



COMMITTEE WORK SESSION FEBRUARY 16, 2010

Committee Members Present: Todd Bergstrom
Don Nicolard
Brenda Hlas
Bill Mowery-Excused at 8:52 PM
Ken Braman
Scott Pelot
Mike Zita

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

The Committee Work Session convened on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 7:02 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:

Reappointment to Boards & Commissions

Mr. Pelot stated we have a request for a Resolution of Appreciation for Mike Droppleman for his service to the BZA from September 11, 2006 to February 28, 2010. Mr. Pelot moved to place this on Council's next agenda with emergency language waiving second and third readings, seconded by Mr. Nicolard. Mr. Bergstrom stated he had worked with Mr. Droppleman and he was great to work with, and a real asset.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Pelot stated that Mr. Danny Grether has stepped up to serve on the BZA Ward 2, as Mr. Droppleman's replacement and was present tonight. Mr. Grether's term would serve from March 1, 2010 to February 28, 2013. Mr. Pelot moved to place this item on Council's next agenda with emergency language, waiving second and third readings, seconded by Mr. Nicolard.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Set a date for the annual workshop

Mr. Pelot stated that each year we hold a workshop with the Administration to try and set out our goals and plans throughout the year. Typically these workshops are held on a Saturday morning for a half a day, however a fifth Monday evening would not be ruled out. Mr. Pelot asked for any suggestions. Mr. Bergstrom suggested that we get a facilitator to help keep us all on track. Mr. Kostoff offered to be our facilitator at no charge. After much discussion on possible dates and times, it was decided to choose Saturday, April 24, 2010, with a backup date of May 1, 2010. Agenda topics or speakers would be selected at another time.

Council Representative to the Norton Health Advisory Board

Mr. Pelot stated that he could no longer serve as the representative and they usually hold one meeting a month on the second Wednesday. Mr. Pelot stated the longest meeting was around one (1) hour. There was discussion as to where this requirement comes from, and if Council could appoint a representative from the community to serve for them. Mr. Kostoff stated he would need to get together with Mrs. Richards and review the Charter, Council Rules and the Norton Health Advisory Board rules to determine what exactly is required, and he would get back to Council. Mr. Pelot stated he could serve for the next month until this is determined. There was also a suggestion of all of the members rotating to serve each month. Mr. Pelot asked to keep this on Matters Referred until the next Work Session for further discussion.

Council Rules

Mr. Pelot stated that everyone has had time to review the draft in the packet and asked if there were any additions or changes, adding that he felt the public comment section would be contentious. Mr. Braman stated he has a problem with Rule 202. Mr. Braman stated he felt the public should be allowed to speak at any meeting. Mr. Mowery questioned the five (5) minute rule and his previous request for a timer. Mrs. Richards stated she is researching the timer and waiting on price quotes. Mr. Pelot agreed that we should not limit the input from the residents. Mr. Mowery stated the podium should remain open to the public at both meetings for up to five (5) minutes. There was lengthy discussion and it was the general consensus to leave the public comment section as it was originally and the other minor changes were accepted. Mr. Pelot moved to place this item on Council's next agenda with emergency language, waiving second and third readings, seconded by Mr. Nicolard. Mr. Jim Lino, a Norton resident stated Council should make it simple about when the public can speak on agenda/non-agenda items.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Zip Code

Mr. Nicolard stated he has been in contact with Congresswoman Betty Sutton's office for their assistance in getting Norton our own zip code. Mr. Nicolard stated he had sent out an email earlier listing his reasons and had asked for Council to reply with any other suggestions. Mrs. Hlas added another reason, which is applying for grant money. In doing so, we have to use geographical information and we can't separate between Barberton and Norton. Mr. Nicolard indicated he would like to have a Resolution of Support listing all of our reasons. Mr. Kostoff noted the points listed in Mr. Nicolard's original email and with Councils support they could ask the Administration for their assistance in getting the application/letter process accomplished. Mr. Nicolard stated that this was the goal of the Norton Business Task Force and they were considering on doing a mass mailer to get the residents behind this. Mr. Nicolard asked Mr. Kostoff to please include Mrs. Hlas' suggestion on the resolution. Mr. Dan Grether, a Norton resident, commented on the demographic difference and property values between Barberton and Norton. The perception now is that as properties are downgraded, it will affect the Norton residents because of the Barberton zip code. Mr. Lino discussed the confusion of getting this implemented if it were to take place. Mr. Kostoff stated that when this happened in Fairlawn, there was a phase in period before it took effect, and yes it was a little bit complicated and confusing. Mr. Nicolard moved to have a resolution of support prepared and to direct the Administration to apply of our own zip code, with emergency language and waiving second and third readings, seconded by Mrs. Hlas.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Collier Road Paving

Mr. Nicolard turned this over to Mr. Moss for the details. Mr. Moss stated he looked over the price of the project and length of the road and felt this was a good project for the money. Mr. Bergstrom discussed the costs, and asked if we would be responsible for any change orders? Mr. Moss indicated he was not likely to approve any change orders. Mrs. Hlas questioned why this didn't just go through the Board of Control instead of bringing it to Council? Mr. Ryland replied that we could, but because this is a multi jurisdictional project he felt it was best to bring to Council. Mr. Moss added the paperwork the city received had asked for legislation. There was further discussion as to whether or not legislation was really necessary and Mr. Kostoff stated he would review what was received and make that determination. Mr. Ryland added there could be other costs to the city once the project started such as guardrails and catch basins. Mr. Nicolard moved to place this item on Councils next agenda with emergency language, waiving second and third readings, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

General Budget Changes for 2010

Mrs. Hlas stated Mr. Moss has for budget changes totaling \$558,471.26 and turned this over to Mr. Moss for the details. Mr. Moss explained there are changes in some funds that increase the budget, but overall spending is not more than \$20,000.00. Mr. Moss stated some may question why are we doing this so early in the year, and due to restricted resources and a very tight budget, its necessary now. Mrs. Hlas moved to add these budget changes to Councils next agenda, with emergency language, waiving the second and third readings, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Financing for Fire Station

Mrs. Hlas turned this over to Mr. Moss for the details. Mr. Moss stated he has been shopping for a \$3,500,000.00 note instead of the originally discussed \$3,200,000.00 note and has secured an interest rate of 1.25 percent for a short term, one (1) year note with a six (6) month term option. It makes more sense to look seriously six months from now for longer term financing for the estimated costs of construction, and everyone is saying the rates will be going up. Mrs. Hlas asked what happens in six (6) months if we are not ready? Mr. Moss replied we would renew for another six (6), nine (9), or twelve (12) months. Mr. Pelot asked if the construction would be completed by then and Mr. Moss replied no, but we would be well on our way. Mrs. Hlas moved to add this to Council's next agenda, with emergency language, waiving the second and third readings, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Hlas noted that in the General Budget discussions, Mr. Moss had also requested a transfer totaling \$412,000.00 and moved to add that to Councils next agenda, with emergency language, waiving the second and third readings, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Surcharge/Tap In Fees

Mr. Bergstrom stated this would probably be an ongoing discussion but wanted to be able to explain to everyone the overall process and what it all means.

Mr. Bergstrom stated that the revenue generated from the income tax credit roll back is to be used for capital improvements within the city. Mr. Bergstrom stated the big financial picture is how much money we generate with the tax credit in addition to all of the other works in motion. We need to find a way for the residents to first understand this and then support it. Mr. Bergstrom discussed the assessment process and those residents could pay that on their taxes for over twenty (20) years. Mr. Bergstrom discussed how the billing for the residents is so confusing to them. Mr. Nicolard stated he felt the idea of removing some of the taxes or surcharges was only to appease some residents for their hardship to tap in. Mr. Nicolard reminded everyone we have some residents paying that one half percent roll back and have to replace their septic and they get absolutely no help. It simply is not fair to roll back the surcharges now. Mr. Moss discussed the city's portion of the intersections, engineering, assessment process and change orders, which is twenty (20) percent of the project costs. Mr. Moss added that we are aggressively going after grant funds. Mr. Moss discussed the last Raftellis Report, which did all the research and they came back to us telling us what we should be charging. We decided not to charge their recommended fees, we cut those numbers in half. Mr. Ryland asked ultimately, who is going to be our provider? The County charges more than Barberton. We need to take it over and run these projects ourselves. Mr. Pelot stated the only way we can reduce the costs is to eliminate the other entities involved. Mr. Ryland discussed the idea of the city becoming it's own wholesaler and using a master metering type of system. We would do our own utilities billing in house. There was discussion as to the costs involved and Council decided to give Mr. Ryland and the Administration the direction to seek a master metering system. Mr. Zita stated at one point the city was looking at Aqua Ohio for our water supply and asked where that stood. Mr. Ryland indicated this has never left his desk. Dr. Tish Biggs, a Norton resident, commented on all of the many questions raised tonight on this subject. Dr. Biggs suggested it would be best to lay out areas best to be considered and have the Administration staff do the analysis for your workshop and then you can make your own analysis from there. Mr. Lino stated the EPA has already told us we have to get this done, and questioned why does Norton have to duplicate things? Mr. Bergstrom gave an overview of the five most on point topics; #1 a master metering system; #2 sewer/water districts. #3 stay as is with Barberton; #4 go with Summit County DOES; #5 Petition the Ohio EPA for our own plant. Mrs. Hlas suggested this would be a great topic for our Saturday Workshop. Mr. Bergstrom asked to keep this on the next work session and for Mr. Ryland to speak more on the formation of a water/sewer district as to the pros and cons to that.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Ryland stated that on November 11, 2009 he had sent out letters to all of the Brentwood residents advising them about the new meter fees, and now all of the sudden its before Council as if its never been discussed. Mr. Ryland gave a brief demonstration on the new meter, the process and why it is needed and being done by Barberton. Mr. Ryland stated that on Friday he would be going to a Brentwood resident's home to see the process in changing the meters and just what all is involved. Mr. Ryland stated he would have a report for Council on this at their next meeting.

New Business:

Mrs. Hlas stated that Mr. Moss has asked Council to address a Then and Now Certificate tonight and turned the discussion over to Mr. Moss. Mr. Moss stated that originally he was under the impression this bid from Superior Paving for the paving of Cleveland-Massillon Road was for a lump sum of \$293,014.50 and he created the purchase order based on that figure. As it turns out this was not the case, the total actual cost was \$309,317.61, which is an excess of \$16,303.11 and he needs approval from Council to pay this. Mr. Moss added that we do have the funds in the account to pay for this additional expense. Mrs. Hlas moved to add this item to Council's next agenda, with emergency language, waiving the second and third readings, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Public Comment-Agenda and Non Agenda Items:

None

Topics for the next Work Session:

Adopt codified updates, sale of municipal property-police vehicles, and Civil Service Rules. Mr. Ryland indicated he would like discussion regarding a change in the Norton Police Dept/Summit County Metro SWAT Team switching over to the Barberton Regional Swat Team. Mr. Ryland indicated this would serve our community better in addition to saving the city approximately \$9,000.00.

Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 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.