



COMMITTEE WORK SESSION JUNE 15, 2009

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

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

The Committee Work Session convened on Monday, June 15, 2009 at 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mike Zita, President of Council. Following a salute to the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silent prayer.

Mr. Zita announced the swearing in ceremony of Patrol Officer Phil Canfora and K-9 Officer Oz read by Mr. Ryland. Mr. Ryland indicated that Mayor Koontz wanted to be present tonight to do this, however he is attending an elected officials dinner hosted by Summit County this evening. Mr. Ryland gave a brief background on each officer, (see attached). Mr. Ryland indicated that Oz would be completely under Officer Canfora's control while on duty. Oz is trained as a drug dog and not an attack dog, so he is safe and gentle to be around. Chief Hete gave a brief statement of the importance of swearing in a K-9 unit under the Ohio Revised Code this dog is looked upon more or less just like a police officer. If someone attacks or injures that dog, it becomes a felony offense. This is a great opportunity for the city to have this K-9 officer. Chief Hete stated that Officer Canfora would be responsible for all training expenses, housing and veterinary bills at no expense to the city.

Public Comment-Agenda and Non Agenda Items:

Ms. Gayle Brenner, a Norton resident, read a statement relating to the proposed waterlines and sewers, (see attached).

Ms. Charlotte Whipkey, a Norton resident, stated that last week she brought to everyone's attention the Charter violation and asked if the Mayor would be setting up a

Charter Review Commission? Ms. Whipkey asked what is being done about this; the press and Council seem to be quiet about it. Ms. Whipkey responded to the previous speaker's statements about the three (3) Council members voting no; they were opposed to the credit reduction on income taxes. Ms. Whipkey stated she did not believe they were fighting the sewer and water issue, she believed they were saying it needed to go to the ballot and let the people decide if they want to give up their money. Ms. Whipkey stated she felt it should go to the ballot and let the people decide it's their money.

General Topics of Discussion:

Public Records Policy:

Mr. Pelot stated that Mr. Moss has requested the city adopt a formal policy Public Records Policy with the first ten (10) pages being free. Mr. Moss stated we took the model policy from the Attorney General's website and made sure that it followed our current practice. The one exception to that is a provision that up to the first ten (10) copies at .5¢ per page would be free. Mr. Moss explained that is because we do get some residents that come in and only ask for one (1) or two (2) copies and the current policy is we must write up a receipt for that and charge the fee. This provision would eliminate that situation. Mr. Moss stated that we are basically formalizing things with this policy. Mr. Pelot asked if someone comes into city hall with a record request, do they just go to the front desk? Mr. Moss replied, yes, unless they need a police record, then they go to their department. Mr. McGlone asked if a request could be made via email or did it have to be on a form or if there is a fee for a PDF file? Mr. Moss indicated that an email is acceptable and you are not required to fill out a form, and we do not charge for a PDF file. Mr. Pelot moved to place this on Council's next agenda for a first reading with emergency language, seconded by Mrs. Hlas. Ms. Whipkey stated she mostly gets her requests through the Council Clerk, and clarified if she should continue to do this in the future? Mr. Moss stated that he would not stop her from going to the Council Clerk.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

Note Ordinance –Fire Dept. Rescue Vehicle:

Mrs. Hlas stated we have a note on the Fire Dept. rescue vehicle, which we need to renew the contract. Mrs. Hlas stated we have paid some of this down and we only need to roll over \$290,000.00. Mr. Moss stated that last year we issued a note for \$411,000.00 to purchase the new rescue vehicle. We are asking for authorization to replace this note with a smaller note of \$290,000.00 which is a smaller amount and keeps a cash balance in the fund positioned for what we need to do, while progressively paying down the debt. Mr. Moss stated the note should be paid off next year, and the pay down on this year is \$121,000.00. Mr. Moss added that in the original twenty (20) year plan we looked at a \$1,400,000.00 for building a new fire station and it does not appear likely that we will be able do this for what we need. We are doing what we can to keep the cost down and still

get what our needs are. Mrs. Hlas asked what the interest rate would be and Mr. Moss stated currently it is around four (4) percent. Mrs. Hlas moved to add this to Council's next agenda, waiving the second and third readings, seconded by Mr. McGlone.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Mr. Pelot discussed the possibility of having sidewalks installed around the center of town. Mr. Pelot stated he had noticed a resident in a wheel chair having to ride along the streets today just to get through town. Mr. Ryland indicated that most communities usually do this as a budgetary item at the beginning of the year and set a limit of around 1,000 feet at a time. Mr. Ryland suggested that it might be best to hold off on future discussion until we start budget discussions for next year when we can plan for this. Mr. Pelot asked Mr. Moss to make a note to discuss this with the 2010 Budget discussions.

Mr. Ryland reported on the hearing held regarding the Beldick property and that a court date is been set for October 5, 2009. Mr. Ryland stated it appears that the new fire station would not be built this year.

Mr. Zita asked Mrs. Richards if she would report about Ms. Whipkey's comments about the Charter. Mrs. Richards stated she met with Mr. Kostoff last Thursday to discuss this issue, he is reviewing all documents and would provide Council, the Mayor and Administration a full report at the Council meeting on Monday.

Topics for the next Work Session:

No items pending at this time.

Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Mike Zita, President of Council

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

All Committee Meetings will be held at the Norton Safety Administration Building, unless otherwise noted.