



COMMITTEE WORK SESSION APRIL 18, 2011

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

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

The Committee Work Session convened on Monday, April 18, 2011 at 7:01 PM, in the Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Scott Pelot, President of Council. Following a salute to the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silent reflection.

General Topics of Discussion:

City Property Insurance

Mrs. Hlas turned this discussion over to Mr. Moss for the details. Mr. Moss stated that Wichert Insurance has been working on several proposals and determined that Select Insurance Company was the City's best option at a cost of \$78,176.00 annually. Mr. Moss indicated this was less than what was budgeted for 2011, and includes coverage for our new fire station, and all is subject to a \$10,000,000.00 blanket policy. Mr. Moss stated he would move forward on this and that Council does not need to take any action on this. Mr. Pelot asked what was the premium for last year and Mr. Moss replied it was \$76,794.00.

Nash Heights Engineering

Mr. Bergstrom stated we gave the Administration the authority to look at engineering proposals. Mr. Bergstrom stated that Phase II deals with trunk lines and is for an additional \$300,000.00. Mr. Bergstrom indicated he wanted to see the funding separated, it makes easier to track it financially. Mr. Bergstrom stated our funding is in place, it would basically come from the Utilities Fund, and that the total cost for all engineering is approximately \$400,000.00. Mr. Moss stated we are pursuing low interest funds from the State of Ohio and that would dictate how it's going to be allocated and spent.

Mr. Nicolard asked Mr. Moss if we have the \$400,000.00 necessary already in the Utilities Fund and Mr. Moss replied yes. Mrs. Elaine Tompkins, a Norton resident, asked how many proposals were reviewed and Mr. Bergstrom replied over four (4). Mrs. Tompkins asked when was Floyd Browne Group officially selected, and Mr. Bergstrom replied over a month ago. Mr. Ryland added that there were five (5) firms that responded to the bids. Mr. Kostoff expounded on the legislation and the significance of the whereas clause as it relates to selecting Floyd Browne Group for Phase II. This would eliminate duplicity within the project and is cost effective. Mr. Bergstrom moved to add this legislation to Councils next agenda, with emergency language, seconded by Mr. Zita.

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

Motion passed 6-1.

Ohio Public Works Commission Grant

Mr. Bergstrom stated this is for the 31st Street sewer lines. Mr. Ryland stated the line runs south from Cleveland-Massillon & 31st Street to Johnson Corners. Mr. Ryland stated that this is a 50/50 split between the City of Norton and the City of Barberton. Mr. Bergstrom moved to place this on Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Zita.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Entertainment Device Arcade License Review Commission

Mr. Braman stated he would like to nominate Ms. Alice Wagner. Mr. Pelot nominated Ms. Joan Kernan. Mr. Nicolard nominated Mr. George Arsic. There was some discussion as to who the Administration was interested in and Mr. Ryland stated that Mr. Arsic is whom he would recommend to the Mayor for consideration. Mr. Kostoff suggested that since everyone is not familiar with all of the candidates nominated, perhaps they should come to the next Work Session to introduce themselves. Mr. Kostoff stated that although legislation is not required, an affirmative vote is necessary and they will need to be sworn in. Mr. Kostoff stated that this would also provide some time for the Mayor and Administration to select their candidate, and by then you may be down to just two (2) to select from. Mr. Braman stated he would continue this discussion until the next Work Session.

Acceptance of Mungo Donation

Mr. Zita stated the city has received a gift of 40 acres of land from a resident off of Clark Mill Road, and it consists of four (4) parcels. Mr. Ryland stated this is an excellent opportunity because this is within the flood plain and can assist the city with that, in addition it would open up the corridor there. Mrs. Hlas questioned the parcels affected and wanted to make sure that they are clearly listed either in the legislation or the Exhibit A. Mr. Kostoff assured Mrs. Hlas that they are spelled out in the Exhibit A.

Mr. Pelot asked about there being any back taxes owed and Mr. Moss replied there are no back taxes owed. Mr. Moss stated that the taxes are \$4,100.00 a half, which is another reason they wish to donate the land. Mr. Moss asked Council to consider passing this with emergency language and waiving the readings in order to expedite this within the next thirty (30) days. Mr. Zita moved to add this to Councils next agenda with emergency language, waiving the second and third readings, seconded by Mrs. Hlas.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Bergstrom stated that we have a revision to the Exhibit A for the transmission agreement with Summit County (Ord. #37-2011) and asked that all Council members carefully review this before next Monday's meeting. Mr. Pelot discussed the use of the emergency traffic lights in front of the new fire station and if there was any progress in getting these operational or if we could use the income tax money for this? Mr. Moss stated he would look into this but he did not think so. Mr. Ryland stated if you are referring to the half a percent increase that is not a permitted use for the money. Mr. Ryland stated it simply was not budgeted for this year and its going to be over \$100,000.00 for that. Mr. Nicolard mentioned some new lights installed along I-76 and asked who put these up, the City or ODOT and asked if we could get more of that done in other areas? Mr. Ryland stated that it was ODOT not the City. Mr. Moss stated we have many that we would like to replace we just don't have the funding right now to do it. Mr. Ryland indicated that there could potentially be some funding out there from the Highway Safety Division.

New Business:

Mr. Ryland stated that ODOT has approved the travel plans for the four (4) Norton City Schools, which incorporates sidewalks. This was part of the Safe Walks to School grant and the funds received will be \$500,000.00 per year. Mr. Ryland stated that we need to move ahead with our plans for the widening of Cleveland-Massillon Road. Mr. Nicolard asked if this is in conjunction to the schools and Mr. Ryland replied no, the City did this with the information received by the Norton City Schools.

Mr. Pelot read a letter aloud received by Jon Husted-Ohio Secretary of State regarding the 2010 Census report and the status of the City, (see attached). Mr. Pelot noted that we have increased our population to 12,085 residents. Mr. Kostoff asked Council about directing Mrs. Richards to follow up with Dr. Cox-Akron University Urban Studies for a follow up on the alignment of wards before November. Mr. Kostoff stated that the results of any work would need to be forwarded to the Board of Elections prior to that election. Mr. Pelot directed Mrs. Richards to follow up and to invite Dr. Cox to attend the next Work Session.

Public Comment-Agenda and Non Agenda Items:

Mrs. Elaine Tompkins, a Norton resident, revisited the issue with CCA for income tax collections and urged Council to reconsider this. Mrs. Tompkins stated that we have budget \$190,000.00 for 12,085 residents and stated its possible if you rethink this to hire two people to do this in house and have your money in the bank as it comes in, not at the discretion of someone else. Mrs. Tompkins discussed a strange report she had from a Norton senior citizen who called her about a \$12.00 tax bill and that when this resident called CCA she was told not to pay it and that the minimum amount to pay was \$25.00. Mrs. Tompkins stated she mentioned this to Mr. Pelot and asked if he was able to find anything out? Mrs. Tompkins stated this senior resident stated she would sign an affidavit to this effect. Mr. Pelot stated he has not received a reply from anyone at CCA about this yet. Mr. Moss stated that as the Finance Director, this issue should have been directed to him and this resident should contact him so that he could look into that and resolve it. Mrs. Tompkins discussed the new fire station and the good publicity for the open house. Mrs. Tompkins indicated that Mr. Schultz had quoted that we have \$846,000.00 for the fire station to use for the year. This was not accurate because Mr. Schultz forgot to include some old money prior from 2008 which then totals \$1,621,000.00 and if you take out that thirty (30) percent of the new money, that gives you \$1,377,000.00. Mrs. Tompkins stated she reduced that again because of statements made previously by Mr. Moss and Mr. Ryland regarding a twenty-one (21) percent reduction in the revenue, that still leaves over \$1,047,000.00 for that one department for the entire year to work with each year. Mrs. Tompkins discussed a recent article in the Akron Beacon Journal relating to other communities sharing resources, such as a tall ladder truck. Mrs. Tompkins discussed the potential of placing a fire levy on the ballot for this year; we do not have the money for it. Mr. Nicolard stated that we need to be cautious about our current situation and someday we may have some taller buildings in this city. We don't want to be in a situation where we cannot address this because we don't have tall enough ladder trucks.

Topics for the next Work Session:

Entertainment Device Arcade License Review Commission, Census Results-Ward Adjustments. Mr. Moss asked for discussion on note sales and property purchases for the next meeting.

Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Scott Pelot, President of Council

****NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM****

All Committee Meetings will be held at the Norton Safety Administration Building, unless otherwise noted.