



## COMMITTEE WORK SESSION NOVEMBER 15, 2010

**Committee Members Present:** Todd Bergstrom  
Don Nicolard  
Brenda Hlas  
Bill Mowery  
Ken Braman  
Scott Pelot  
Mike Zita

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

The Committee Work Session convened on Monday, November 15, 2010 at 7:03 PM, in the 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.

### **General Topics of Discussion:**

#### **2010 Final Budget Changes**

Mrs. Hlas turned this discussion over to Mr. Moss for the details. Mr. Moss handed out additional materials (see attached) and went on to summarize that this years budget was very tough due to lower than expected revenue. Mr. Moss stated we are experiencing a 21% decrease from 2008 to today, adding that we have to have enough money in the checkbook to make it to the next paycheck. Mr. Moss stated that our money does not come in at regular intervals. We have to sustain a healthy balance between these times. Mr. Moss explained the overall reduction as laid out in the Exhibit A to drafted Ord. #116-2010 is \$981,862.08. Mr. Moss indicated the 2011 Budget also has that same amount of reduction removed in the amounts. The detailed worksheet is also attached in support of the Exhibit A. Mr. Moss reviewed the overall changes. Mr. Moss stated that next year we expect health care costs to increase about 14.7%. Mr. Moss indicated that we have a very unusual return of an estate tax refund of about \$150,000.00. This money was already received in 2008 and they want it back. In order to cut expenses, we have made changes, there will be no new equipment or virtually it is at zero as well as capital. The only exception is the road program, which is sustained at last years level. We suspended transfers wherever we could. For the first time we have made cutbacks on payroll and have made allocation adjustments in those areas.

Mr. Moss indicated in the resources, we would like Council to rescind the Health Care Insurance Fund # 600. The need to reserve dollars for health care expense is no longer there. The city is fully insured. Those dollars would become available back to the fund that contributed to it in the first place. We also would like Council to unrestrict the Cable Franchise Fees Fund #410 for one year to allow those funds to come into the General Fund to be used for the lands and parks. Mr. Moss stated the Cable Franchise Fund currently gets 100% and we would like to allow \$51,000.00 to come into the General Fund to operate the parks. Mr. Moss stated that although there would still be some tightening of the belt, we should still be able to keep our same level of service within our Police, Fire/EMS as we are experiencing now. Mr. Moss noted two (2) corrections to the exhibit; the date says 2010 at the top of the column not 2011 and secondly is a proposal to add to the Police Dept. Budget portable weight scales in the amount of approximately \$37,000.00 in expenses. Mr. Moss indicated this would generate revenues of about \$50,000.00 within the first year. Mr. Moss stated that in the second year most of the revenue could be used to purchase vehicles because you would not need to repurchase the scales. Mr. Moss stated these scales are portable and you can get one to place under each wheel of a semi. There was discussion that our current vehicles would not really be ideal to accommodate such scales and in the future a larger SUV or pick up truck with a cap, would be the vehicle of choice. Mr. Mowery questioned where these scales could be used and Mr. Moss indicated mostly on interstates but they can be used on any road where a vehicle is overweight. Mr. Pelot suggested that in the future, we could use any funds left over to go into the road program, considering it's the overweight vehicles that are tearing up the roads in the first place. Mr. Moss concurred that could be an option. Mr. Mowery asked if an officer had requested this idea? Mr. Moss stated yes it was brought up in the past originally by Sgt. Nagy and during this budget discussion it has come up again. Mr. Mowery asked if other communities have such scales and Mr. Moss replied that Wadsworth and Lodi have them, he did not know about Copley, or Barberton. Mrs. Hlas discussed the Tipping Fee Fund and she did not understand the significant decline in the revenue. Mrs. Hlas stated the drop in revenue recently could be due to switching over to Summit County Health District. Mrs. Hlas stated that actually it should be up if anything because all of Akron Schools are now coming into the Norton C & D's and this has not slowed up any, and asked Mr. Moss to explain. Mrs. Hlas asked who is monitoring this, because it's the County that is sending the funds to us? Mr. Moss stated he does not monitor this, these fees come in from the County and he would definitely follow up with this. Mr. Mowery inquired more about the weight scales, and asked Mr. Moss about estimated revenues other communities received. Mr. Moss indicated that his initial research revealed that an ODOT official felt about two (2) tickets twice a week generated \$200,000.00 in fines annually. Mr. Moss stated we could expect to get about half of that because tickets range from \$750.00 to \$1,100.00 and higher if you have other violations along with that. Mrs. Hlas moved to add Ord. #116-2010 to Councils next agenda for at least two readings, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

### 2010 Transfers & Advances

Mrs. Hlas moved to add Ord. #117-2010 to Councils next agenda to go at least two readings, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

### 2011 Budget

Mrs. Hlas asked all of Council if they had any additional questions or comments for Mr. Moss, which he just generalized earlier, and if they were comfortable with moving forward with this. There were no further comments or concerns at this time and Mrs. Hlas indicated that between now and the first reading Council should contact Mr. Moss directly with any questions or concerns, and those need to be addressed before adopting on December 13, 2010. Mrs. Hlas moved to place Ord. #118-2010 on Councils next agenda to go at least two readings, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom. Mr. Moss explained more about the Cable Franchise Fee Fund # 410 and the use for the funds in the Parks and Land Improvement Fund. Mr. Moss stated we have paid off the note for the baseball fields in the park. Mr. Pelot commented on a recent newspaper article relating to cable subscriptions being down, however we are estimating an increase in our franchise fees? Mr. Moss indicated that the franchise fees have increased every quarter in our community regardless of the subscriptions going down. Mr. Moss noted that the Parks Dept. fund is healthy, it's the General Fund that is hurting, which is one big pool and the Parks Dept, is in there. There was discussion about the lighting in the park and if this is all up to grade. Mr. Moss indicated yes all is in order except out to Columbia Woods Drive, but everything within the park is upgraded properly. Mr. Ryland stated the electric service is all up to code and we have the right power in the park that we need. We still have one old box at the original pavilion but we supplemented that. The only possibility of additional cost would be if we were to extend more of the light poles out of the park, however we have plenty of power now to support that option.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

### 2011 Transfers & Advances

Mr. Moss noted that there is a typographical error in the language, which needs to be corrected in the legislation for the advances, and Mrs. Hlas indicated these could both be continued to the next Work Session of December 6, 2010 for the corrections.

**Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Pelot questioned if the paving on Greenridge Road is now complete? Mr. Ryland replied not quite, there is still some work on the manholes needing to be finished and we have a punch list to go over. Mr. Zita noted that the warning signs about the new 4-way stop sign at Greenwich and Hametown Roads have been installed.

**New Business:**

None

**Public Comment-Agenda and Non Agenda Items:**

Mrs. Jill Miller, a Norton resident and President of the Norton Women's Club asked Council to consider increasing the amount of funding for the annual Easter Egg hunt (see supporting documents). Mrs. Miller indicated that the budget is currently set at \$500.00 and the Norton Women's Club is asking to increase that to \$1,000.00. Mrs. Miller discussed this years Christmas in the Park and asked Mayor Koontz if he would do the honors for the countdown to the lighting ceremony on December 3, 2010 at 6:00 PM. Mayor Koontz indicated he would check his calendar and get back to her. Mrs. Miller commented on Mr. Mowery's previous inquiry of other communities that have the portable scales. Mrs. Miller stated she knows that Cuyahoga Falls has these and the fines are \$120.00 plus court costs for a delivery truck of any type.

Mr. Gilbert Chaney, a Norton resident, stated he and his wife are moving to another area and are selling their home. Mr. Chaney stated that since the Board of Elections has not certified Issue #39-2010 yet, he felt this was a good time to discuss this in the open. Mr. Chaney stated that he has discussed this issue with Mr. Moss in the past about the city buying their property with the intention of using the vacant portion of the land for a future water tower. Mr. Chaney stated this would be a good idea now not to have to deal with the eminent domain process. Mr. Chaney stated the terms of the agreement were to put \$3,000.00 down on hold allowing 3-5 months to work out the details. This property was appraised at \$155,000.00 and he has offered to sell it to the city for \$152,000.00. Mr. Chaney stated if there are any questions, you should direct those to Mr. Moss. Mr. Mowery questioned the use for a water tower? Mr. Moss explained that the designs for full build out to get water to the west side of the city, which is at the highest elevation, require a water tower. Mr. Moss stated that in looking out into the future we do need to secure land in order to do that. Mr. Moss indicated that way back when Mr. Collins was here, several properties were identified in that area to be suitable and the Chaney parcel is one of them. Mr. Mowery stated that it seemed odd not to address the volume of water issues in the Brentwood area now, instead of moving in this direction. Mr. Chaney stated their parcel has enough vacant land for the water tower without having to tear down the existing home, and then you could turn around and sell that section with the house on it and get some of your money back. Mr. Pelot questioned the cost to build a water tower and Mr. Ryland stated he had no idea. Mr. Braman asked if it's the city's intention to sell the home right away? Mr. Ryland replied we could do a lot split and do it that way to separate the issues.

**Topics for the next Work Session:**

Mr. Pelot asked about the trash bids and Mr. Ryland indicated they should be advertised in the papers this week. Mr. Nicolard noted that he would be excused for the December 6, 2010 Committee Work Session and December 12, 2010 Council Meeting. Mr. Nicolard stated he expects to see something from Mr. Kostoff on the next Committee agenda for the trash dumpsters/corrals and would appreciate someone moving forward with this subject in his absence. Mr. Pelot indicated that Mr. Mowery is Vice Chair and Mr. Braman a member of the Service Committee and he would expect either one to address this, if not he would take care of it.

2011 Advances and Transfers

Trash dumpsters/corrals

**Adjourn**

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

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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.**