



COMMITTEE WORK SESSION AUGUST 16, 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, August 16, 2010 at 7:00 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:

City Wide Trash Haulers Survey

Mr. Bergstrom introduced Ms. Markovich from Summit-Akron Solid Waste Management Authority (SASWMA) and Mr. Sterns from Creative Action LLC to present the results of the trash survey. The survey results were presented as a power point slide show, (see attached). Mr. Sterns indicated that this was a two (2) part study, the mailed out post cards and a visual observation in the community. Mayor Koontz noted that the week of the observation J & J does not pick up which the recyclables so that may have impacted their data. Mr. Sterns stated that approximately the 4552 postcards were sent out there, and about 28% were returned undeliverable. Mr. Bergstrom discussed how to estimate how many residents would actually participate and Ms. Markovich stated they would take the total number of households and calculate 95% of that figure. Mr. Nicolard noted the first recommendation from this survey was the residents want one trash hauler. Mr. Pelot commented that 68 % of the residents surveyed indicated they were not annoyed with the number of trash haulers. Mr. Jim Lino, a Norton resident, asked about pricing if this would be locked in for a certain time, what to do about sofa's and TV's hot water tanks, etc. Mr. Bergstrom stated that is what would be captured in the bid proposal.

There was discussion about items with freon and Ms. Markovich indicated that no trash hauler would remove any items with freon in them. City Scrap and Salvage is the only one that will take these items. Mrs. Tompkins, a Norton resident, commented about the statistics and that you really only have about 28% of feedback from the residents, and if you go with this information that does not represent the entire community. Ms. Charlotte Whipkey, a Norton resident, stated she called SASWMA to complain about the survey because its all about recycling not about having one trash hauler as we were lead to believe. Ms. Whipkey asked who would ultimately be gaining from this? Ms. Markovich replied this is a market-based industry, the waste hauler does get some, but it also costs the hauler to sort the trash, bail it and then haul it. Ms. Whipkey stated lots of residents did not even get the survey and you are basing this on a quarter of what was sent out. Ms. Whipkey stated most of the residents she has talk to want to keep their trash hauler that they have. Mr. Bergstrom stated that the goal of this survey was not to see if you wanted to keep your current trash hauler, it was to see if we could make your service better and at a better price. Ms. Alice Wagner, a Norton resident, stated she never got the survey, she called to complain about that and still never got one, as did some in her neighborhood. Mr. Brian Adair, a Norton resident, also complained about the exact same thing, and if this was to go out to all registered voters, he is a registered voter and so is his brother and neither one of them received the survey. Mr. Zita commented that in the end the ones who would truly benefit would be the residents with an improved service with savings in their bills. Mr. Bergstrom thanked Ms. Markovich and Mr. Sterns for their presentation. Mr. Zita called for a five (5) minute recess.

Historical Society House Property

Mr. Zita stated that he and Mr. Roger Ramsthaler of the Norton Historical Society have held discussions on the lease agreement between the city and the Norton Historical Society and the intended uses. Mr. Ramsthaler stated that in Ord. #67-1999 it authorized a lease agreement until 2099 and this needs to be reviewed and updated with our new location. Mr. Ramsthaler indicated the only modifications to this property they are considering is removing some carpet to the bare hardwood floors and some fresh painting. Mr. Zita briefly discussed the opportunity for other community groups to use this facility and until there are other parking arrangements that probably will not happen. Mr. Moss commented that the utilities for this building would be the largest part of the budget for next year and that would need to be increased. This has not been an issue for the past 6-7 months. Mr. Ramsthaler said he has researched this property and found there were nine (9) owners in the past and the original owner was Charles Biery in 1912. The members would like the new name to be "The Biery House & Museum-Home of the Norton Historical Society". Mr. Zita stated that by including the term museum it might help with qualifying for grants in the future. Mr. Ryland asked how many parking spaces would be sufficient and Mr. Ramsthaler replied 5-6 for their Trustee meetings and maybe 30 or more for other meetings. Mr. Zita moved to place this on Councils next agenda for a first reading, seconded by Mr. Pelot.

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

Motion passed 7-0

City Wide Trash Haulers Survey Continued:

Mr. Pelot asked Mr. Bergstrom what is next move is for this and Mr. Bergstrom stated he would like to have comments prepared and take those back to Council for feedback. Mr. Bergstrom stated he hesitates to move ahead if he is not ready or not happy, it's not ready to come out of the committee yet. Mayor Koontz stated that's a shame because this was presented to Council back in December, its been discussed long enough. Mr. Mowery stated that if Mr. Bergstrom wants to take the bull by the horns and work with this then he supports it. Mrs. Hlas reminded everyone that if we do not do something with the legislation (Ord #51-2010) by next Monday it dies and we would have to start it all over again. Mrs. Hlas also noted that their recommendation is exactly what the Administration gave to us in the bid proposal over six (6) months ago. Mrs. Richards clarified that the 90-day clock started when Mr. Bergstrom sent this back to Committee on June 14, 2010 and that time runs out on September 11, 2010 to act in Committee. Mr. Nicolard stated he is ready to move for a vote on this and as a Councilman and registered voter he never received the survey. Mr. Braman as Vice Chair of the Utilities Committee moved to place Ord #51-2010 on Councils agenda for its 3rd reading on Monday, seconded by Mrs. Hlas. Mr. Bergstrom expressed his disappointment with the Council members wishing to move ahead. He indicated that he is only trying to do what is right and failed to see the harm in waiting a few more weeks, especially in light of the fact that we just had the presentation on the survey results this evening. Mr. Bergstrom stated that if we rush this along now and something is wrong in the bids then we have to go back to the bonding company to fix it. Mr. Bergstrom stated that he is not in favor of this. Mr. Pelot stated that if Mr. Bergstrom is not ready to move ahead, and wants to wait he is fine with that.

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

Motion failed 3-4.

Engineering for Nash Heights Sanitary Sewers

Mrs. Hlas turned this discussion over to Mr. Moss for the details. Mr. Moss indicated that it is estimated that the engineering for the trunk line and pump station is \$100,000.00. Mr. Moss indicated that we would need budget changes to accommodate that expenditure. Mr. Ryland noted that it would cost over \$500,000.00 to construct the pump station. Mrs. Hlas asked what streets this would effect and Mr. Ryland stated all of Shellhart, Valley and Nash, this is where gravity will not do its thing. Mr. Bergstrom stated that he wants to see a consultant selected first before prices are done. Mr. Ryland stated that we already have an RFQ that was done more than two (2) years ago. Mr. Bergstrom stated that he would like to see the best engineering firm selected for the job. Mr. Mowery stated that he did not want to see the same problem with not notifying the residents until after the fact like some of the other projects. Mr. Ryland stated that apparently it has not sunk in yet but the EPA has mandated that we fix our failing septic systems in this city. Mr. Mowery stated yes the EPA may say to fix it but they don't tell you how.

Mr. Mowery stated you are deciding the fate of these residents because of what you feel is a failing system. Mr. Ryland disagreed, he is not deciding, he is complying with the Ohio Clean Water Guidelines of 1972. Mr. Mowery stated that he wants to see a list of streets and residents this will affect. Mr. Ryland indicated we cant do that until we have the engineering done first to know exactly how the project will be done, how much it will cost, how much grant money we will receive, etc. Mayor Koontz noted that when you are applying for grant money, the engineering is the very first step in that process, then we will have true numbers to work with and that's when public involvement would take place. Mrs. Hlas moved to add the engineering for Nash Heights to Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom.

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

Motion passed 6-1.

Mr. Moss asked for discussion on related budget issues in relation to this topic and other funds. Mr. Moss stated that the Greenwich Road sewer and waterline project with engineering cost of \$15,000.00 and we now know the project cost is \$648,900.00 for a total of \$663,900.00. This was originally estimated to be one third water cost and two third sewer cost. This is more like a 50/50 split and so the numbers are off and need to be adjusted and the Water Fund 126 has less resources than the Sewer Fund 127 and this needs to be adjusted accordingly. Mr. Moss stated a note for Fund #126 needs to support this activity. Mrs. Hlas moved for a budget increases for Funds #126 and #127 for Monday' Council meeting, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Hlas moved for a note ordinance for the Water Fund #126 for Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Non-Bargaining Salary Increases

Mr. Pelot stated he and Mr. Ryland have discussed this on several occasions and thanked the non-bargaining employees for going without a raise last year and for their patience so far this year. Mr. Pelot turned the discussions over to Mr. Ryland for the details. Mr. Ryland stated that we are asking for a zero percent increase to the base salary for the non-bargaining employees and ask that they be paid their regular rate for the twenty-seventh pay period.

This makes no increase for their base pay and next year we will discuss an increase across the board to their base pay. Mr. Pelot explained the difference this year with the twenty-six and twenty-seven pay periods and how this affects the payroll system. Mr. Pelot moved to place this on Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Nicolard. Mrs. Richards clarified with Mr. Moss that this was authorized within the 2010 Budget and Mr. Moss concurred adding that this only affects a small amount of employees. Mrs. Richards stated she had concurred with Mr. Kostoff that new legislation is not necessary for this adjustment because this is an adjustment within the 2010 Budget, which was already approved.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Mowery asked Mayor Koontz how many water meters have been installed in Brentwood and Mayor Koontz stated he was not sure. Mr. Mowery asked the Mayor about the status on the negotiations with Barberton. Mayor Koontz briefly commented that negotiations are still ongoing.

New Business:

Mr. Moss indicated he would be asking for discussion on budget items for the next work session. Mr. Mowery thanked Mr. Ryland for his attendance at the town meeting on the Parkway Blvd. improvements with the residents. Mr. Mowery indicated this was his first town meeting for him and also thanked Mr. Zita for attending. Mr. Mowery stated there were two (2) main issues discussed; closing of Parkway at Norton Avenue and repaving. Mr. Mowery stated that he has also talked with consultants and there is another option that is available and that is the residents could apply to the city to vacate the road. This in turn would make it a private road and it would be the resident's responsibility for all road repairs and snow plowing. Mr. Zita asked who the consultant was and Mr. Mowery stated none specific, just those involved with the process.

Public Comment-Agenda and Non Agenda Items:

Ms. Patty Lerner, a Norton resident, commented about the Parkway town meeting and that some of the residents were not privileged to all of the information and were thrown all types of options. Ms. Lerner expressed concerns that they were not notified about this until July while the city has been working on something since March. Ms. Lerner commented about the weeds and trees needing cleared in this area and the need for more signs for children at play in the neighborhood.

Mr. Brian Hastings, a consultant and inspector for electronic gaming devices, questioned the city's method of inspections and seals on the skilled games in the area and provided his background information (see attached).

Mr. Dale Nelson, a Norton resident, commented about the conduct of some Fire Dept. employees at the July 15, 2010 Special Council Meeting. Mr. Nelson stated for the record at that meeting during the Pledge of Allegiance we had two Firemen turn their back to the flag and walk out of that meeting. Mr. Nelson stated that this flag means something to him and he knows what it's like to be a combat veteran. Mr. Nelson stated this conduct is appalling and should not be tolerated by our safety forces.

Mr. Ron Hatcher thanked Council and Administration for responding to his previous complaints regarding the road conditions on Maco Road. Mr. Hatcher stated that we only have six (6) residents on this road and we are all here tonight to voice our concerns about the poor conditions of this road. The patching here and there just cannot go on like this, if the base of the road is the real problem then we need to fix it maybe with concrete, at least that's a 20-30 year remedy. Mr. Hatcher stated that Maco Road is truly the worst road in Norton and the residents would really appreciate some help here.

Ms. Charlotte Whipkey, a Norton resident, stated she also was present at the July 15, 2010 meeting and witnessed the same behavior by our Fire Dept. employees and she was not happy. Ms. Whipkey stated that this was a resident that did this, surely we would have been told about it. Mr. Nelson is a decorated war veteran who gave his leg for all of you to be able to stand up there and do what you do.

Ms. Joann Lambrite, a Norton resident, and a resident on Maco Drove for over six (6) years also complained about the poor road conditions. Ms. Lambrite stated several times she contacted city hall only to be told there was no money for their road, however she saw that other roads were getting paved that did not appear to be needing paved in the first place. Ms. Lambrite urged Council members to go and drive down Maco Drive and see it for themselves and if they had to live there they would do something about it.

Mr. Michael Casey, a Norton resident, stated he attended the Parkway town meeting, and was not pleased to notice we had people who don't even live on Parkway having a right to comment at that meeting. Mr. Casey stated that he would like to see another town hall meeting in the next few weeks for more information and feedback from the residents. Mr. Mowery stated the he would be willing to put something together in the next few weeks.

Ms. Marie Peck, a Norton resident, complained about the poor road conditions on Maco Road. Ms. Peck stated that with her physical disabilities she had a special van equipped so that she drives herself to work and run errands. Ms. Peck stated that because of the deep potholes in the winter on her road, she couldn't drive herself to work anymore and has to rely on Metro to come and get her, which makes her late for work. Ms. Peck stated that it is so important for her to have her independence and she urged Council to please do something to fix their road.

Topics for the next Work Session:

General budget issues. Mr. Bergstrom discussed having another Utilities Committee Meeting possibly on September 9, 2010, and gave an overview of his last meeting held on July 29, 2010. Mr. Ryland indicated he would be asking for a resolution of support for a Safe Walk, which is a two (2) mile radius of the schools and is 100% funded by AMATS. Mr. Mowery stated that at the Parkway town hall meeting there was discussion about overgrowth of weeds and trees along Parkway and asked Mr. Ryland to look into this. Mr. Ryland indicated some of this might not be the city's issue unless it is in the line of sight, if that's the case we will address it right away. Mr. Bergstrom reminded everyone of his Ward 1 Town Meeting this Thursday from 7:00-9:00 PM at the Community Center.

Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 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.