



**NORTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2014**

Roll Call: Scott Pelot
Dennis McGlone
Danny Grether
Dennis Pierson
Paul Tousley
Charlotte Whipkey
Rick Rodgers

Also Present:
Mayor Mike Zita
Valerie Wax Carr
Ron Messner
Justin Markey
Karla Richards
Ann Campbell

The Regular Council Meeting convened on Monday, September 22, 2014 at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Rick Rodgers President of Council, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Approve Council Rules

Mr. Tousley noted that last work session we had made several changes at the last meeting, Rule #109- which will now read: *It shall be the duty of the President at the first meeting of Council, as directed by the City Charter for organizational purposes to appoint regular standing Committees, consisting of at least four (4) members for all standing Committees.* Mr. Tousley stated that Rule 113 Quorum, will now read: *A quorum of three (3) –shall exist for all Standing and Special Committees of Council (as described in Appendix “A” of the Council Rules) where at least three (3) members are in attendance. For purposes of referring a matter on the Agenda of Council, where no more that a quorum is in attendance, two (2) members must vote in the affirmative.* Mr. Grether noted there was an addition to add another amendment to the Rules 114-Approve Monthly Budget Report. Mr. Grether asked to separate these actions out for the vote as he supported Rule 114, but he and Mr. Rodgers did not support 109 and 113. Mr. Markey noted it was not a problem in doing so. Mr. McGlone clarified that the changes to Rules 109 and 113 had not taken place on August 25th. Mr. Tousley moved to approve the changes to Rule 114 as approved on August 25, 2014, seconded by Ms. Whipkey. Mr. Tousley clarified this is to acknowledge the receipt of the monthly financial reports from Mr. Messner

Roll Call: Yeas: Tousley, Whipkey, Pelot, McGlone, Grether, Pierson, Rodgers
Nays: None

Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Tousley moved to approve the Council Rules as approved on September 15, 2014 (Rule 109 & Rule 113), seconded by Ms. Whipkey.

Roll Call: Yeas: Tousley, Whipkey, Pelot, McGlone
Nays: Grether, Pierson, Rodgers

Motion failed by 4-3 votes. Mr. McGlone asked so if that failed then how can two (2) Council members attend a meeting back on September 15, 2014? Mr. Markey stated your Rules were not amended on that date. Mr. McGlone explained he received an email on Friday that there was a meeting with Air Vac and the Engineers. Mr. Pierson stated this was a fact finding and information meeting, no decisions were made there. Mr. Markey clarified that fact finding-information meetings are not considered a public meeting; there are no decisions made nor are there any decisional processes and it is clear under the law, however it is a fine line. Mr. Rodgers explained that we did attend this meeting and it was mostly technical information that was shared with EDG and Air Vac on Nash Heights. There were no financial figures discussed as no figures are available; it was all informational and we tagged along to see what's going on. Nothing was talked about as far as pricing; there are still no figures available. It was discussed that these vacuum systems will probably work and there is a way to adapt the pits to make them a little taller which would make it easier for some of the properties farther down from the road. We should have some information soon relating to the costs. Ms. Whipkey asked how we can come up with a real answer for the costs when we just received information that we have over 126 residents that have not turned in their information. Mr. Rodgers stated that by not turning in the surveys it will not stop or delay the project in Nash Heights. This will only askew the costs if this information is not submitted. Mr. Rodgers asked all residents to please turn in these surveys. Mr. Pierson stated there will be another letter going out to these 126 residents, and he will be going out door to door to get these issues cleared up. We have to know the status of each parcel that is going to be sewered in order to get the best possible cost. If you are not comfortable with EDG, then call your Council representative and any of us would be there if it would make you more comfortable. Mr. Pierson noted that for those that still will not respond to the second letter from EDG, he would personally be going out there with someone from EDG on the weekend to collect the information. Ms. Whipkey asked if there are any future meetings regarding the sewers and Mr. Rodgers replied not that he is aware of. Ms. Whipkey asked as Mr. Pelot had asked before if these are just fact finding meetings then why can't more than two (2) can attend? Mr. Markey replied technically yes, but it's still a fine line and cautioned all of Council to be very careful. You would not want to label every meeting by saying its just fact finding, and he would like the opportunity to look over the subject matter to make sure there is no Sunshine Law violation. Ms. Whipkey asked so if there were two of us there, it was a violation of the Sunshine Law? Mr. Markey explained that if there were two Council members on the same committee then it was a quorum and if it's on topic, then yes, it is a violation of the Sunshine Law. Mr. Rodgers stated that if anyone on Council wants to attend these meetings for fact finding only, to please let him know as soon as possible. Mrs. Carr clarified that this past meeting that she was not aware that Mr. Pierson was planning on attending and she had informed Mr. Rodgers that Administration was not attending as Jim Demboski was representing them as their contractor. Mrs. Carr stated she would have extended the offer to all of Council had she known there were more wishing to attend. Mrs. Carr stated she did not know if Ms. Whipkey was hinting Council wanted a list of meetings and it could be done to some extent, but would be difficult working around everyone's schedules and not knowing who was interested in what. Ms. Whipkey stated she was nosy and wanted to know everything.

Mrs. Carr stated she did not purposely not invite anyone to this past meeting and would have made aware any Council person that was interested in it. Ms. Whipkey stated that was not her intent, she just felt that in the future if there is a meeting and since we could not get to where we could interact only do fact finding, listening and getting information, that more than one or two of us could attend. Mrs. Carr stated if she is aware that one Council member is attending, she will inform Karla and she can send out an invitation to all of you. Mr. Rodgers clarified that Mrs. Carr has always informed him of all meetings on sewers, engineering, etc. in the past and she continues to do so; adding that he attends almost all those meetings. Mr. Rodgers added with the decision on the sewer system coming up that Council members could still have arrangements made to go and view the working vacuum system in Portage County. Ms. Whipkey reminded everyone that the watershed meetings will be coming up and she would be interested in those meetings as well. Mr. Grether clarified that if two members are not on the same committees they may attend these meetings and the topic of discussion is utility planning and these two members are not on the Utility Committee, and that would not be in violation of the Sunshine Laws and Mr. Markey concurred. However, Mr. Markey cautioned that the subject matter better not cross over into another committee where these two attending are members. Mr. Pierson stated we would check the agendas from here on out and reminded it is Councils duty to ask questions and call in regard to meetings; you are the representative of the people, the boss of the Mayor, City Manager, and etc., so you need to take part to help them do their jobs because they will help us do ours.

Mr. Tousley noted that Chief Hete resigned this past Friday and moved to add Res. #92-2014 to tonight's agenda for a first reading only, seconded by Mr. Grether. Mayor Zita pointed out that Chief Hete had retired, not resigned and Mr. Tousley concurred. Mr. Tousley noted that former Chief Hete could not be present this evening, but we were hoping to get him in here soon. Mr. Grether thanked the Chief for his service in Norton, and appreciates what he has done here.

Roll Call: Yeas: Tousley, Grether, Pelot, McGlone, Pierson, Whipkey, Rodgers
Nays: None

Motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC-Agenda and Non-Agenda Items- None

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Committee Work Session of August 18, 2014, approved as submitted.
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of August 25, 2014-Defer to October 14, 2014.
Minutes of the Committee Work Session of September 2, 2014, approved as submitted.
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of September 8, 2014, approved as submitted.
Minutes of the Committee Work Session of September 15, 2014, approved as submitted.
Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of September 15, 2014, approved as submitted.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Ms. Whipkey announced the Mosquito DAC meeting is meeting September 24, 2014 at 6:00 pm at 131 Snyder Avenue, Barberton, Ohio.

Ms. Whipkey stated they intend to interview for the Barberton representative. Mr. Rodgers asked when the spraying stops and Mrs. Richards replied she believed the end of this month.

PUBLIC HEARINGS-None

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

**Added during Committee of the Whole

RES #92-2014

Mr. Tousley offered Res. #92-2014 for its first reading and asked the Clerk to read it:

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICE OF POLICE CHIEF THAD HETE FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE ON THE CITY OF NORTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.

First reading only.

INTRODUCTION OF PRIOR LEGISLATION

RES #87-2014

Mr. Tousley offered Res. #87-2014 for its second reading and asked the Clerk to read it:

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICE OF LISA MERRICK FOR HER SERVICE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY OF NORTON PARKS AND CEMETERY BOARD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second reading only.

RES #88-2014

Mr. Tousley offered Res. #87-2014 for its second reading and asked the Clerk to read it:

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICE OF PAM DIXON FOR HER SERVICE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY OF NORTON PARKS AND CEMETERY BOARD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second reading only.

ORD #91-2014

Mr. Grether offered Ord. #91-2014 for its second reading and asked the Clerk to read it:

AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING TO EXTEND THE MORATORIUM ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF SECTION 1296.07 (A) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORTON UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2014, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second reading only.

ORD #81-2014

Mr. Grether offered Ord. #81-2014 for its third reading and asked the Clerk to read it:

AN ORDINANCE REZONING CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE SUMMIT METRO PARKS FROM VARIOUS ZONING CLASSIFICATIONS TO A PUBLIC RECREATION DISTRICT.

Mr. Grether moved to adopt Ord. #81-2014, seconded by Mr. Rodgers.

Roll Call: Yeas: Grether, Rodgers, Pelot, McGlone, Pierson, Tousley, Whipkey
Nays: None

Motion passed 7-0.

ORD #82-2014

Mr. Grether offered Ord. #82-2014 for its third reading and asked the Clerk to read it:

AN ORDINANCE REZONING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1872 WADSWORTH ROAD FROM AN I-1 DISTRICT TO A B-3 DISTRICT.

Mr. Grether moved to adopt Ord. #82-2014, seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Mr. Grether noted this was presented to Council to grant the rezoning from an I-1 to B-3 with the understanding the applicants desire to run a used car lot. Council had raised some issues with this request of a potential conflict and he has discussed this with Mr. Arters. It is understood that there is a conflict here and Mr. Arters has advised the Planning Commission to resolve these issues. Mr. Grether stated he had also sent an email to the Planning Commission to address these conflicting ordinances. Mr. Grether also indicated he has asked Mr. Arters to inform the applicant of these issues.

Roll Call: Yeas: Grether, Rodgers, Pelot, McGlone, Pierson, Tousley, Whipkey.
Nays: None

Motion passed 7-0.

ORD #83-2014

Mr. Grether offered Ord. #83-2014 for its third reading and asked the Clerk to read it:

AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING A SPECIAL PLANNED DEVELOPMENT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3744 WADSWORTH ROAD.

Mr. Grether moved to adopt Ord. #83-2014, seconded by Mr. Rodgers.

Roll Call: Yeas: Grether, Rodgers, Pelot, McGlone, Pierson, Tousley, Whipkey.
Nays: None

Motion passed 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms Whipkey discussed comments from Mr. Lino a few weeks ago and asked if this issue of used tires was addressed. Mrs. Carr noted this was addressed and the tires were all removed and sent to the recycle center.

Mr. Tousley commented about Judge McKenney's Good Deeds Program and asked if we have a total cost for our participation and how many attended? Mayor Zita commented about the costs were under \$1,000.00 and was shared with his office and Council. Mayor Zita noted that he attended the first evening and it was at capacity which holds 180 and was standing room only. The second night was nearly as crowded. The feedback he received indicated it was very helpful to the citizens. Ms. Whipkey noted that for those that could make it to the meeting, Judge McKenney is making himself available to continue to help. Mayor Zita noted there is an article coming out in the newspaper this weekend about that in the Norton Post with the Judges contact numbers.

Mr. Tousley noted his previous request for the listing for MAD contact phone number which is now listed on the website and thanked the Administration for this.

Mr. Grether noted he has received numerous feed back regarding the RV's and these all are strongly opposed to opening this up. Most folks are ok with a 48 hour layover time. Mr. Grether noted he even had one call from a resident that has been here for a very long time and felt that as Mr. Pierson had stated just opens up that Pandora's Box for enforcing. Mr. Grether asked for Council to be prepared for in depth discussion at the next work session. Anything else we determine still will be going back to the Planning Commission and they will need time to work on it. Ms. Whipkey inquired as to the general area those opposed to the idea were from. Mr. Grether stated the call tonight he believed came from the Nash Heights area. Mr. Grether corrected his statement of the next work session; he would be out of town and rather hold off for a few more weeks until the October 20, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Pelot asked how many homes have we demolished this year and Mrs. Carr replied she believed it was seven (7) or eight (8) in total. Ms. Whipkey stated however much money we asked for was just not enough; we need to ask and do more next year. Mrs. Carr stated the original grant was for eight (8) houses and perhaps we actually demolished ten (10) houses.

Mr. Rodgers noticed a representative from the Metro Parks was in the audience and asked if the city administration received the detailed income tax report? Mrs. Richards indicated she has received information from Mr. Messner as to the taxes but nothing from the Metroparks. The representative from the Metro Parks indicated he would check into that, and he thought the City had already received this.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Zita made several announcements (see attached).

PUBLIC UPDATES

Mr. Pelot commented about a recent scam going along supposedly coming from the IRS. This is not valid, and that the IRS will never contact you by phone they only notify taxpayers by regular US mail.

Mr. Rodgers noted there is no meeting next Monday, September 29, 2014. The next work Session

ADJOURN

There being no other business to come before the Regular Council Meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Rick Rodgers, President of Council

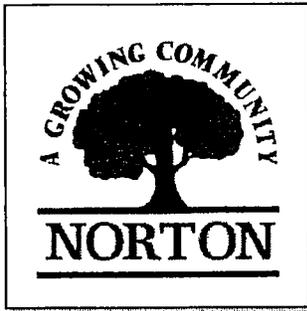
I, Karla Richards, CMC-Clerk of Council for the City of Norton, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes were approved at a Regular Council Meeting held on October 14, 2014.

Karla Richards, CMC-Clerk of Council

NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM*

****ORIGINAL SIGNED AND APPROVED MINUTES ARE ON FILE WITH THE CLERK OF COUNCIL****

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



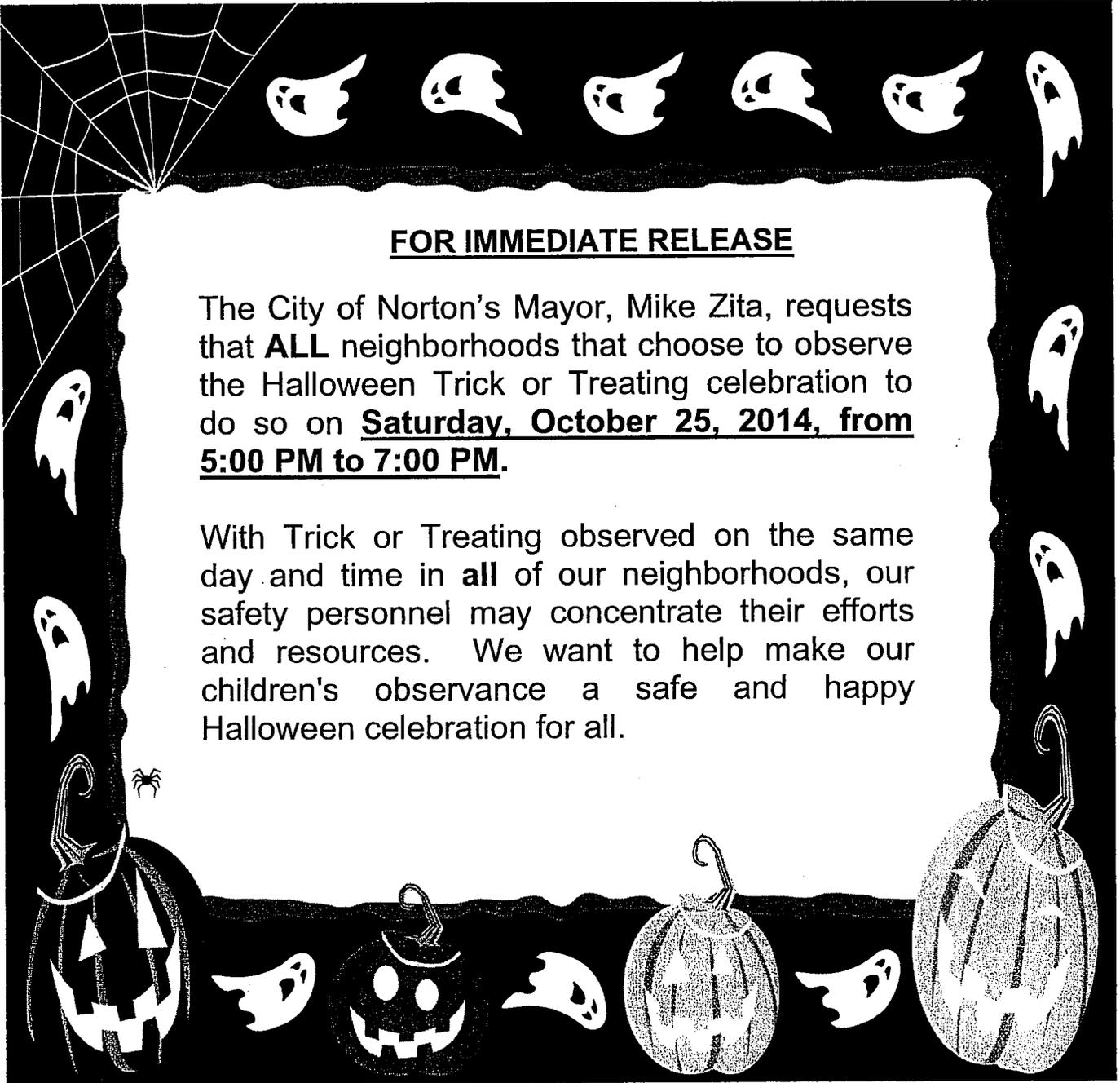
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MIKE ZITA
CITY OF NORTON, OHIO
4060 Columbia Woods Dr.
Norton OH 44203

CONTACT: (330) 825-7815, Ext. 314
Administrative Assistant: Ann Campbell
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The City of Norton's Mayor, Mike Zita, requests that **ALL** neighborhoods that choose to observe the Halloween Trick or Treating celebration to do so on **Saturday, October 25, 2014, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.**

With Trick or Treating observed on the same day and time in **all** of our neighborhoods, our safety personnel may concentrate their efforts and resources. We want to help make our children's observance a safe and happy Halloween celebration for all.





2014 NORTON CIDER FESTIVAL PARADE ENTRY FORM



The parade is Saturday, October 4 at 10:00am

Line up is at Grace Church by 9:00am

You will be notified of your parade number the week of the festival!

Parade route goes south on Cleve—Mass Road turning right on Greenwich towards the festival area.

Parade route is approximately 1 mile.

Group or Organization Name: _____

Contact Person: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone # Daytime: _____ Evening # _____

PLEASE CHECK BELOW ALL CATEGORIES YOUR ENTRY MAY UTILIZE

WALKING OR "NON-POWERED" ENTRIES

- Marching or Block Formation Units
- Equestrian _____ Wagon _____ Mounted
- Bicycles/Unicycle/Skates/Skateboard
- Walking Only Participants
- Jump Rope/Gymnasts/Dance
- Sports/Cheerleaders
- Clowns/Entertainers
- Other (Describe) _____

POWERED/AUTOMOTIVE ENTRIES

Please estimate the number of vehicles participating

- Classic/Antique/Hot Rod/Newer/Show Car
- Commercial or Municipal
- Work Type Vehicle(s)
- Unusual Vehicle
- Pulled Wagon (Approx. Length- _____)
- Motorcycles
- Other (describe) _____

PARADE ENTRY FEE IS \$50.00 for:

- ALL POLITICIANS AND ALL POLITICAL OFFICER HOLDER ENTRIES
- COMMERCIAL ENTRANTS NOT HAVING A BUSINESS LOCATED WITHIN NORTON CITY LIMITS

Check must be attached & payable to the Norton Cider Festival

JUDGING will be held on DECORATED FLOATS ONLY! Please check your FLOAT category to be JUDGED!!!

JUDGED Floats only JUDGED Floats only JUDGED Floats Only JUDGED Floats Only JUDGED Floats Only

____ Commercial ____ Service Club ____ Youth/Sports ____ Church ____ Theme

Your parade unit will be introduced by the Norton Cider Festival with the information you provide on a separate piece of paper.

Please provide any EXTRA information that MAY be given to the crowd when you are introduced.

By returning this completed form, you agree to hold blameless the City of Norton, the Norton Cider Festival Committee, its members and any of its sponsors from any and all liability, and that your participation in the parade shall be at your own risk.

The parade will go forward despite mild inclement weather. Cancellation of the parade will occur ONLY if severe conditions are expected such as lightening, high winds, or torrential downpours. Please prepare accordingly.

Please return this form by Friday, September 26 to:

NORTON CIDER FESTIVAL PO BOX 1290 NORTON, OH 44203

ATTENTION: PARADE

Questions: Kim/Blake Miller 330-957-0491

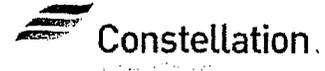
COPY



Valerie Wax Carr
Administrator
City of Norton
(330) 825-7815



Mark Burns
President
Independent Energy Consultants
(330) 995-2675



Kelly Biemer
Constellation Energy
(410) 470-5224

For Immediate Release:

**CITY OF NORTON ANNOUNCES
LOW FIXED RATE FOR NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM**

Norton, Ohio (September 15, 2014) – City of Norton officials are pleased to announce that they have chosen Constellation Energy Gas Choice (Constellation) as the program's supplier for a two-year program ending with the November 2016 billing cycle. Constellation recently won a competitive bid process and is replacing IGS Energy as the program's supplier.

City officials have established a low 2-year fixed rate of \$4.19/Mcf for natural gas for members of the City's Aggregation Program. The new rate is for all gas consumed during the December 2014 – November 2016 billing periods. Residents and small businesses should look for a mailer to arrive on or about September 25 concerning the Natural Gas Aggregation Program offer from Constellation.

Mayor Mike Zita said, "We are pleased to have been able to strike this low rate for our residents and businesses. The \$4.19/Mcf rate compares very favorably to what residents can obtain on their own at this time. We chose to set the rate for a 2-year period to provide longer-term protection against rising prices. Last year's "polar vortex" winter was a harsh reminder of how volatile natural gas prices remain. In the unlikely event that prices do drop below our program rate members may leave free-of-charge at any time by simply contacting Constellation."

Mark Burns, President of Independent Energy Consultants, said, "Residents and businesses should carefully read their letter from Constellation." Burns added, "There are two similar but distinct versions of the letters. Residents who are currently in the program or who receive their gas supply through Dominion East Ohio's Standard Choice Offer will receive an "opt-out" letter. If they wish to remain in the program or be added to the program, they should simply do nothing and they will automatically receive the new lower rate. A second version of the letter will be sent to residents who have already selected a supplier including those who may receive a renewal letter from IGS Energy. These account holders would need to contact Constellation to receive the City's natural gas offer."

Bruce Stewart, Chief Marketing Officer of Constellation, said, "We are pleased to be serving the City of Norton. For those customers needing to take action to join the City's program we've set up several means of enrollment for their convenience. First, residents and small businesses may call Constellation at 800-718-1493. Secondly, they may mail or fax the reply card that comes with the letter sent to their home or business. Also, they may join the program through our website at www.Constellation.com/Norton." Customers wishing to join the program must be in good standing with their bill payment and cannot be part of the utility's Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP).

The City is pleased to have made this program possible but asks that you do not call the City offices. They are not equipped to handle a large volume of calls. Residents should contact Constellation toll free at 1-800-718-1493 if they have any questions.

Williams Park signage

September 2014

Please post on dates indicated
Updates will be provided as they come in!!

Facing Cornerstone	Facing Citgo
<u>Week of September 2nd</u> (Tuesday)	
<p>Norton Music Boosters Food Truck Round Up Saturday Sept 6 4 - 8 at Primary Field by Arby's.</p>	<p>2014 Class of Southern Summit Citizens Police Academy Forming now Contact Sgt Dalessandro at 706-0084</p>
<u>Week of September 8th</u>	
<p>PERSONAL DOCUMENT SHREDDING BARBERTON SPORTS COMPLEX 841 WOOSTER RD W. Saturday SEP 13 9A - NOON</p>	<p>PERSONAL DOCUMENT SHREDDING BARBERTON SPORTS COMPLEX 841 WOOSTER RD W. Saturday SEP 13 9A - NOON</p>
<u>Week of September 15th</u>	
<p>NORTON BSA TROOP 132 CIDERFEST PANCAKE BREAKFAST - SATURDAY OCT 4 START 7:00A NORTON PRIMARY SCHOOL</p>	<p>Project Learn of Summit Co. Free English Classes Grace Brethren Church More info call 434-9461</p>
<u>Week of September 22nd</u>	
<p>NORTON BSA TROOP 132 CIDERFEST PANCAKE BREAKFAST - SATURDAY OCT 4 START 7:00A NORTON PRIMARY SCHOOL</p>	<p>KIWANIS ROSE REMEMBRANCE DAY ORDER DEADLINE SEPT 27 ORDER YOURS TODAY CALL 825-8866</p>
<u>Week of September 29th</u>	
<p>SEE YOU THIS WEEKEND AT THE NORTON CIDER FESTIVAL COLUMBIA WOODS PARK FRIDAY OCT 3 - SUNDAY OCT 5</p>	<p>SEE YOU THIS WEEKEND AT THE NORTON CIDER FESTIVAL COLUMBIA WOODS PARK FRIDAY OCT 3 - SUNDAY OCT 5</p>

News Release

Kristen M. Scalise CPA, CFE · Fiscal Officer



Date: September 18, 2014

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sarah Hegnauer
shegnauer@summitoh.net
(330)643-8472

Fiscal Officer Kristen M. Scalise CPA, CFE puts Summit County in lead for consumer protection of county unclaimed funds

Summit County Fiscal Officer Kristen M. Scalise CPA, CFE is pleased to announce recent changes to the county charter to regulate agreements, remuneration, and recovery of unclaimed funds at the county level. These changes will better protect consumers from scams and predatory third parties, as well as ensure monies are returned directly to their rightful owner. Summit County is the first county in the state of Ohio to adopt strict regulations to benefit the owners of county unclaimed funds.

Fiscal Officer Scalise serves as trustee of unclaimed funds in Summit County and is tasked with processing claims and returning money to owners. Unclaimed funds are monies accumulated and owed from transactions performed at county agencies. Examples of transactions include overpayments, fees and costs, lost heir accounts, and sheriff sale proceeds. Summit County currently has \$1.3 million in unclaimed funds cash balances.

Enactment of new Chapter 756 of the Codified Ordinances of the County of Summit will impose express requirements and restrictions set forth under Section 169.13 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Owners of unclaimed funds can submit a claim without the service of a paid professional finder; however, paid professional finders are permitted by law to seek out owners and negotiate a fee for their service. To provide adequate time for owners to find their own unclaimed funds and submit their own claim, paid professional finders must now wait two years before contacting or entering into a valid agreement with an owner. They are also required to hold a valid certificate of

registration issued by the Director of the Ohio Department of Commerce and provide a copy when filing claims.

If an owner chooses to enlist the services of a finder, a valid contract must be submitted to the Fiscal Office for approval prior to the release of funds. New restrictions require the contract to state the nature and value of the unclaimed funds, the amount the owner will receive after the fee or compensation has been subtracted, and a statement that the unclaimed funds will be paid directly to the owner. The finder's fee cannot be in excess of ten per cent of the amount recovered and paid to the owner. Agreements may not include a power of attorney for the payment to any person other than the owner.

If the Fiscal Office determines that the finder's agreement fails to comply with Sections 756.03-756.05 of the Codified Ordinances, a complaint will be filed with the County of Summit Department of Consumer Affairs and related parties may be subject to a penalty of up to five hundred dollars.

Fiscal Officer Scalise would like to remind citizens that they can file their own claim, without the assistance of a paid professional finder. "I encourage citizens to file their own claims. It's a simple process and my staff is available to assist with any questions about the application," Scalise said. "But if you choose to use a professional finder, I am proud to enforce the strictest regulations in the state to protect you and your recovered funds."

The Fiscal Office will mail letters this week to over six hundred owners of county unclaimed funds. Many citizens and businesses are not aware they have unclaimed funds. To recover unclaimed fund money, the owner must complete an unclaimed funds application, in its entirety, and submit it to the Fiscal Office. The application takes less than 90 days to process.

County unclaimed fund amounts of \$10 or more are listed in a searchable database online. Visit <http://FiscalOffice.summitoh.net> and click on the "Unclaimed Funds" link under the heading "Additional Services". Enter your last name or business name in the search box and wait for the results to appear. Do not press the return button after you enter your name.

To assist owners with finding unclaimed funds and submitting a claim, the Fiscal Office will host outreach tables at participating Acme Fresh Market Stores. A valid unclaimed funds claim must typically be signed by the owner and notarized. Applications submitted at our outreach tables will not require a notary, unless the amount exceeds \$1,000. Citizens can visit us at the following locations between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.:

- Monday, October 20: **Acme Fresh Market No. 1**, 1835 W. Market St., Akron
- Tuesday, October 21: **Acme Fresh Market No. 2**, 2420 Wedgewood Rd., Akron
- Wednesday, October 22: **Acme Fresh Market No. 4**, 116 W. Streetsboro Road, Hudson
- Thursday, October 23: **Acme Fresh Market No. 17**, 4445 Kent Road, Stow
- Friday, October 24: **Acme Fresh Market No. 10**, 2226 State Road, Cuyahoga Falls
- Monday, October 27: **Acme Fresh Market No. 11**, 600 South Ave., Tallmadge
- Tuesday, October 28: **Acme Fresh Market No. 6**, 3200 Greenwich Road, Norton
- Wednesday, October 29: **Acme Fresh Market No. 14**, 3235 Manchester Road, Akron
- Thursday, October 30 @: **Acme Fresh Market No. 18**, 2147 East Ave., Akron

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