive. Ms. Whipkey stated that she understood that the tapes were to be put on DVD's to be archived, and Mrs. Campbell concurred. Ms. Violet Carr, a Norton resident stated that she does not have a computer and that video and audiotapes do deteriorate. Ms. Carr stated that it is much easier to have full detail on paper. Ms. Carr stated that she has worked for many large national companies and that they found the full minutes to be important, maybe you don't. Ms. Carr stated that world wide global companies and law firms rely on full detailed minutes, they are important.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Mowery discussed having Council consider adopting a resolution of support for the Fire Levy and the Norton Police Department, and wished to add to the agenda for tonight. Mr. Mowery indicated that he spoke with the Chairman of the South Summit County Chamber of Commerce and they have asked for this. Mr. Jones objected to this due to the fact that it is not on the agenda. Mr. Pelot suggested that instead of Mr. Mowery addressing this tonight, he should address this at the next Council meeting and possibly add to that agenda.

New Business:

Mr. Jones discussed an email that Mrs. Richards sent to him on Friday regarding the dirt moving at city hall. Mr. Jones stated that although he understood this was not a large expense, Mayor Price, Mr. Moss and Mr. Ryland have taken advantage of Council, it is Council who holds the purse strings and we were not apprised of what is being spent by this administration. Mr. Jones stated that we had a problem finding \$380.00 for a sound system and now he understands that this project is under \$1,000.00. Mr. Jones asked Mr. Ryland for an explanation. Mr. Ryland stated that certain items are budgeted and permissive money is one of those for doing projects with the parks and roads.

New Business Continued:

Mr. Ryland discussed that the parking situation at Columbia Woods Parks for various sports events. In addition if we did not do this parking lot, we would be giving away approximately \$50,000.00 worth of road materials (grindings). Mr. Ryland decided to stop the process of hauling the road grindings off to other communities to be used on their parking lots. Mr. Ryland stated that the total cost to build this parking lot for \$800.00 and address the safety issues we had with the roads being blocked. Mr. Jones asked Mr. Ryland when he found out about this situation and Mr. Ryland replied on Friday as soon as he found out that we would not be able to store the grinding materials. Mr. Jones asked when the excavator began working, and Mr. Ryland stated on Friday. Mr. Mowery stated that the Administration is not blind siding him, he was aware of the situation and felt that Mr. Ryland and the Mayor are doing a fine job, and does not see a problem with the parking lot situation. Mr. Mowery stated that we should appreciate the effort to recycle this product, and Mr. Pelot agreed.

Non-Agenda Items:

Mr. Mike Meden, a Norton resident, spoke regarding his statements made at the last meeting regarding the actual expenditures for last years Police Dept. Budget as being \$1,700,000.00, that correct number is \$1,950,000.00. Mr. Meden spoke regarding honesty and being above board. Mr. Meden presented his comments on this issue (see attached). Mr. Jones reminded Mr. Meden that it is the Summit County Sheriff's Office not Department, this is an elected office.

Chief Carris reported some good news about the Norton Police Dept., and in particular accredited the Norton Police Dept. for their work regarding work in a robbery at a gas station two (2) weeks ago at 7:10 AM. Chief Carris stated that the robber entered the station with what appeared to be a gun, demanded the cash in the register and fled in a maroon colored car with a missing a left front hubcap. This information was broadcasted out to everyone and six days later Officer Dan Adkins spotted this same vehicle at a local nightclub. Chief Carris stated that Officer Adkins took further steps to call out his Supervisors because he felt this was the same vehicle. Upon investigating it was determined that this was the car, and the owner was not involved, she had loaned the vehicle to someone else and identified that suspect. It was later determined that this suspect was just paroled from prison for robbery and was awaiting sentencing for another robbery charge. Within three (3) hours we had three (3) teams of officers and raided several locations in Akron and Doylestown. The suspect was apprehended at a residence in Doylestown and was arrested. After being arrested he confessed not only to our robbery, but also to three (3) other robberies in Akron. Chief Carris stated that the suspect is addicted to heroine and that was causing him to commit these crimes, and was very violent and dangerous. Chief Carris commended Officer Adkins and all of the other officers involved.

Mrs. Elaine Tompkins, a Norton resident, read a statement, (see attached).

Non-Agenda Items continued:

Ms. Megan Booth, a Norton resident, displayed a political card from forty-six (46) years ago when her Father in law was running for Council office in 1965. The card states "If you want the truth-Vote for Booth". Ms. Booth stated that was forty-two (42) years ago and that Norton had a problem with the truth back then, and if he were here today he would be very disappointed. Ms. Booth stated that the truth is out there somewhere, lets reel it in, and let's get it out there for the public to decide. Ms. Booth stated that it was great that Chief Carris gave such a positive report. Ms. Booth stated that the Sheriff's Office could bring in some equally positive reports. Ms. Booth indicated that forty-two (42) percent of our budget goes to one piece of our infrastructure. Ms. Booth stated that she was disappointed that some of Council was not wearing t-shirts support our Fire Dept., since they wore shirts last week. Ms. Booth asked where is the resolution for truth, and where is resolution for the right for the citizens to hear all of the truth and where is the right to know exactly what is going on? Ms. Booth stated that a little over fifty (50) percent of US cities have their own Police Dept. and this does not make or unmake you a city. Ms. Booth stated that she wants the Budget to be in the best interest of the city. Ms. Booth stated that some communities have a ratio of one (1) full time officer per 1,000 residents. Ms. Booth stated that we are trying to build our infrastructure, roads, balance our budget. There are several ways to approach every situation, and she is not just saying lets get rid of them. Ms. Booth stated that the citizens need to make the decision and they need to hear all of the truth, state the facts and state the truth.

Topics for the next Work Session:

There are no items pending. Mr. Pelot stated that he wanted to recognize Doug Turchin for being recognized at Norton Citizen of the Year by the Kiwanis Club. Mr. Jones stated that he appreciated the comments from Mrs. Tompkins and Ms. Booth. Mr. Jones stated that he felt the residents of all communities are starving for two things, truth and leadership. Mayor Price stated that he also discussed the Citizen of the Year award with Mr. Ryland and he would like to do a resolution and it needs to be present soon, as Mr. Turchin is not doing well. Mr. Pelot instructed Mrs. Richards to get with Mr. Lyons regarding this request.

Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 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.