

September 21, 2016

The Norton City Council met in regular session Wednesday, September 21, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., with Mayor Miller presiding. Council members present were Jerry Jones, Dennis Gilhousen, Chriss McDiffett, Gary Lacy and Ron Briery. Jeff Urban was absent. Others present were Eric Hethcoat, Justine Benoit, Jacob Hess, Dana Hess, Fred Wetter, Dana Paxton, Dan Sisk, Jamie Amlong, Dan Bainter, Ron Ridley, Karen Griffiths, Chad Buckley and Darla Ellis.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to approve the September 7, 2016, council meeting minutes as written. Vote taken. Motion carried.

The following building permits and sidewalk replacement requests were presented:

<i>Louis Keiswetter</i>	<i>\$ 1,500 – Demolition of dwelling at 519 E. Lincoln</i>
<i>Redeemer Lutheran Church</i>	<i>\$ 1,700 – Construct front porch at 1013 Churchill Drive</i>
<i>Michael Bailey</i>	<i>\$ 4,000 – Convert carport into garage at 312 W. Woodsfield</i>
<i>Ashley Brown</i>	<i>\$ 6,000 – Reroofing at 810 N. Wabash</i>
<i>Mark Richmeier</i>	<i>\$ 5,220 – Reroofing at 403 N. Brown Ave.</i>
<i>Myron Beitz</i>	<i>\$ 8,500 – Reroofing at 307 Sun Ave.</i>
<i>Cody Linner</i>	<i>\$ 7,500 – Reroofing at 502 E. Main</i>

Berlier Family Trust #1 – Replace 67' of sidewalk at 506 N. First and 508 N. First Ave.

Jacob and Dana Hess were present regarding a fence they are building on the north side of their property at 107 N. Graves. They had set some of the posts and were notified by the Code Inspector that some of the posts are in the city's designated alley. They requested permission to leave the posts where they are, with the first post being 18" on the alley. City Attorney Karen Griffiths stated the city has never allowed people to build in the alley, and the City cannot allow them to leave the posts unless they have the property surveyed and show they are not in the city's designated alley. Jacob and Dana left the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

Fred Wetter stated he reviewed the ordinances regarding open burning and discussed the exemptions. Dennis Gilhousen stated the Public Safety Committee recently discussed the open burning regulations.

Eric Hethcoat of BG Consultants was present to discuss the proposed 2017 electrical grant project. He stated the proposed project includes improving the main substation by replacing most of the equipment in the main substation, with smaller modifications being made at the pool and hospital substations. It also includes moving the circuits that serve the City from the power plant building into the substation, so nothing viable would be left in the power plant. The City could then consider having the power plant building razed. After the project is complete, the electrical system would be safe and reliable for the future. The City will have a Public Hearing on October 5 at 5:00 p.m., to consider an application for a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant to fund a portion of the project. The grant award would be in January of 2017.

Mayor Miller stated he and Chad attended a League meeting in Colby, and learned that during future executive sessions, the motion needs to specify the time that the session is starting and ending.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to approve Resolution #16-2016, finding the structure at 208 E. Woodsfield Street to be unsafe and dangerous, and requiring the abatement of such conditions. The landowner or agent has 30 days from September 21st to remove the structure and personal property; the City will abate the conditions if it has not been done after 30 days. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Gary Lacy to approve Resolution #17-2016, finding the structure at 433 S. First Street to be unsafe and dangerous, and requiring the abatement of such conditions. The landowner or agent has 30 days from September 21st to remove the structure and personal property; the City will abate the conditions if it has not been done after 30 days. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Chad Buckley reported the Street Committee will meet Thursday, September 22 at 5:00 p.m. An appreciation barbecue for the emergency responders will be held this Saturday, September 24 in Elmwood Park beginning at 5:30 p.m. The bid opening for the CDBG street project will be held Thursday, September 29 at 3:00 p.m. The city-wide fall clean up days have been scheduled for October 17, 18 and 19, 2016.

Motion was made by Chriss McDiffett and seconded by Dennis Gilhousen to approve the request for water and sewer services outside the city limits for Roger and Mary Jane Wahlmeier at 11406 Pineview Drive, contingent upon them signing a Consent to Annexation form and agreeing to pay the standard fees for monthly services outside the city limits. The City's maintenance of the sewer will end at the manhole. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Chriss McDiffett and seconded by Gary Lacy to give the pile of millings from the Highway 36 project which have been stored in Valley Hope's parking lot to Valley Hope, to be used for the base of their new parking lot. Chriss stated the City saved some money on the highway project by not having one of the entrances at Valley Hope, and the City appreciates having them in Norton. Vote taken. Motion carried 3-1 with Ron Briery voting no and Dennis Gilhousen abstaining from the vote.

Motion was made by Chriss McDiffett and seconded by Gary Lacy to approve the Norton Telegram's curb and sidewalk replacement request at 215 S. Kansas Avenue as per their plan to replace the existing concrete area with a 5' sidewalk, a 7' landscaped area, and curb and gutter. The City will provide the labor for the sidewalk and curb and gutter and the Telegram will pay for the concrete and materials. A private contractor will do the landscaping. Jerry Jones stated he thought the City should be reimbursed for their labor to remove the concrete area that will be replaced with landscaping. Vote taken. Motion carried 4-1 with Jerry Jones voting no.

The Highway 36 project should be completed within the next few weeks. The abandoned railroad tracks along the Nebraska, Kansas & Colorado Railway Corridor are being pulled out; drainage where the tracks cross on West Lincoln was discussed.

Dennis Gilhousen reported the Parks Committee met with the Horse Council regarding power to the new announcer stand; the Horse Council will be responsible for getting electricity to the building. The Committee also discussed work being done to winterize the pool, and will advertise for a race promoter.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to suspend the rules and waive the three reading requirement of Ordinance #1691, amending Municipal Court Costs. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to adopt Ordinance #1691, amending Chapter 9, Article 1 of the Norton City Code relating to Municipal Court Costs for the City of Norton, Kansas. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Jerry Jones to reclassify the Police/Court Clerk position from a 30 hour per week position to a permanent full-time position. Vote taken. Motion carried 4-1 with Ron Briery voting no.

Motion was made by Chriss McDiffett and seconded by Jerry Jones to approve Appropriating Ordinance #18 as a whole. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery to adjourn. Council adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Mayor: _____
James L. Miller