



COMMITTEE WORK SESSION JULY 5, 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
Pete Kostoff
Karla Richards
Ann Campbell-Excused

The Committee Work Session convened on Tuesday, July 5, 2011 at 7:00 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:

Basketball Courts at Columbia Woods Park

Mr. Zita stated that we have been talking about basketball courts for some time, it's just that we have had issues on the exact locations. Mr. Zita noted that in addition to the location, that is also what drives and controls the costs. The choice of location and soil conditions and preparations will also affect the overall cost. There was discussion on where these locations could be such as Frashure Park, but that area is too swampy and too costly to fill in. Another potential location was behind the fire station but again that would take too much soil preparation. Mrs. Hlas liked the idea of the extra parking lot east of the city hall parking lot and this court would be without lights. Mr. Zita stated the budget is around \$40,000.00 for the courts. Mrs. Hlas discussed the size of the courts being one full sized court in one direction that could also be used as two half courts split in the other direction. Mr. Ryland stated that we need a site 100 x 60 cleared in order to construct a 50 x 90 paved court with 6 hoops for one full court or two half courts. Mr. Ryland estimated the cost of approximately \$6.00 per square foot and 4 inches thick, asphalt is around \$122.00 per yard and blacktop is around \$90.00 per yard.

There was discussion on lighting in the future and Mr. Ryland stated it's very expensive, and that tomorrow he would check with First Energy and see if they could sponsor the lights for the city. Mr. Bergstrom asked about the concept plans for all the city parks and if this fits in, and Mr. Ryland replied they have very old plans on record, however they no longer fit the city uses for today. Mr. Nicolard asked if we ever looked at using the park in Loyal Oak and Mr. Ryland replied no not initially, however that park is slated for use as soccer fields. Mr. Pelot stated he liked the location next to city hall. Mr. Zita asked if we go with this location, would the recycle bins be moved, and Mr. Ryland replied they would be relocated. Mr. Moss noted that you would lose some parking, which is being used from time to time, and Mr. Ryland added that these courts could be used as parking if truly needed. Mr. Ryland indicated that he already has the plans and specifications on file in his office, this was done two years ago and all that is necessary now would be authorization from Council to go out for bids. Mr. Nicolard stated this is a basketball court not a new community center, we should move forward with it. Mr. Ryland indicated that we already have the funding in the budget for this. Ms. Alice Wagner, a Norton resident, stated that if we are going to do this, let's do it big and add a swimming pool somewhere, we have land on St. Rt. 261. Mr. Zita moved to authorize the Administration to prepare the plans, specifications and go out for bids, seconded by Mrs. Hlas.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Eastern Road Resurfacing ODOT Legislation

Mr. Mowery stated that unless anyone on Council or Administration had anything they needed to add, we really need to get this moving along. There were no additional comments and Mr. Mowery moved to place this on Council's next agenda, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom. Mr. Ryland noted this construction is slated for 2012.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Bath Salts Legislation

Mr. Nicolard indicated that the State House and Senate recently passed a Bill that addresses this issue and it's on its way to the Governor for his signature. Mr. Nicolard stated he would like this to remain on the Matters Referred listing until that Bill is signed and then we can consider our own legislation.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Mr. Ryland informed Council that the Traffic Control and Safety Committee was recently met to discuss two important issues. They have decided to lower the speed limit at the center of town to 25 MPH at Greenwich Road going west to Easton, Cleveland-Massillon Road south to Weber Drive and north to just past Strickland's Ice Cream, also Norton Avenue east to the bowling alley. Mr. Ryland indicated that this area is basically a business district and recently we have experienced several accidents in these areas. Mr. Pelot stated he would like to see this extend farther east on Norton Avenue. Mr. Ryland explained that legislation is not necessary because the Traffic Control Committee does have the authority to make these types of changes. Mr. Ryland indicated that two weeks prior to the changes taking place, new signs need to be posted. Mrs. Richards also noted that a legal notice in the Barberton Herald and press releases would also be required. Mr. Nicolard moved to approve this reduction in speed to 25 MPH in those areas, seconded by Mr. Bergstrom.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Ryland discussed another Traffic Control Committee decision after their review of the Codified Ordinances as it related to the standards for road constructions. Mr. Ryland stated that it has been suggested to take Parkway Drive and make this a one way road, it is only 14-16 feet wide and is not safe for two way vehicle traffic. Mr. Nicolard asked if it was in this years budget to resurface Parkway Drive and Mr. Ryland replied yes. Mr. Kostoff suggested that because of the uniqueness of this area perhaps the Administration should notify these residents in writing in addition to the newspaper publication. Mr. Ryland indicated that we could mail them a letter. Mr. Nicolard moved to approve Parkway Drive as a one way road, seconded by Mr. Braman.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Mowery asked about a resident complaint he received today regarding Dominion and trees being cut down along Tallwood Drive. Mr. Mowery asked if the City of Norton has any responsibility here? Mr. Ryland replied no, this is a civil issue and is between the resident and Dominion, and it's in the right of way where these trees were cut down. Mr. Ryland stated that the trees are not owned by the resident since they were in the right of way. Dominion owns them and they have the right to cut them down.

Mr. Bergstrom reported on a recent meeting he attended at Summit County Solid Waste Management Authority. Mr. Bergstrom learned of a food-composting program they offer to businesses. Mr. Bergstrom stated that since Akron University started using this program, then went from paying \$1100.00 a week for disposal to \$300.00.

Mr. Bergstrom discussed the recycle products Norton accepts, #1 and #2 containers and all the other types go overseas. It was suggested at this meeting that Norton continue to only accept #1 and #2 type containers.

Mr. Moss followed up on a comment from Ted Weinsheimer's presentation last week about the large pipe replacement on St Rt. 21 at Wooster Road eastbound. There was a concern at that time about the City possibly being responsible if this project was not completed on time. Ted Weinsheimer has followed up on this and it has been determined this is a State Highway and the City is not in jeopardy of being responsible if not completed on time. Mr. Robert Copen, a Norton resident, commented about this project and that is why the Fireman's Bingo Hall tends to flood during heavy rains. Mr. Copen asked if a retention pond was considered with this project and Mr. Moss replied no, that it's only to replace what is currently there.

Mr. Braman reminded everyone of the summer concert and car show this Thursday at Columbia Woods Park. Mr. Pelot reminded everyone that the City is not responsible for mowing the high grass along ditches throughout the City, it's the responsibility of the property owner to keep this mowed.

Public Comment-Agenda and Non Agenda Items:

Ms. Charlotte Whipkey, a Norton resident, discussed her same concerns with the proposed Charter Amendments as last week. Ms. Whipkey took special exception to the proposed amendments for the various Boards and Commissions as it relates to their term limits. Ms. Whipkey stated that it was pointed out at the last meeting that they could be removed from office, but it would have to be for something blatant or for gross misconduct or something. Otherwise they could remain seated for up to 21 years. Mr. Pelot stated that we already discussed this last week, and each time a term is up the Mayor has to bring a recommendation to either continue that appointment or suggest a new member for Council to confirm. If Council does not want that person we will not confirm the Mayors appointment. Ms. Whipkey also discussed the proposed amendment relating to nominations and that basically it deals with primary elections and we already went non-partisan. Ms. Whipkey stated she spoke with the Board of Elections and they would like our Charter changed but if we don't do it they would deal with it. Ms. Whipkey discussed the property on Barber Road that the City is buying and found it odd that it is loaded with cars from Fred Martin Motors. How does that happen on City property? When was that approved? This does not seem kosher here, seems like a conflict of interest since the owner of Fred Martin Motors serves on one of the Boards. Mr. Ryland advised Ms. Whipkey that the City does not own that property. All we have is a purchase option for it, we do not own it, ODOT is still the owner. The purpose for the City to buy this land was because we wanted to run a sewer line west in that area.

Mr. Dale Nelson, a Norton resident, complained that only two Council members speak clearly into their microphones and Mr. Ryland is the only one in Administration that he can hear. Mr. Nelson stated he spoke with Russ Arters today about a neighbors building permit for siding and miscellaneous work. This resident has heavy equipment tearing up his sidewalks and such.

Mr. Nelson stated that this neighbor just so happens to be the 1st Ward Zoning Board Member-Don Welch. Mr. Nelson questioned just what does miscellaneous work entail, is he going to get by without paying taxes? Mr. Nelson also discussed the same issue with the Fred Martin Motors cars parked on the lot on Barber Road. Mr. Nelson questioned the down payment the City put up and who has liability issues here.

Topics for the next Work Session:

Mr. Bergstrom stated that after recess he would like to focus some attention to discussing updating the overall sewer plan and pump stations to keep this fresh. Mr. Bergstrom also indicated he would like to have discussion on the possible need for rules or regulations for the types of venues that we want the parks to be used for. Mrs. Hlas stated she was not sure we want should be micro managing this and Mr. Bergstrom agreed. However, he felt we do need to protect our investments in the parks. Mr. Kostoff indicated that Mayor Koontz has already asked him to look into this very same thing and he will report back to Council later on that.

Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 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.