

November 16, 2016

The Norton City Council met in regular session Wednesday, November 16, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., with Mayor Miller presiding. Council members present were Jerry Jones, Dennis Gilhousen, Jeff Urban, Chriss McDiffett, Gary Lacy and Ron Briery. Others present were Tamra Cochran, Tara Vance, Tonya Stover, Robert Bowman, Dana Paxton, Jamie Amlong, Dan Bainter, Ron Ridley, Karen Griffiths, Chad Buckley and Darla Ellis.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Dennis Gilhousen to approve the November 2, 2016, council meeting minutes as written. Vote taken. Motion carried.

No building permits or curb replacement requests were presented.

Tamra Cochran was present to discuss the CDBG street project on Crane Street. She stated she is in favor of the street improvements, but is concerned about moving the sidewalk in five feet onto her property. She stated the current sidewalk is 4 feet wide and is in very good condition. She asked why it is being moved and who will pay for moving her sprinkler system. Gary Lacy stated it is a hazard to have the children walking right next to the curb. The street is on an emergency snow route and when the streets are cleared, the snow is pushed onto the sidewalk; if it isn't removed from the sidewalks, the children have to walk out in the street to get to school. The new sidewalk will be on city right-of-way. Tamra stated she prefers the sidewalk remain where it is but if it is moved, she hopes the City will pay for moving her sprinkler system.

Tonya Stover was present representing the Christmas Crew, which is a group of volunteers who will be working to decorate the downtown area for the Christmas Holiday. They received grant funds from the Foundation and Travel and Tourism to purchase decorations. She asked permission for them to decorate Washington Street Park and put up new lights on the trees and gazebos. The Santa House will be moved to the corner of State and Lincoln, and decorated with lights and a mailbox for Santa's letters. It was agreed the City crew would use the bucket truck to take down the old lights at Washington Street Park. She also asked permission to close S. Kansas Street between the Heaton Building and the Courthouse for sleigh rides. Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Jerry Jones to allow S. Kansas Street to be blocked off on the days specified to allow for sleigh rides. Tara Vance stated it is great to see so many volunteers coming forward to make improvements in the downtown area. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Jamie Amlong reported on issues at the water plant. The chlorine dioxide machine is in need of repair but parts are no longer available. He is searching for a new machine to replace it with. He also reported the "pig" was ran through the lake line today to clean the line. He plans to run the new foam pig through the line after the first of the year, which is 1 3/16" bigger in diameter.

Karen Griffiths stated in 2012, the City received a \$400,000 grant from the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation for Kansas Moderate Income Housing funds through the State Housing Trust Fund. The funds were used for water and sewer infrastructure and development of Reagan Avenue in Ryan Addition. Bainter Construction agreed to put in 12 housing rentals in Ryan Addition, to be completed by 2013. Bainter Construction has not completed the project as set forth in the proposal, which could jeopardize the City's chance of receiving grant funds in the future. Eight units have been completed and there are four empty basements. Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Jeff Urban to direct the City Attorney to send a demand letter to Bainter Construction Company, giving them a deadline of June 1, 2017 to finish the housing project in Ryan Addition, specifying that they cannot use malformed materials that have become weathered onsite, and to also address the siding on the last 4 units which were completed. The damaged siding on the last 4 units was supposed to be replaced and hasn't been. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jeff Urban and seconded by Ron Briery to waive the formal first reading of Ordinance #1693, restricting vehicular parking in an area in the 100 block of South Wabash Avenue within the City of Norton, Kansas. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jeff Urban and seconded by Jerry Jones to waive the formal first reading of Ordinance #1694, restricting vehicle parking and mandating certain handicap parking on the north side of the 300 block of E. Washington Street and on the west side of the 100 block of S. Wabash, within the City of Norton, Kansas. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Gary Lacy and seconded by Jerry Jones to authorize the purchase of a 2016 Grizzly mosquito sprayer from Van Diest Supply Company at a cost of \$10,000, to be taken from the Special Parks fund and the Sewer Fund. Vote taken. Motion carried.

City Administrator Chad Buckley reported the structure at 208 East Woodsfield has been demolished and removed. The demolition at 433 S. First Street is the remaining structure to be demolished this year, and is scheduled to begin tomorrow. He reported on the activities of the other city crews as well.

Dennis Gilhousen reported Karen Griffiths is working on a contract with the Amusement Association regarding placing a new building in the park on the concrete slab where the old parks building was located.

Dennis also reported Carol Erlenbusch has requested permission to apply for a grant through the Foundation to replace the stepping stones at Veteran's Memorial Park with a concrete sidewalk.

Jeff Urban asked the status of selling the vehicles at the City's impound lot. Chief Ridley stated the letters are done to the owners of the vehicles and notice has to be published in the paper for 2 consecutive issues and then the sale can be scheduled. He also reported on an issue with the Dodge Charger, which has been hauled to the dealership in Phillipsburg because of a computer problem. Jeff scheduled a Public Safety Committee meeting on Monday, November 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Chriss McDiffett reported on the Airport Board meeting. A person is interested in a new hangar at the airport and is supposed to be getting the board a site plan to review.

Chriss McDiffett stated he, Chad and Dan Bainter met with J.P. Metzler regarding a plan for the streets. A street survey form has been prepared and the condition of the asphalt streets will be surveyed and evaluated.

Gary Lacy stated the Utility Committee discussed regulations regarding the wellfield at their last committee meeting, and would like to review this topic further and come to a solution. Chad stated he needs to get some information from the City's new KDHE representative before the committee meets.

Ron Briery scheduled a Personnel Meeting on Monday, November 21 at 3:30 p.m. to discuss creating a sick leave bank. If the committee has recommendations, they will be forwarded to the City Attorney for a resolution to be prepared and presented to council on December 7. Ron stated 3 employees have submitted notice of retirement during the month of December.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Dennis Gilhousen to approve Appropriating Ordinance #22. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery to adjourn. Council adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Mayor: _____
James L. Miller