



## COMMITTEE WORK SESSION JUNE 20, 2011

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

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

The Committee Work Session convened on Monday, June 20, 2011 at 7:03 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:**

#### **Ward Boundary Adjustments**

Dr. Cox stated that he has made a few more minor changes along St. Rt. 261, which is now the boundary line for Wards 1 & 2. There some other small changes in order to make it as tight as possible. Mr. Cox explained the Summit County Board of Elections requirements on Census blocks and that he would also be providing the City with registered voter's information once approved. Mr. Nicolard questioned only moving parts of Long Drive from Ward 2 into Ward 3 and Dr. Cox replied that he needed to bring Ward 2 down in size by a certain percent. He would look at this again and see if he could make it tighter or not. Mr. Kostoff suggested Council move forward with this in order to provide the Board of Elections enough time to notify residents. Mr. Pelot explained that this is a Charter requirement that Council review the Wards every ten years and if they are off + or - by 5% we need to make the necessary adjustments. Mr. Kostoff stated this is nothing political, we are only complying with the law here. Mr. Braman moved to place this on Councils next agenda, seconded by Mrs. Hlas. Ms. Charlotte Whipkey, a Norton resident asked about the west side of Ward 4 coming into Ward 3 and Dr. Cox replied it's Dorothy to Greenwich, about 170 residents.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

#### Service Department Stats & Goals

Mr. Ted Weinsheimer gave a brief report (see attached) of the services his department provides. Mr. Weinsheimer stated he was bothered with the fact that the city is spending the same amount of money on patching holes as we are on the road program. Mr. Pelot asked what is the biggest hurdle for this department and Mr. Weinsheimer replied roads and patching potholes. We really need a way to bring in revenue to run a better road program. Our roads are over 18 years old and the emulsions have all dried up in them and are now crumbling and turning into just gravel. Mr. Weinsheimer discussed the heavy storms and damages this season along St. Rt. 21 and he has estimated \$800,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00 in damages and that we are currently in line for funding. We really need ODOT to take over St. Rt. 21. Mr. Mowery thanked Mr. Weinsheimer and his staff for all of the work that they do, but it's really embarrassing to call this a "road program", but he realizes that is all he has to work with. Mr. Mowery discussed not having answers for the residents with zero money to fix things and a road levy is not an option. Mr. Moss discussed various road program budgets in the past, which averaged about \$400,000.00. Mr. Weinsheimer discussed the preventative maintenance they are doing along St. Rt. 21 and 585 and already they are seeing places where the roadway is just blowing up. Mr. Pelot asked Mr. Kostoff is there is any way legally to turn St. Rt. 21 and 585 back over to the State for maintenance and repairs? Mr. Nicolard stated that in 1988 and 1989 we spent a lot of money in this city trying to de-annex this area and the citizens turned it down cold, and we had worked really hard trying to explain the facts to them at that time. Mr. Kostoff stated he was a bit fuzzy on this issue, and that you might need to have your State Legislators get involved with this. Mr. Nicolard asked who pays for Copley's portion of St. Rt. 21 and Mr. Weinsheimer replied ODOT because Copley is unincorporated, and that the County does all of their other roads. Copley has only 56 roadway miles, the City of Norton has a total of 208 roadway miles and we have the same number of employees.

#### Amend Council Rule 109-Committees

Mr. Pelot stated that he and Mr. Nicolard have been discussing adding this new Committee. Mr. Nicolard stated that since we do not have a Planning Director in the city now, when businesses come to town, they need some help either with utilities, promoting their business, etc. Mr. Nicolard stated he thought that the members should be the Chairs of the Planning, Service and Utilities Committees, and as a Norton business owner he would like to serve as well. Mr. Pelot discussed the Norton Business Development Task Force (NBDTF) and the CIC and their roles. Mr. Pelot mentioned that Amato's Restaurant closed last week and that we are currently trying to find them a new location somewhere suitable in Norton. Mr. Pelot stated he is open to whoever is willing to serve on this Committee, however the need to know that they have to be out in front and visible to these businesses.

### Amend Council Rule 109-Committees

There was discussion about when the widening of Cleveland-Massillon Road begins and the financial impact this will have on all local businesses, and how we can help them. Mr. Mowery liked the idea, but also wants to help residents up there along with the businesses because they are just as important. Mr. Mowery stated that when Mr. Pritchard was on board he tried to bring economic development but not much became of that. Mr. Pelot stated that by helping our businesses, that in turn will help the residents overall. Mr. Mowery stated that whatever we do its going to be with taxpayers money, there is no way the residents can afford to do what you are saying here, and he refuses to look through rose colored glasses. Mr. Pelot stated that if you have that kind of attitude that you cannot do anything more for these residents, then maybe you should step down, but he is not about to. This is not costing anything; we are only adding another Committee here. Mr. Mowery stated that he is not stepping down, maybe someone should step forward and do something. Mr. Zita stated that the reality is that if you continue to do what we always have done, we will end up with what we always have had, and this is it. We need to do something to take a step forward, and if we are afraid to, then we will end up with nothing more than what we have now. Ms. Alice Wagner, a Norton resident, stated she understands what is being said here, legitimate businesses pay their taxes. However, she has a problem with other home businesses that are not properly zoned like backyard mechanics with employees. Ms. Wagner stated you really need to be out there driving around at looking at these types of businesses once in a while, it would help a lot. Mr. Nicolard stated that a strong business community leads to a strong city and less burden on the residents. Mr. Mowery asked Mr. Nicolard what types of businesses does he want to see on the top of his list? Mr. Nicolard replied he didn't have any specific ones in mind, but they have to comply with the proper zoning. Mr. Nicolard stated you have to be able to crawl first before you can walk, and he would like to have what Wadsworth has right here in Norton. He supports local business; we just don't have enough here. You cannot buy a pair of shoes here in Norton, or clothing, and would like to see that change. Mr. Mowery stated affordability is at the top of his list, and that's not on the agenda of what is being discussed here tonight. Mr. Pelot asked Mr. Mowery what ideas does he have to bring money into Norton? Mr. Mowery stated he wants to focus on taking care of the businesses that we do have. Mrs. Hlas questioned the number of members on this Committee and not the specific chairs. Mr. Lino, a Norton resident commented on this new Committee, and that the only asset of any business are their employees. Mr. Lino stated if you look at Medina, Wadsworth, Copley, they all have the development but their schools are a real mess and are always broke. Mr. Nicolard moved to add the Economic Development Committee to Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Braman. Mr. Kostoff noted that other communities have this and any other member of Council is welcome to attend and participate.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

PC Resolution 14-2001 Gardner Blvd. Rezoning

Mr. Braman stated we were asked to have more discussion on this by Mr. Bergstrom, who is excused this evening. Mr. Bergstrom did provide some written comments for this evening (see attached). Mr. Braman stated he felt this is another empty building and would like to move forward. Mr. Nicolard stated he is a proponent of new business however he felt this is a concern with the widening of Cleveland Massillon Road in the future. If Chase Bank were to lose their parking lot all together and move, then this business is what would then be on the front corner, is this what we want? Mr. Braman stated that we do have a time frame to follow and he would like to see it come to a vote soon. Mr. Gibson, representing the applicant, was present and commented that in Wadsworth and Barberton other garage locations seemed to fit well within their downtown areas. This location is actually on Gardner Blvd., not Cleveland Massillon Road, and is the third business in. Mrs. Hlas questioned the small garage behind the Reliable Micro business, and Mr. Gibson replied that is not a part of his clients business. Mr. Ryland discussed the scrap parts and tires and asked what are their plans for removal? Mr. Gipson replied they would all be removed within a timely manner. Mr. Ryland stated that's a problem with most of these types of businesses these days, they don't haul things away and we have to go out and make visits. Mr. Braman noted that this proposed garage does directly abut next to an existing B3. Mr. Ryland concurred, however reminded everyone that just a few years back we rezoned some businesses in town from B-3 to B-2. There was no further discussion and this matter remains on Councils agenda for a second reading and Public Hearing on June 27, 2011.

Sanitary Sewers-Wooster Road West & St. Rt. 585

Mr. Zita stated that these lines are at St. Rt. 21 and 585 and although Mr. Bergstrom is absent tonight he did have discussions with Mr. Ryland on this. Mr. Ryland noted that these laterals were not taken into consideration when the last sewer lines were done and they only exist on the east side of Wooster Road. It is deep and it will be expensive to do and is not affordable for the residents or the business owners, so the city will need to assist with this project. Mrs. Hlas expressed some concerns with past assessments and construction projects in this same area. Mr. Ryland stated this project was designed correctly as a 15-inch line. Mr. Robert Copen, a Norton resident, gave some history to the existing line. It was installed for ISOLAB at that time and if it was not done ISOLAB was going to leave the city. They invested over \$100,000.00 for that line which goes east right in front of the Norton Fireman's Bingo hall parking lot. This was done at no cost to the Norton Fireman's Bingo Hall as a condition that they could tie into it once it was completed and ISOLAB wanted no laterals on this line. Mr. Copen stated that the Ohio EPA mandated this to ISOLAB either tie into the sewer or they would shut them down. Mr. Zita added that Mr. Bergstrom has requested that the City Engineer conduct a study and report on this. Mr. Pelot questioned about looking into ISOLAB getting reimbursed for any connections to this line in the future. Mr. Zita suggested this item should remain on the Matters Referred list pending further information from Administration.

**Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Braman stated that at Monday's Council meeting he would be making a motion to amend Ord. #57-2011 to properly remove the emergency clauses.

Mr. Kostoff discussed Ord #52-2011 and that the period of time for providing notice for a special meeting and that 24 hours is reasonable and is mostly for media purposes. Mr. Kostoff stated he was asked what happens in the event of an emergency and Mr. Kostoff stated that God willing we would have the meeting and if it's less than the 24 hours, we will ask for forgiveness later. Mr. Kostoff recommended Council continue with the legislation as it is written.

Mr. Zita moved to add Res. #61-2011 a Resolution of Necessity for Newpark Drive to Monday's Council agenda, with emergency language, seconded by Mr. Nicolard.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Braman stated that the last rezoning applicant stated he wanted to get involved in supporting the community and at this point he is the only Norton business owner that has stepped forward to financially support the cruise-in next month.

Mr. Pelot discussed a recent rezoning for a garage on St. Rt. 261, adding that it does not represent what was presented to Council and approved. Mr. Ryland stated that it's only been six months, give them some time, however he would look into this.

**New Business:**

None

**Public Comment-Agenda and Non Agenda Items:**

Ms. Charlotte Whipkey, a Norton resident, spoke on proposed Charter Section 5.02 Board of Control and that staying within the \$10,000.00 State limit is not the same. Mrs. Hlas explained that the State is constantly changing the limits we just want to be consistent so we don't have to keep changing it. Ms. Whipkey stated that this is not mandatory it's just a recommendation by the State. Ms. Whipkey also spoke regarding the term limits for Boards and Commissions and if we are removing that they could possibly be in there for 12 years or longer. Ms. Whipkey discussed proposed Charter Section 8.03-Nominations. Ms. Whipkey stated that is so the military gets more time to file, and questioned if the State mandated this or what? Mr. Kostoff stated he would look into that and get back to her on that.

**Topics for the next Work Session:**

Mrs. Hlas stated she would like to discuss basketball courts at Columbia Woods drive.

**Adjourn**

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.

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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.**