

City of
NORTON

NORTON CITY COUNCIL
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026

The Organizational Meeting was called to order on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 6:45 p.m. by Doug DeHarpert, President of Council. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and the invocation was offered by Mr. DeHarpert.

Roll Call: Jamie Lukens
 Paul Tousley
 Paul Eader (excused)
 Judith Lynn Lee
 William Mowery
 Don Harbert
 Doug DeHarpert

Also Present:
 Mayor Zita
 Michael Rorar
 Pamela Keener
 Justin Markey
 Kerry Macomber

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Mr. DeHarpert cited Council Rules - Rule 102 and called for nominations for the President of Council:

Mr. Lukens nominated Mr. Harbert; seconded by Ms. Lee. Mr. DeHarpert called for any other nominations; hearing none, he closed the nominations and requested the Clerk to call a voice vote:

Mr. Lukens: Mr. Harbert
Mr. Tousley: Mr. Harbert
Ms. Lee: Mr. Harbert
Mr. Mowery: Mr. Harbert
Mr. Harbert: Mr. Harbert
Mr. DeHarpert: Mr. Harbert

Mr. Harbert called for nominations for the Vice President of Council. Mr. Lukens nominated Mr. DeHarpert; seconded by Mr. Mowery. Mr. Harbert called for any other nominations; hearing none, he closed the nominations and requested the Clerk to call a voice vote:

Mr. Lukens: Mr. DeHarpert
Mr. Mowery: Mr. DeHarpert
Mr. Tousley: Mr. DeHarpert
Ms. Lee: Mr. DeHarpert
Mr. Harbert: Mr. DeHarpert
Mr. DeHarpert: Mr. DeHarpert

REMARKS FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT - President Harbert welcomed Norton's new City Administrator, Michael Rorar, to the team and said they were looking forward to working with him. He remarked on Mr. Rorar's impressive background and experience and noted they look forward to an open line of communication. Mr. Harbert expressed his appreciation to his colleagues on Council for their confidence in him to lead and said that he looks forward to working with them to move the City forward. He also thanked Mr. DeHarpert for his leadership, vision and passion for the city and its residents as he demonstrated over the past two years serving as President of Council. Mr. Harbert noted that when Mr. DeHarpert's term started, there were three new At-Large Council Members and he, himself, was new to the Council. He stated that Mr. DeHarpert came in and conducted the City business uninterrupted, which speaks to his ability. Mr. Harbert also recognized Mr. Tousley with 12 years and Mr. Lukens with four years of experience serving the community.

A. Appoint Committees - Mr. Harbert said he is fortunate to lead an experienced Council and reported that the standing Committees will remain as is because everyone is comfortable in their role and there is no need for change. The Committees remain as follows:

1. Finance: Harbert, Mowery, Tousley
2. Personnel & Rules: Lukens, Lee, Harbert
3. Planning & Economic Development: DeHarpert, Eader, Lukens
4. Property & Mines: Lee, Lukens, Mowery
5. Safety: Eader, Tousley, DeHarpert
6. Service: Tousley, DeHarpert, Eader
7. Utilities: Mowery, Harbert, Lee

B. Approve 2026 Meeting Schedule – Mr. Harbert noted the Meeting Schedule also remains the same with Council meeting on the first and third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. If there is a Monday holiday, Council will meet on Tuesday.

C. Review-Approve Council Rules – Mr. Harbert said there are minor changes proposed for the Council Rules and explained those as follows:

Rule 111: Agenda and Rule 112: Quorum conflict on how many Council members are needed to add an item to the agenda. Mr. Harbert suggested that Rule 111 clarify that the President of Council or any full Committee has the power to place an item on the Agenda. Mr. Tousley expressed concern that by taking away the ability for any one member of Council to place an item on the Agenda equates to removing the Council member's ability to represent their constituents. He would like this rule to read that the President of Council or any Committee Chair (which is basically any Council member). This will safeguard the residents should their representative fall out of grace with the President and then not be permitted to add a concern of theirs to the Agenda. This will allow guidelines to be in place to allow residents' voices to be heard. Mr. Lukens said that he assumed the reference to any Committee meant the Committee Chair. Mr. Tousley said he would like it to be clear because the full Committee may not agree but the Chair should be able to add something that is affecting their Ward. Mr. Harbert instructed the Clerk to make Mr. Tousley's suggested change to Rule 111.

Rule 502: Approval of Minutes and 503: Corrections to the Minutes conflict on the procedure for correcting minutes and the intent is to have corrections submitted prior to the meeting when the President of Council approves them. Mr. Tousley read from Rule 503, which states the President of Council shall have the authority to instruct the Clerk of Council to make any corrections, which the President of Council deems to improve the accuracy of the record. Mr. Tousley would like the rest of Council to be notified if the President does make a change to the original draft minutes. Mr. Harbert concurred.

Rule 505: Archiving of video recordings - Removes redundant language regarding archiving audio recordings because both visual and audio are on video recordings, which are archived for two years.

Rule 112: Quorum - Mr. Markey noted there was also a change in Rule 112: Quorum. The sentence regarding the number of members needed to add an item to the Agenda was struck out. This has been clarified in Rule 111: Agenda to be the President of Council or Committee Chair.

Mr. DeHarpert moved to adopt the changes to the Council Rules as discussed; seconded by Ms. Lee.

Roll Call: Yes: DeHarpert, Lee, Lukens, Tousley, Mowery, Harbert

No: None

Motion passed: 6 - 0

ADJOURN - There being no other business to come before the Organizational Council Meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.



Don Harbert, President of Council

I, Kerry Macomber, Clerk of Council for the City of Norton, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes were approved at a Regular Council Meeting held on January 20, 2026.



Kerry Macomber, Clerk of Council

NOTE: These minutes are not verbatim

Original signed and approved minutes are on file with the Clerk of Council.

