



**NORTON CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE WORK SESSION
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020**

The Committee Work Session was convened on Monday, April, 20, 2020 at 7:09 PM as a remote meeting, pursuant to H.B. #197. The meeting was called to order by Joe Kernan, President of Council, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent reflection.

Roll Call:	Jack Gainer	Also Present:
	Dennis McGlone	Mayor Zita
	Dan Karant	Robert Fowler
	Paul Tousley	Pam Keener
	Charlotte Whipkey	Justin Markey
	Scott Pelot	Kerry Macomber
	Joe Kernan	

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - None. Mr. Kernan announced that if comments are received after the meeting, they will be read at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Appropriation and Estimated Resources - Ms. Whipkey noted that this was an amendment for annual estimated resources for certificate required for Summit County. There were a couple things that needed to be changed. Ms. Keener noted that this is necessary for the funds needed to be in compliance and the objective is to make sure it is in compliance. Mr. Karant inquired if this was simply cleaning up and putting things in order but does not have anything to do with loss of income taxes. Mr. Karant noted that we will have to look at this further down the road and he also asked how long before we know the impact. Ms. Keener said she won't know until after the extended tax deadline of July 15, but she is analyzing it on a weekly basis and can report back to Council on updates from CCA. Ms. Whipkey moved to add Ord. No. 047-2020 to Council's next agenda on April 27 with emergency language, waiving second and third readings; seconded by Mr. Pelot.

Roll Call: Yes: Whipkey, Pelot, Kernan
No: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Transfers - Ms. Whipkey noted that these transfers are necessary to balance the budget and to be in the black make the auditor's happy. Ms. Keener said this is the annual approval of transfers in and out and authorizes the Finance Director to move funds for the budget. It needs done annually; Ms. Keener said this is a one-time legislation. Mr. Kernan explained that we used to do transfers all the time and now this is being done just one time. Mr. Markey said yes, instead

of coming back every month or so and clarified that we did this for the 2019 budget but this is for the 2020 budget. Ms. Whipkey noted this was done already and it is not written in stone, so we can do it again. Mr. Markey agreed; Ms. Keener is just to have what is budgeted passed. Ms. Whipkey moved to add Ord. No. 048-2020 to Council's next agenda with emergency language, waiving second and third readings; seconded by Mr. Pelot.

Roll Call: Yes: Whipkey, Pelot, Kernan
No: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Police Equipment - Mr. Tousley explained this is to purchase the police equipment to be added to the new Dodge Durangos we had purchased and it has been budgeted. It includes the light bars to equip the cars. Mr. Fowler said this could go through two readings and passed in May so it can be ordered. He said the new cars will be here in four to five weeks. Mr. McGlone asked if the old equipment could be used and Mr. Fowler explained the equipment from the Chargers could not be used on the Durangos. Mr. Pelot asked what has happened to the old equipment from the Charger and Mr. Fowler will check with Chief Dalessandro, but it would have to go through the City disposal process. Mr. Tousley moved to add Ord. No. 049-2020 to Council's next meeting; seconded by Mr. McGlone.

Roll Call: Yes: Tousley, McGlone, Kernan
No: None

Motion passed unanimously.

NOPEC Grant - Ms. Whipkey said this legislation is for the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) grant for \$750, which is based on the number of people that have signed up to use the NOPEC utility. Ms. Whipkey stated it needs to have emergency language and waiving second and third readings. Mr. Fowler stated we have to have the application in by May and it is for gas aggregation and he intends for one project that will be identified later. Mr. Kernan clarified that this is money from NOPEC and we have to apply to them. Mr. Fowler agreed and said we do this every year because we are a new customer. Ms. Whipkey moved to add Ord. No. 050-2020 to Council's next agenda with emergency language, waiving second and third readings; seconded by Mr. Pelot.

Roll Call: Yes: Whipkey, Pelot, Kernan
No: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Chamber Grant - Ms. Whipkey said we are looking to join the Greater Akron Chamber Small Business Assistance program that they are managing for Summit County COVID-19 Small Business Emergency Relief Grant Program. We will put in \$25,000 and it will be strictly Norton businesses and so far, approximately 30 businesses have applied. The \$25,000 is the most we will put in and it is a minimum of \$5,000 per business. Mr. Fowler said Summit County put in CDBG funds and the \$25,000 we put in will guarantee five Norton businesses will be helped. The County will hopefully fund two or three more and we will fund five; it could be up to eight

grants. Ms. Whipkey asked if they will add to the \$5,000 above our commitment. Mr. Fowler said he was not certain and believed their intent is they are trying to help as many businesses as possible at the \$5,000 level due to so many small businesses not getting funded through the PPE. Ms. Whipkey asked who will determine which businesses receive it and Mr. Fowler said the Chamber Executive Director and he believed there was a team of people that is a cross of others from the County that will review it. Mayor Zita noted that if we do not participate, we may be excluded. Mr. Fowler stated that the likelihood of our businesses getting funding without our support reduced drastically. Mr. Pelot asked if we have considered contributing more than \$25,000 because if we have 30 businesses and if we were lucky only 8 or 10 will be funded. He asked if we could up that figure. Mr. Fowler said yes, there is money available in the Revolving Loan Fund under Economic Development. They felt \$25,000 was a good start and wanted to see how the program goes before they put in more than the \$25,000. Mr. Kernan said we are trying to create a city that is business friendly where businesses will thrive and when you look at our budget, \$25,000 is not a lot of money of the total budget. We should support them because we have taxed them and this is the time when we should give back. Mr. Karant said his business applied for a loan and it is based on two and a half months of taxable income and wages; it really had more to do with paying employed people who cannot work for different reasons and other things that are COVID related. We were told it was too small to qualify. He had to up the application request to \$60,000 and to put it into perspective; for small mom and pop businesses, the \$5,000 is a drop in the bucket. Mr. Karant said he agrees with Joe because we depend on the businesses and they depend on us. We need to keep it business friendly. Mr. Pelot said he brought it up as the company he works for is a small business and was directly impacted. There are no orders coming in and the customers are not paying, and there is no way to keep things going without some kind of assistance. They applied for a federal loan and did not hear anything from the banks. He feels we have to help out as many as we can help. It is a good faith gesture and he is fine to wait and see how the first round goes. Mr. Karant asked how this will be promoted to our local community because he is surprised we have 30 businesses and Mr. Fowler said he thinks Councilwoman McKinney cosponsored the legislation and pushed it. Mayor Zita said he has put it on his Facebook page just to share it. Mr. Pelot said the Small Business Administration has it on their website. Ms. Whipkey moved to add Ord. No. 051-2020 to Council's next agenda with emergency language, waiving second and third readings; seconded by Mr. Pelot.

Roll Call: Yes: Whipkey, Pelot, Kernan
No: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Liability and Casualty Insurance - Ms. Whipkey noted that Mr. Fowler has found another carrier and announced that the draft language of the Ordinance will need amended by our next meeting to include the emergency language with a statement that it is effective upon the Mayor's signature. Ms. Whipkey said our current carrier has been used for years and they have continued to go up in cost. The new carrier is Whitaker Myers Insurance Services with the policy through the Ohio Plan and will not exceed \$87,534 and actually be a \$17,000 savings. She also understood there will be discounts over the next couple of years. Mr. Fowler explained the Police Department's Lexipol membership and this program will give us a 50% savings on that

membership for this first year, 30% next year, and 20% the year after; Lexipol reduces their liability. The Ohio Plan is a group of municipalities and is only for municipalities. Mr. Kernan said he looked through these proposals and this makes sense to change at this point. Mr. Karant asked how this came about now and Ms. Whipkey responded it was time for renewal and that is why we need to waive second and third readings. Mr. Kernan said he was glad Mr. Fowler found this and that it will give us extra money that we may be able to give to small businesses. Ms. Whipkey noted this was not the lowest bid but it has the best policy. Ms. Whipkey moved to add what would be the corrected Ord. No. 052-2020 to Council's next agenda with emergency language, waiving second and third readings; seconded by Mr. Pelot.

Roll Call: Yes: Whipkey, Pelot, Kernan
No: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kernan noted we will be meeting next week in the same manner remotely and YouTube.

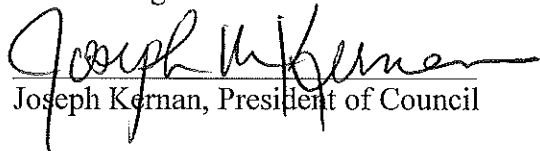
Mr. Pelot asked about topics for next week. He would like to discuss how the funding change is going to affect our yearly budget and if we should look at doing something to help small businesses. Mr. Kernan said he knows Administration has asked the various Departments to look at their budgets and possible cuts. Ms. Keener said we can look at cuts in the budget and start discussions at the next Work Session. Mr. Pelot said everyone needs to be looking at this and we may need to look at 20 percent or so and what effect that will have on city services. Mr. Kernan said he is hoping that things will be starting to get back to normal mid-May and he agrees it needs to be looked at and prepared for it. The Administration is doing that. Mr. Pelot agreed and said he believes it will take at least three months for businesses to perform where they should be.

TOPICS FOR NEXT WORK SESSION – Budget Discussion to Address COVID 19.

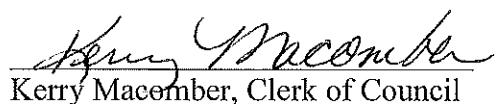
Mayor Zita announced that the Governor announced the school year will remain online.

ADJOURN

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.


Joseph Kernan, President of Council

I, Kerry Macomber, Clerk of Council for the City of Norton, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes were approved at a Regular Council Meeting held on April 27, 2020.


Kerry Macomber, Clerk of Council

NOTE: These minutes are not verbatim.
Original signed and approved minutes are on file with the Clerk of Council.