



COMMITTEE WORK SESSION SEPTEMBER 7, 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-Excused

The Committee Work Session convened on Tuesday, September 7, 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:

Safe Walks for Schools

Mr. Mowery explained the details and asked Mr. Moss or Mr. Ryland for their comments. Mr. Ryland stated that legislation is required to go along with a new application for a grant. Mr. Ryland stated that a study is due out in October and this would determine the placement. Mr. Ryland noted that the High School is the only location that would not have sidewalks. Mr. Mowery moved to place this on Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Nicolard.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Part-Time Police/Dispatchers/Non Bargaining Salary

Mr. Pelot stated this has become more involved than originally anticipated and that the information in the most current exhibit is still not correct because it does not reflect the two (2) percent pay increase. Mr. Pelot stated that longevity has been addressed at fifty (50) percent to include the part timers and this is also not reflected in the exhibit. Mr. Moss indicated that was correct and a new exhibit A and legislation would be prepared for Monday to reflect that. Mr. Nicolard asked if longevity pay is given out once a year and Mr. Moss replied yes, its not earned as you go because it is based on the number of years of service. Mrs. Elaine Tompkins questioned the schedule as it addressed a number of Department Heads and asked if these are the only ones left? Mr. Ryland replied yes. Mrs. Tompkins asked how many employees receive the longevity pay and Mr. Moss replied all except the seasonal laborers and interns. Mrs. Tompkins discussed the total amount paid out being over \$31,000.00 and over half of the employees receiving this are in Police & Fire. Mrs. Tompkins stated that since January 2010 there has been \$1070.00 added in longevity for Police and \$1070.00 added for Fire. Mrs. Tompkins questioned paying out this longevity or Christmas bonuses in such tough economic times. Mrs. Tompkins stated she would like to see this longevity pay temporarily suspended pending an improved economy as well as the 27th pay issue. Mr. Ryland reminded everyone that the longevity pay is a clause in all of the union contracts and this would require reconsideration by all. Mr. Pelot clarified that this is not a “Christmas bonus” its just that time of the year when the checks are cut, we could adjust that and pay this out in July. Mr. Nicolard stated that longevity pay is a way to maintain a seasoned staff and this is one very inexpensive way to maintain good and valuable employees. Mr. Pelot moved to place this on Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Nicolard.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Historical Society Rental Agreement

Mr. Zita turned this discussion over to Mr. Ryland for the details. Mr. Ryland stated that he has met with all the members of the Historical Society to discuss a management agreement instead of doing an actual lease option. Mr. Ryland stated that by doing a management agreement the city maintains the building, and we hire the Historical Society at a zero cost to manage and run the facility. This way the city still retains sole ownership of the building and property and all liability is with the property. Mr. Ryland stated all members were happy with this arrangement. Mr. Zita moved to place this on Councils next agenda, seconded by Mrs. Hlas.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Trash Haulers Bid-Ord #51-2010

Mr. Bergstrom stated that he has received comments from Mr. Braman and Mr. Zita and has sat down with Mr. Ryland to discuss his issues in detail and they have hashed most of them out. Mr. Bergstrom stated we could discuss most of those points at the Utilities Committee meeting this Thursday morning. Mr. Bergstrom discussed one issue relating to the bag service and questioned how to address animals tearing them open pending pickup? There was discussion for those residents on the bag service they could use one small container with a lid to solve this problem. Mr. Bergstrom discussed the issue of no opt out and how that would affect the total number of people participating. Mr. Bergstrom recalled past discussion if you are a Norton business owner you could take your trash to the business, effectively opting out. Mr. Bergstrom stated that Summit County had some suggestions or comments to help with the final bid proposal document and he would share that with Mr. Ryland. There was discussion on the billing and whether or not we should do this in house. Mr. Moss indicated that if we were to do this in house there would be no personnel costs, only cost would be for mailing and printing. It was decided the best option was to have it both ways in the bid document, for the contractor to give pricing if they do billing or if we do it ourselves. Mr. Bergstrom stated that if all was in order after the Utilities meeting on Thursday, he was comfortable with moving forward with the legislation. Mr. Bergstrom moved to place Ord. #51-2010 on Councils next agenda, seconded by Mrs. Hlas. Mr. Bergstrom stated he would still like to have the rest of Councils comments before then. Mrs. Hlas stated that she has read the draft and she does not have a problem with it. Mr. Pelot stated that he has read most of it and a lot of the questions seem to have been addressed earlier. Mr. Nicolard stated that he still feels it is not truly a city service until we do our own billing. Mrs. Richards indicated this would appear on Monday's agenda as a second reading for Ord. #51-2010 because Mr. Bergstrom sent this back to Committee on June 14, 2010 before giving it a second reading. *(After further review of the records- that was misstated, it will be a third reading on Monday)*. Mr. Pelot stated that he is still against it, adding that we have no business in other people's garbage. Ms. Charlotte Whipkey, a Norton resident, stated it sounds like you are going to shove this down our throats. Why not put it to the ballot since we will be paying for it anyway. Ms. Whipkey stated that now that the roads have been fixed properly they are holding up just fine and she believes in free enterprise and the right to chose her own trash hauler. Ms. Whipkey stated the survey that was sent out did not even address the questions our Ward 1 Councilman wanted addressed in the first place. Ms. Whipkey stated she was pretty sure there is going to be a special election soon, so just add this one to it, its not going to cost any more.

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

Motion passed 6-1.

General Budget Changes

Mrs. Hlas turned this discussion over to Mr. Moss for the details. Mr. Moss stated that the exhibit in the packet needs updated because there would be more adjustments due to the payroll changes just discussed and a new Exhibit A would be prepared for Monday. Mrs. Hlas moved to add this to Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Hlas discussed the memo Council received today from Mr. Moss, (see attached). Mrs. Hlas stated that the note for the Beldick property is due in October and it's now time to roll the note. Mr. Pelot inquired on the status of the old fire station property. Mr. Moss indicated that the Mayor has the authority to turn this over to the CIC, however he is not aware that we have had any offers to purchase that land.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Unfinished Business:

Clear off Matters Referred

Mr. Bergstrom removed Tree City USA, Surcharges for Utilities and Tap-In fees.
Mr. Mowery removed MAD. Mr. Mowery asked Mr. Ryland for status on the Highway Enforcement Cameras and Mr. Ryland stated we were waiting on ODOT for any grant funding and there is none available. There was talk about the placement of the cameras and who gets to decide and Mr. Ryland stated that we get to decide where they should go. Mr. Ryland discussed the safety issues of our officers when pulling motorists over along I-76 since the cross over cables have been installed. There simply is no room to safely do that and cameras would help with that. Mr. Ryland stated that if Council still has any interest in this we should bring in some of these camera companies for a presentation and all present agreed that a fact finding would be beneficial. Mr. Bergstrom asked where is the nearest community that has camera enforcement and Mr. Ryland replied Willoughby Hills and Akron-but only in school zones. It was decided to have this discussion on the next Work Session and to see if we could have a presentation at that time.

New Business:

None

Public Comment-Agenda and Non Agenda Items:

Mrs. Elaine Tompkins, a Norton resident, complemented the Administration on securing such a good rate on the natural gas price aggregate for the residents.

Public Comment-Agenda and Non Agenda Items Continued:

Mrs. Tompkins stated that it was even two (2) ¢ lower than what was the Beacon Journal had reported as the best price, although not as low as Wadsworth. Mrs. Tompkins discussed the salary increase and longevity ordinances and that it does not reflect what was discussed or stated this evening. Mrs. Tompkins stated that she would rather see all of those employees on the exhibit forgo the longevity pay.

Topics for the next Work Session:

Mr. Nicolard stated he would like to have discussion on the 2011 Road Program with a list of the roads most necessary. Mr. Nicolard stated he would like to see the city ready in early spring and be able to make the repairs before school starts back up in the fall. Mr. Ryland stated that would be difficult to get the work done during the summer months.

Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 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.