



**NORTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2008**

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

Also Present:
Mayor David Koontz
Rick Ryland-Excused
John Moss
Mike Lyons
Jeff Pritchard
Karla Richards
Ann Campbell

The Regular Council Meeting convened on Monday, February 11, 2008 at 7:03 PM, in Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Scott Pelot, President of Council. Police Chief Greg Carris gave a brief memorial to honor former Police Chief Forrest G. Diefendorff Sr., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Mrs. Hlas announced that the City completed the purchase of the Service Garage facility last Friday. Mrs. Hlas stated that this purchase is free and clear of any debt or mortgage and we should receive the official title within the next two weeks. Mr. Pelot noted a few amendments to the agenda layout, Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting should be January 28, 2008 not January 14, 2008, Minutes of the Committee Work Session should be February 4, 2008, not January 22, 2008. Mr. Pelot noted that Res. #7 should be a second reading not a first and that Ord. #6 should be a third reading not a first.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES:

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 28, 2008 were approved as written.
Minutes of the Committee Work Session of February 4, 2008 were approved as written.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Charlotte Whipkey, a Norton resident, corrected her statements made at the last Council meeting about Ward One Councilperson being the only one who has served less than the rest. Ms. Whipkey stated that the minutes were correct, however she did not say it right she meant to say that it was Ward Four Councilperson. Ms. Whipkey inquired if Council is going to do a resolution of non-support for the expansion of the Mosquito Abatement District (MAD)? Ms. Whipkey reminded everyone that when you go to vote on March 4, 2008 to take your drivers license or some other identification such as a utility bill or bank statement with you. Ms. Whipkey stated that she really does not want to see the residents do provisional ballots.

Mr. Jim Hrubik, a Norton resident and on the Board of Appraisers for MAD, spoke regarding Res. #12-2008. Mr. Hrubik stated that there is a lot of misunderstanding on this issue.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC CONTINUED:

Mr. Hrubik stated that this is one of the few areas where the landowners have rights, and if you change this section and open this up to all voters, you are essentially taking away the rights of the landowners. They are the ones that pay the taxes and assessments. Mr. Hrubik also cautioned Council taking any action on Res. #12-2008 because Rep. Dyer has not presented his Bill to the legislature. Mr. Hrubik questioned if Council could act on something that is not introduced as law yet?

Mr. Bob Copen, Norton Fireman's Association gave a brief history of what the Fireman's Association does; they operate a bingo hall that generates revenue and they make periodic donations to the City of Norton. The Fireman's Association is made up of every part-time member of the Norton Fire Dept., or anyone who served five (5) years and left in good standing. Mr. Copen stated that as of now every one of the Norton Fire Dept. employees except for one (1) is a part of the Norton Fireman's Association. Mr. Copen stated that this one individual was hired as full-time and does not qualify. Mr. Copen presented Mr. Moss with a check for \$42,500.00 to deposit into a special account, which will pay off the next rescue squad. Mr. Copen stated that this vehicle should be delivered sometime this May.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION:

ORD #8-2008

Mr. Zita offered Ord. #8-2008 for it's first reading, and asked the Clerk to read it:

AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF NORTON A PROPOSAL TO AMEND ARTICLE VIII OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORTON TO ESTABLISH NON-PARTISAN ELECTIONS.

First reading only.

ORD #9-2008

Mrs. Hlas offered Ord. #9-2008 for it's first reading, and asked the Clerk to read it:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008 TO REFLECT THE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS AWARDED TO THE CITY OF NORTON UNDER A FIREFIGHTER'S ASSISTANCE GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

Mrs. Hlas moved to waive the second and third readings, seconded by Mr. Zita. Mrs. Hlas stated that this was necessary so that we could get the grant money established.

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

Motion passed 5-0.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION CONTINUED:

ORD #9-2008 continued:

Mrs. Hlas moved to adopt Ord. #9-2008, seconded by Mr. Zita.

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

Motion passed 5-0.

ORD #10-2008

Mrs. Hlas offered Ord. #10-2008 for it's first reading, and asked the Clerk to read it:

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE NOMINAL EXPENDITURES FOR REFRESHMENTS OR MEALS TO BE SERVED AT VARIOUS EVENTS, AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

First reading only.

RES #11-2008

Mr. Braman offered Res. #11-2008 for it's first reading, and asked the Clerk to read it:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE SUMMIT COUNTY COUNTYWIDE STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

First reading only.

RES #12-2008

Mr. Mowery offered Res. #12-2008 for it's first reading, and asked the Clerk to read it:

A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF OHIO, AND SPECIFICALLY THE MEMBERS OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE WHO REPRESENT THE DISTRICT THAT INCLUDES THE CITY OF NORTON, TO TAKE ACTION TO MODIFY OHIO REVISED CODE CHAPTER 6115 TO ELIMINATE THE PROCEDURE BY WHICH A MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT CAN BE CREATED OR EXPANDED BY PETITION, AND INSTEAD ESTABLISH A REQUIREMENT THAT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER SUCH A DISTRICT SHOULD BE CREATED OR EXPANDED BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT TO BE DETERMINED BY THE ELECTORS OF EACH MUNICIPALITY PROPOSED TO BE INCLUDED IN SUCH A DISTRICT.

Mr. Mowery moved to waive the second and third readings, seconded by Mrs. Hlas. Mr. Pelot stated that he asked to waive the readings tonight so that we can move forward on getting this to the State level.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION CONTINUED:

RES #12-2008 Continued:

Roll Call: Yeas: Mowery, Hlas, Braman, Zita, Pelot

Nays: None

Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Mowery moved to adopt Res. #12-2008, seconded by Mrs. Hlas.

Roll Call: Yeas: Mowery, Hlas, Braman, Zita, Pelot

Nays: None

Motion passed 5-0.

INTRODUCTION OF PRIOR LEGISLATION

ORD #6-2008

Mrs. Hlas offered Ord. #6-2008 for it's third reading, and asked the Clerk to read it:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF NORTON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008.

Mrs. Hlas moved to adopt Ord. #6-2008, seconded by Mr. Zita. Mr. Pelot stated that Mr. McGlone had emailed comments to him and asked if Council objected to reading Mr. McGlone's comments, there were no objections. Mr. Pelot stated that Mr. McGlone wanted to go on record as being opposed to Ord. #6-2008 even though he was not able to be present tonight for the vote.

Roll Call: Yeas: Hlas, Zita, Braman, Mowery, Pelot

Nays: None

Motion passed 5-0.

RES #7-2008

Mrs. Hlas offered Res. #7-2008 for it's second reading and asked the Clerk to read it:

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A NEW CAPITALIZATION THRESHOLD FOR CITY FINANCIAL REPORTING.

Second reading only.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Mayor Koontz stated the Mr. Ryland's Mother passed away on Sunday evening, and asked everyone to keep Mr. Ryland and the family in their thoughts and prayers.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS CONTINUED

Mayor Koontz stated that he has received eighteen (18) to twenty (20) applications for the appointments for various Boards & Commissions, and he will be interviewing them this week. Mayor Koontz asked to have this item on the Committee Work Session agenda for Tuesday. Mayor Koontz thanked the Service Dept. employees for their hard work in dealing with the heavy rains. Mayor Koontz thanked the Police Department for their efforts in controlling the traffic and the closing of various roads. Mayor Koontz thanked Fire Chief Schultz for taking control of the crowds at the Norton High School basketball game last Friday. Mayor Koontz indicated that the Barberton Fire Chief was also there to help with the situation. Mayor Koontz indicated that there was a mix up with the number of tickets sold and the number of seats available.

Mr. Moss thanked the Norton Fireman's Association for their generous donation of \$42,500.00. Mr. Moss indicated that this represents the last of the cost for the new squad, it sounds like we keep talking about a new squad vehicle. They have already paid the first part of it and this is the remaining portion. Mr. Moss gave a brief update on the Newpark Drive flooding situation, and that we have some preliminary engineering for this project. Mr. Moss indicated that this Wednesday we will be meeting with representatives of the business owners and will discuss if they would rather have a full assessment or a slower approach by going out for grant money. The end result is that the property owners will address this and the City will make this happen. Mr. Pelot questioned how much money the City would be saving on rent and taxes for the Service Garage? Mr. Moss indicated that we were paying \$42,000.00 a year in rent and approximately \$7,000.00 to \$8,000.00 on taxes for a total savings of approximately \$50,000.00. Mr. Moss indicated that the intent is to use this savings to accumulate money so we can do the next project we need for the Service Garage and pay cash for that.

Mr. Pritchard reported that he would be submitting a request for a resolution of support for the Cleveland-Massillon Road widening project for the next Committee Work Session.

Mr. Lyons was present and had no report.

Mr. Binic of the Barberton Health District, was present and had no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pelot reminded everyone that next Monday is Presidents Day and our Committee Meeting would be on Tuesday instead of Monday.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Koontz announced the kickoff for "This City Reads" sponsored by the Akron-Summit County Public Library, (see attached). Mayor Koontz announced the Norton Kiwanis Annual Chili Cook Off on Saturday, February 23, 2008 at the Community Center, (see attached). Mayor Koontz stated that he would be judging and encouraged residents to enter and attend.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

Mayor Koontz stated that the Board of Elections is still seeking Poll Workers, and that the position pays \$150.00 per election and that no experience is required. Mayor Koontz reminded everyone about the CCA Taxpayer Assistance program, and the Norton Baseball Spaghetti Dinner, (see attached).

Mr. Pelot offered his condolences to Mr. Ryland and the family. Mr. Pelot questioned who should the residents contact with any concerns during his absence? Mayor Koontz replied they should contact Ann Campbell-Administrative Assistance and she would direct the call to the appropriate person. Mr. Pelot stated that we received an email from State Rep. Brian Williams tonight indicating that he would be meeting with State Rep. Steven Dyer tonight about co-sponsoring the proposed Bill regarding ORC 6115 Mosquito Abatement Districts (MAD).

ADJOURN:

There being no other business to come before the Regular Council Meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

Scott Pelot, 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 February 25, 2008.

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.