



COMMITTEE WORK SESSION DECEMBER 6, 2010

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

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

The Committee Work Session convened on Monday, December 6, 2010 at 7:01 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. Mr. Ryland swore in Officer Ryan Burnette and Full Time Dispatcher Denise Sizemore.

General Topics of Discussion:

ODOT Consent Legislation-Eastern Road Paving

Mr. Braman stated that this is for the resurfacing of Eastern Road in Norton. The ODOT portion is \$724,000.00 with a twenty percent share of \$144,000.00 with Norton's split being \$82,000.00. Mr. Ryland indicated this repaving is from St. Rt. 585 to Fairland Road. The grant funds were not received in time and the Administration has requested emergency language in addition to waiving of the second and third readings. Mr. Braman moved to place this on Council's next agenda with emergency language, waiving second and third readings, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom.

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

Motion passed 5-0.

2011 Budget Overview

Mr. Bergstrom asked about employment reductions next year and money adjusted for unemployment claims of about \$25,000.00 and asked if they are related? Mr. Moss replied yes, if we let employees go then these expenses will not have to be paid. Mr. Bergstrom noted that we have paid \$80,000.00 to engineering services for Summit County and asked if we could trim this down in any way? Mr. Moss stated the capital projects for next year are not being cut and he sees the need to continue engineering support for the contract with Summit County and would rather not rock the boat at this time. Mr. Ryland stated we have spent thirty-five percent less than in previous years and we have also cut back the number of hours in the office. Mr. Bergstrom questioned the costs of legal expenses; we spent \$35,000.00 in 2008, \$115,000.00 in 2009 and the average seems to be at \$85,000.00. Mr. Bergstrom asked if this would stay the average? Mr. Moss stated that the legal fees are not all of the same account, and that in 2009 we had a lot of things going on and extra services. Regular legislation is all part of the \$24,000.000 regular fees. Mr. Kostoff added that no one could control in any given year if the city gets sued and we have had a number of cases and actions. Mr. Moss stated that we really need clear decisions on how to spend the money. Mr. Ryland stated that he goes over the legal billing line item by line item and most costs are from Council for issues and requests for legislation from Council. Mr. Bergstrom discussed the Road Program and stated that he liked the way that Clubside was done and asked if we could use this same method for roads like Maco? Mr. Bergstrom noted the Community Center funding was scaled back, however we need to get back to spending money to either maintain this building or build a new facility, we need some plan of action for the future. Mrs. Hlas asked Mr. Bergstrom if he wanted to keep the same Community Center and Mr. Bergstrom stated that should be part of the discussion. Mr. Zita stated the recent tree lighting ceremony had the Community Center filled to capacity, this being the first year and we hope this will grow, we really need to discuss this. Mr. Moss stated that we do have \$2,000.00 in addition to \$2,000.00 for repairs. Mrs. Hlas stated that we have \$2,000.00 set aside for fishing stock and asked if this could come from the Time Warner money since it is really improving the park? Mr. Moss stated it could but we thought it made more sense to break it out this way. Mr. Bergstrom asked if we could transfer the rental fees into the General Fund? Mr. Moss stated that when rental fees are received it is transferred into the General Fund for general upkeep. Mr. Moss stated that budget money is already set aside for things like sewer installation and we could always finance a new Community center but we will have to pay that debt back. Mr. Pelot discussed the Road Program and the \$250,000.00 for the Eastern Road program. Mr. Moss stated this number may go down and could be spent elsewhere. Then we could decide where best to spend it. Mr. Moss stated it really is best if Council does not dictate what roads to spend the funding on. Mr. Moss stated the total revenue is done \$1.2 million dollars in the General Fund because the first year income tax has dropped ten percent and in the second year the property taxes started to drop off. There was discussion on payments to CCA where we paid them \$86,000.00 in 2006 and will be paying them \$190,000.00 in 2011. Mr. Moss stated the major reason is a loss of investment money, in the past we were getting better returns in the past.

Mr. Pelot questioned the 14.7 percent increase in health care premiums for next year and Mr. Moss replied that those are the numbers we were given. Mrs. Hlas reminded everyone that the 2011 Budget legislation will be on Monday's agenda for a second reading and she will move to suspend the third reading.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Bergstrom asked how many trash bid packets went out and Mr. Ryland replied that nine (9) packets have gone out so far. Mr. Ryland stated the bid opening is on December 15, 2010 at 10:30 AM. Mr. Ryland stated that he would be checking all bids over once they are opened and would report back to Council with his final recommendation.

New Business:

None.

Public Comment-Agenda and Non Agenda Items:

Mrs. Jill Miller, Norton Women's Club, gave thanks to everyone for the Christmas in the Park, we had a lot of community support. Mrs. Miller thanked Ann Campbell for the email she sent out today from Mickey Young, and also for all of her help keeping Santa cool that night. Mrs. Miller stated we really need a PA system to improve events like this one, outlets pop all of the time. The water heater needs replaced, there is cold water in the kitchen and when you adjust the thermostat on the water heater then you have scalding water in the restrooms. We also need a spray nozzle installed at the kitchen sink. We also need a prop on the rear door by the trash bin because you get locked out when you are emptying the trash.

Mrs. Elaine Tompkins, a Norton resident, complimented Council members on all of their questions asked about the budget. Mrs. Tompkins complimented the Norton Women's Club for their hard work on the Christmas in the Park. Mrs. Tompkins complimented Mr. Pelot for asking his questions about CCA and suggested putting a local person in house to do the collections. Mrs. Tompkins stated the cost of CCA has to be better used. Mrs. Tompkins stated the best comment of the night was from Mr. Moss when he admitted that the costs spread out among all departments its difficult to get a full picture.

Topics for the next Work Session:

2011 Advances & Transfers
Trash Dumpsters-Corrals
Trash Bid package results
Nash Heights proposals

Mr. Zita asked for Certificates of Appreciation to Lucas Nursery, Tom Dayton for the donations of the Christmas trees. Mr. Braman also suggested one for Mrs. June Maier and the Norton Women's Club for the Christmas in the Park for the next Council meeting.

Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 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.