



**NORTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 9, 2015**

Roll Call:      Scott Pelot  
                 Dennis McGlone  
                 Danny Grether  
                 Dennis Pierson  
                 Paul Tousley  
                 Charlotte Whipkey  
                 Rick Rodgers

Also Present:  
                 Mayor Mike Zita  
                 Valerie Wax Carr  
                 Ron Messner  
                 Justin Markey  
                 Karla Richards  
                 Ann Campbell

The Regular Council Meeting convened on Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Rick Rodgers President of Council, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Mr. Grether wanted to continue this discussion whether to move on with the proposal for Barberton or to Summit County. Ms. Whipkey clarified we are under the Ohio Building Code no matter who we go with and Mr. Markey and Mrs. Carr both concurred. Ms. Whipkey stated Summit County is higher, and offers no cost share and Mrs. Carr concurred. Ms. Whipkey stated with Summit County we would lose our certification and Mrs. Carr concurred, adding that you could always reapply. Ms. Whipkey stated that if anything gets changed by the State we have not choice but to comply no matter who we go with. Ms. Whipkey noted this does not have anything to do with our zoning and Barberton is going to pay us 10% of all permit fees for five years. Mrs. Whipkey stressed this would be strictly for building issues within our city. Mr. Pelot asked what are we gaining for zoning issues if we still have to go elsewhere for the building? Mrs. Carr noted that Mr. Arters was doing more and more in these departments and we would still have to secure someone in zoning and we could take the savings we are getting from Barberton could be applied. Mrs. Carr stated at point you had a full time zoning inspector, a chief Building Official, a Planning Director, an Office Manager and a Secretary. If we move the building issues to Barberton we could focus on the zoning and start with a part-time inspector and then do some evaluations to see what we really need. Mr. Pelot was concerned that we sold our water, now our sewers and now the building, so then what to we have to offer as a city then? Mr. Pelot stated going with Barberton is not a bad service for the residents rather than going to Summit County. Mr. Pelot stated he wanted to see some opt out for our review of the service and process. Mrs. Carr stated the proposal has a 60 day review and that can be modified. Mrs. Carr stated we still have the option to keeping our own building dept. but if we do that we need to look at increasing our fees to justify. Mr. Tousley asked how difficult would it be to come back if we were to go with Barberton? Mrs. Carr noted we are considered as a sub department and she would rather see someone in the Planning Department position. Mr. Pierson noted the fact that we are losing money and we cannot continue to go on like this.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS-ORD #9-2015**

At 7:15 PM Mr. Rodgers temporarily adjourned the Regular Council Meeting to convene the Public Hearing for Ord. #9-2015. Mr. Rodgers asked the Clerk of Council to certify the notice for the public hearing. Mrs. Richards stated that a legal notice for this public hearing was published in the Barberton Herald on February 26, 2015 and that a certified letter was also mailed to the applicant. Mr. Rodgers called three (3) times for anyone in favor of this renewal to come forward, noting that the applicant has the right to speak first. Mr. George (Tom) Blankenship (the applicant) came forward and stated that we have been here for about 30 plus years. Mr. Blankenship stated his father purchased this farm in 1972 and his sister purchased it in 1992. In 2008 the greatest recession we have ever faced hit all of us and in 2010 he and his wife purchased it from her sister and they intend to keep it as a farm and looked for Councils support to continue this use. Ms. Whipkey always encouraged keeping our local farmers going. Mr. Rodgers called twice more for anyone in favor to come forward. Mr. Rodgers called three (3) times for anyone against the renewal to come forward, no one came forward. At 7:19 PM Mr. Rodgers closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Regular Council Meeting.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CONTINUED**

### **Building Department**

Mr. Pelot agreed with Mr. Pierson and if we are losing money we need to look at subcontracting and wants to retain the option to be able to bring it back when we are more financially fit. Ms. Whipkey also agreed on that option. Ms. Whipkey also noted that even with going with Summit County we still could bring it back home. Ms. Whipkey recalled some discussion history and that Barberton Health District could not go on without us. Ms. Whipkey stated she was not in favor of going with the County and giving our money away to them. Mr. Pierson discussed the home rule and he felt its not that big of a deal under the Ohio Building Code regulations, and we are duplicating too many services and if we go with the County and go with a larger entity with more inspectors. Mr. Grether echoed Mr. Pelot and Ms. Whipkey's comments, sending our residents to Tallmadge for permits is not an option for our residents. At this point our city has a need for a Economic Developer and if he can right this ship and shift these duties to Barberton, with some revenue still coming back to our city. We still have the option to revisit this over the course of time. Mr. McGlone agreed and this department is not here to be a money making scheme here in Norton and he supports going with Barberton. Mr. Messner pointed out that if we go with Barberton and only get 10% back, we have no expenses here for secretarial services. Mr. Rodgers pointed out his concerns with getting this department back and most City's are doing this because you don't make any money. Personally he feels the County would be better, however with the offer of 10% back from Barberton; he asked Mrs. Carr to seek more than 10%. Mrs. Carr stated she did contact Barberton and they are willing to go as much as 15% but we would have to give up our certification. Mr. Tousley asked would that also be at cap of 5 years and Mrs. Carr stated we have not worked out the details of that. Mr. Rodgers asked what is the benefit is it for the city to have their own certification? Mrs. Carr stated this gives the city better options as a certified department. Mr. Rodgers asked how this prospers our city to have its own building department? Mr. Tousley stated this adds a service the taxpayers would otherwise not be getting. Mrs. Carr stated that Council needs to decide what you want to see here. There was discussion about the current Secretary and Mrs. Carr stated the building duties is not her only responsibility, she serves to other Boards & Commissions and if we ever get a Planning Director or Economic Developer. Mrs. Carr noted that generally a Planning Director does not have a CBO certification, it's a very specific certifications and Building & Planning are two totally different skills. There was discussion as to how thin Mr. Arters was stretched before leaving and Ms. Whipkey commented he was basically doing three (3) positions.

Ms. Whipkey stated she wanted to see just how long the 15% would run. Mr. Pierson asked if Akron and Cuyahoga Falls can farm it out successfully, what do they know that we don't? There was clarification that you are asking for the 15% for eternity with no expiration and we give up our certification. Mr. Markey suggested everyone collect their thoughts on the specifics and Mrs. Carr stated the State has been letting us slide and they are reviewing this every six weeks. Mr. Pelot stated the difference from 10% to 15% from Mr. Messner works out to about \$8500.00 throughout the five year time and he is not willing to give this away. Mr. Markey suggested you do not do away with a 60 days back out notice no matter what. Ms. Whipkey stated we could move this to the agenda and amend the agreement later. Mr. Grether moved to move Ord. #13-2015 to tonight's agenda for a first reading, seconded by Ms. Whipkey.

Roll Call:      Yeas: Grether, Whipkey, Pelot, McGlone, Pierson, Tousley, Rodgers  
Nays: None

Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. McGlone suggested we waive the second and third reads, and Mr. Grether moved to waive seconded and third readings, seconded by Mr. Pelot. Mr. Tousley stated he has nothing against the legislation, but not the emergency clause and Mr. Rodgers agreed. After further discussion it seemed most of Council did not support rushing this through and Mr. Grether and Mr. Pelot removed their motions.

Mr. Rodgers acknowledged the receipt of the February 2015 Budget reports from the Finance Director.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC-Agenda and Non-Agenda Items**

Mr. William Paluch noted last week a speaker noted the number of residents that voted against Issue #1. We have 8,000.00 registered voters and at that election only 2,757 voted. Out of that 1542 voted no and 1215 voted yes, that is a difference of 300 some votes. Mr. Paluch stated it is sad that we don't have better numbers than this, or that we don't educate the community better. When someone does the thinking for you lose your freedom.

### **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the January 26, 2015 Regular Council Meeting were approved as submitted  
Minutes of the February 2, 2015 Finance-Utilities Committee were approved as submitted  
Minutes of the February 2, 2015 Committee Meeting were approved as submitted  
Minutes of the February 9, 2015 Finance Committee were approved as submitted  
Minutes of the February 9, 2015 Council Meeting were approved as submitted

### **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Mayor Zita reported that Mike Huffman, a Norton resident and Vietnam Vet, is doing a tattered flags program and a

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION**

#### **ORD #22-2015**

Mr. Grether offered Ord. #22-2015 for its first reading and asked the Clerk to read it:

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH INSITE ADVISORY GROUP, LLC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING SERVICES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading only.

**ORD #23-2015**

Mr. Grether offered Ord. #23-2015 for its first reading and asked the Clerk to read it:

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH DB HARTT, A DIVISION OF CT CONSULTANTS INC., FOR PLANNING SERVICES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading only.

**\*\*Added during Committee of the Whole:**

**ORD #13-2015**

Mr. Grether offered Ord. #13-2015 for its first reading and asked the Clerk to read it:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AGREEMENT FOR BUILDING CODE ADMINISTRATION WITH THE CITY OF BARBERTON; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Grether moved to waive second and third readings, seconded by McGlone. Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Tousley did not agree with the need for waiving readings and Mr. Tousley stated the public was not aware we could be voting tonight on this. Mrs. Whipkey stated she also agreed, she is not against this but felt we need the public input. Mr. Grether stated he can respect all of your comments, and Mr. Grether removed and Mr. McGlone removed their motions. Ord. #13-2015 stands as a first reading only.

**INTRODUCTION OF PRIOR LEGISLATION**

**RES #9-2015**

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL FOR PLACEMENT OF FARMLAND LOCATED AT 3580 SOUTH HAMETOWN ROAD, IN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT.

Mr. Grether moved to waive the third reading, seconded by Ms. Whipkey.

Roll Call:      Yeas: Grether, Whipkey  
                  Nays: None

Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Grether moved to adopt Res. #9-2015, seconded by Ms. Whipkey

Roll Call:      Yeas: Grether,  
                  Nays: None

Motion passed 7-0.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Carr noted the Summit County Health Dept. will be present for the March 16, 2015 Committee Meeting to discuss the new septic system regulations. Ms. Whipkey noted the Administration is currently going under some new improvements with new carpet and painting and this will be done at a nominal cost and requires no action from Council

Mrs. Carr noted some recent parking violations at the Norton Shipping Center and several people have been cited. When people do park in the fire lane and can be a problem because there are no sprinklers in the awnings. The police department suggest you park your vehicle in the normal area and go make your purchases and then drive your vehicle to that business for the pickup. Mrs. Carr stated the businesses are working with the Police Dept for the details.

Mr. Grether asked about the Copley Trustees having their public meeting on the Watershed District and Mrs. Carr noted she thought it was sometime near the end of April. Mr. Rodgers stated he heard it was April 30, 2015.

Ms. Whipkey asked how we are doing with our salt supply. Mrs. Carr noted that we have about 2500 ton and we have 1,000 on order and we are in good shape. There was general discussion as to the rising costs of salt. Mr. Tousley asked about the February budget reports and questioned the expenses on some of the roads. Mr. Messner stated this is in the encumbered column which means a purchase order has been generated and has not been spent as of yet. Mr. Rodgers asked about in 2014 where we borrowed \$100,000.00 from the parks and Mr. Messner recalled that was correct and it was repaid back to that account in December. Ms. Whipkey asked if any of Council has received any feedback from residents on the Live Streaming and Mr. Tousley stated he had only one positive comment. Ms. Whipkey stated she is striving to get this running with the new system and it would be posted on the website that same night in addition to watching it live. The system we are now using now costs about the same, however it does not have the flexibility with the new system. Ms. Whipkey wanted to bite the bullet and say yes to this system. Mr. Rodgers asked if there is any follow up to last weeks discussion on the AP gas station and the Cider Mill issues. Mrs. Carr noted she has made contact with Wadsworth Mayor in a round about way and the owner of the Cider Mill has promised the City it would be addressed as soon as the snow melts.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Zita announced that Norton resident Mike Hoofman a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America-Akron Chapter 900, has done a community project for the City of Norton. Mr. Hoofman has installed a tattered flag collection box for any unserviceable flags for disposal located in the lobby at Norton City hall. Mayor Zita announced that the spaghetti dinner fundraiser for officer Dan Adkins was held on February 27, 2015 at the Norton Community Center. There were forty (40) baskets for raffle. The Adkins family cannot say enough thanks to the Norton Police Department and all who worked so hard to make this event possible, and the family thanks everyone from the bottom of their heart that came out to show support and attended this event.

Mayor Zita announced the Dan Adkins benefit and reverse raffle on June 6, 2015 at 6:30 PM at Barberton Moose 6 PM. There will be a reverse raffle, over 1,000 baskets for 50/50 raffle, dinner, beer and non-alcoholic beverages. Cost is \$100.00 per couple and \$75.00 for single. Contact Chad Adkins at 330-714-2292 for tickets, there will be only 200 available.

## **PUBLIC UPDATES**

### **ADJOURN**

There being no other business to come before the Regular Council Meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

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Rick Rodgers, 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 March 23, 2015.

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Karla Richards, CMC-Clerk of Council

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

**\*\*ORIGINAL SIGNED AND APPROVED MINUTES ARE ON FILE WITH THE CLERK OF COUNCIL\*\***

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