



COMMITTEE WORK SESSION MAY 3, 2010

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

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

The Committee Work Session convened on Monday, May 3, 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. Mr. Zita recognized Boy Scout Troop #132 in the audience tonight, they are working on the merit badges for citizenship and communications.

General Topics of Discussion:

Trash Haulers Services Bid Proposal Review

Mr. Bergstrom stated that some of his questions or issues might or might not have been addressed since the last revision, such as the billing, which he sees as a separate issue. Mr. Bergstrom has spoken recently with Ms. Yolanda Walker at the County and will be having a conference call again with her this Wednesday. Mr. Nicolard questioned Mr. Ryland if the City would be handling the billing and the customer complaints and Mr. Ryland replied that was his intentions. Mr. Bergstrom asked if we should handle that separately and Mr. Ryland agreed that it should be separate and at most it would cost the city \$2,000.00 a quarter to handle the billing. Mrs. Hlas stated that issue could be addressed at the pre bid and Mr. Ryland concurred. Mr. Bergstrom asked about the inventory of trucks and the contractors references, and Mr. Ryland stated that also would be addressed at the pre-bid. Mr. Ryland stated that as Council you need to decide if you are doing this as a subscriber service or as an exclusive, you couldn't put into the contract every possible scenario.

There was further discussion on this subject and Mr. Nicolard stated at some point we have got to quit beating a dead horse here, we need to move forward. Mrs. Hlas suggested putting this to Council floor for a first reading and in the mean time Mr. Bergstrom could resolve his issues with Mr. Ryland before the final vote. Mr. Mowery voiced his concerns again about not having an opt-out for those residents who have very little trash. Mrs. Hlas suggested they could go with the bag service for the minimal cost. Mr. Bergstrom moved to place on Councils next agenda legislation adopting a single hauler system for the City, independent of the bid proposal document, seconded by Mr. Braman.

Roll Call: Yeas: Bergstrom, Braman, Nicolard, Hlas, Pelot, Zita
Nays: Mowery

Motion passed 6-1.

Mrs. Hlas moved to table the trash hauler service bid proposal until Mr. Bergstrom is was satisfied with it and its brought back to Council at that time, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom.

Roll Call: Yeas: Hlas, Bergstrom, Braman, Pelot, Zita
Nays: Nicolard, Mowery

Motion passed 5-2

Local Business Preference

Mr. Nicolard stated that years ago when he was on Council there was a legislation in place, however it did not have much teeth to it. Mr. Nicolard discussed the daft proposal in the packet and said that as Council we need to decide what percentage we need to offer to a local business. Mr. Nicolard stated that he would like to see at least two (2) percent, and that the entire county seems to be doing something like this. Mr. Bergstrom discussed an idea of maybe doing this project by project and by doing so we could offer higher discounts. Mr. Nicolard discouraged such an idea, and that he would rather not try and micro manage the Administration when it comes to their decisions on the bids. Mr. Nicolard reminded everyone that the Board of Control addresses any expenses under \$25,000.00 and he would hope they would carry the spirit of the local contractor preference in their decisions. Mr. Zita related this local preference to being similar to the military service credits when taking civil service testing. Mr. Nicolard stated it's also a leadership role promoted within the city. Mr. Nicolard wanted this discussion continued to the next Work Session for Council to consider the percentage they are most comfortable with.

Status of the 2010 Road Program

Mr. Nicolard stated that although this is always a work in progress he would like to know how much money we have to work with this year. Mr. Ryland replied roughly \$300,000.00. Mr. Nicolard stated that he has all of the history from the last road levy in 2006, which the voters did not approve and are not likely to approve another one.

Mr. Nicolard stated the way he sees it we have two choices here to repave our roads, we either do them as assessments or another road levy. Mrs. Hlas stated in the 2010 we budgeted \$840,000.00 and spent \$442,000.00. Mr. Zita stated that some was for part of Greenridge Road. Mrs. Hlas indicated some of this was for the 2009 Road Program. Mr. Pelot stated even when the economy was thriving; the road levy went down in flames and putting it out there again would end in the same result. Mr. Nicolard stated that he concurred this would be a bad time, but if we have another winter like last winter, even with a road levy passage we still could not correct the issues. Sooner or later we are going to have to do something. Mr. Zita stated before he came on Council the City always had a road program and we had no levy, we always went out and borrowed the money, which we are still paying for now. Mr. Zita stated if you go out for a levy even for five (5) years, you pay for it all along but your road might not get paved until that 5th year. With an assessment at least you might see it done sooner. Mr. Nicolard agreed that an assessment might be a more realistic option. Mr. Mowery asked about the residents on Hartzell, Long and Parkway, and was this money already put away to resurface these roads? Mr. Ryland replied no, this is a water line project in this area. Mr. Mowery stated you almost need a half-track to go down these roads and he believed most of these residents are under the impression that when this waterline is finished their roads are going to get repaved. Mr. Moss added that Parkway is going to be re-engineered completely. Mrs. Hlas stated that an option might be to do a chip and seal process which is usually less expensive. Mr. Ryland reminded everyone that most of that \$300,000.00 would be eaten up by one road if we do it. Mr. Nicolard reminded Council that somewhere down the line Council is going to have to decide where this \$300,000.00 is going, and Mrs. Hlas stated that \$200,000.00 is already budgeted to Greenridge Road. Mr. Nicolard stated we decide where to put the money and Greenridge does not compare to Hartzell, and feels Council needs to come up with a list to prioritize. Mr. Pelot suggested having Mr. Weinsheimer provide us with a list of the worst roads in the City so we get the biggest bang for our buck. Mr. Ryland stated that sometimes getting the biggest bang for your buck is fixing a road that has not already completely fallen apart, and most of the roads we discussed have already fallen apart. Mr. Zita stated that some of the roads we have done such as St. Rt. 261, and Cleveland-Massillon Road were ODOT projects and we did have to use city shares as a match and we were able to do larger portions with these projects. Mr. Zita felt we got a lot done for half price and was money well spent and a wise decision. Mr. Nicolard felt the Council members should come up with a list and continue this discussion at the next Work Session. Mr. Alex Stavarz, a Norton resident, commented on how Akron assesses for their roads, and they pick a neighborhood at a time. Mr. Stavarz stated that most of these roads were probably never built right in the first place and is why they are such a mess now.

Saturday Workshop Discussion Follow Up

Mr. Zita thanked the members that attended, Dave White-City Engineer, Mr. Mark Spisak-Chair of the Planning Commission, Mr. Ryland and Mr. Kostoff our moderator, and Ms. Campbell & Mrs. Richards for the food. Mr. Zita stated the meeting went very well with good discussion. We touched on several issues and we are working on some numbers, which we will address as the figures come in.

Mr. Bergstrom stated he was impressed on the big-ticket items discussed, and how the city plans to spend money long term on these issues.

Part Time Fire Fighters Contract

Mr. Pelot stated that the City has reached a tentative agreement with the part time Fire Fighters and as a result there are a lot changes in the language. There is a .50 ¢ per hour pay increase for all ranks except for basic and a .10 ¢ an hour increase for all those holding only a basic. Mr. Ryland added that as a new standard all new employees must now be a 240 fire fighter plus a paramedic. Mr. Ryland stated that this would now move us from being last in pay in Summit County to somewhere in the middle, and there is still no health care for the part timers. Mr. Pelot asked how much this contract actually costs the City and Mr. Ryland replied approximately \$90,000.00 over the three (3) year contract period. Mr. Braman noted one correction needed on page #8 where it states there are thirteen (13) holidays, but there really are only eleven (11). Mr. Ryland thanked Mr. Braman for catching this and stated this would be corrected before being signed. Mr. Pelot moved to place this on Councils next agenda with emergency language, waiving the second and third readings, seconded by Mr. Nicolard.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Bergstrom indicated that he still needs to hear back from his Utilities Committee members on their best possible dates for holding one extra meeting a month. Mr. Bergstrom asked for the members to pick a time even during the day that might work best for them and respond back with an email to him. Mr. Mowery stated that a while back he had asked for the Mayors help on getting assistance for the residents in a reduction for the fees on the water meters and asked Mr. Ryland for the status. Mr. Ryland indicated there has been no action yet.

New Business:

None

Public Comment-Agenda and Non Agenda Items:

Mrs. Elaine Tompkins, a Norton resident, stated not withstanding the new Council members, Council should consider setting a time limit on their own discussions, especially about trash. Ms. Tompkins questioned the status on the Johnson Meadows project and the dilemma the city is facing with the roads and lack of money. Mrs. Tompkins stated that we have approximately \$240,000.00 in interest that is due to come back to the City in July 2010 according to Ord. #104-2009. That money could come back into either the Road Fund or the Rainy Day Fund. If the Johnson Meadows Church does not pay it back, the City will assess the money over a twenty (20) year period. For those of you that may or may not recall, the City went out and borrowed \$510,000.00 for an interesting project that never came to be.

This was supposed to be for a five (5) year period and we are now two (2) years past that. Mrs. Tompkins discussed a prior city engineer that was authorized years ago to purchase a micro-paver program that we all paid good money for that program. Mrs. Tompkins stated that with this program, you would enter the data of city streets and it would rank every road in stages and how they fell into play. Mrs. Tompkins questioned what happened to this program and why is this not still being used today? Mr. Tompkins also noted that one of the original signers of the documents on the Johnson Meadows projects was never authorized to sign it in the first place. Mrs. Hlas discussed the potential reimbursement from Johnson Meadows and that she did not believe that could be used on the Road Program because we borrowed this money and any money coming in would go to pay off that debt. Mr. Moss concurred, adding there is a small exception because we able to hold off on borrowing of that note, so the small amount of interest would come back. Mrs. Hlas recalled the situation with the micro-paver program and that it was purchased in either 2000 or 2001. This program required someone to constantly update and enter the data on a regular basis every year. We had to pay to train someone to enter the data into it every year, and it became too costly to maintain and keep up with. It was decided somewhere down the line to stop using this program.

Topics for the next Work Session:

Local Business Preference Legislation
Listings for 2010 Road Program

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.