

**January 4, 2017**

The Norton City Council met in regular session Wednesday, January 4, 2017, at 5:30 p.m., with Mayor Jim Miller presiding. Council members present were Jerry Jones, Jeff Urban, Chriss McDiffett, Gary Lacy and Ron Briery. Dennis Gilhousen was absent. Others present were Keli Habiger, Shawn Gosselin, Robert Bowman, Dana Paxton, Dan Bainter, Jamie Amlong, Ron Ridley, Karen Griffiths, Chad Buckley and Darla Ellis.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to approve the December 21, 2016, council meeting minutes as written. Vote taken. Motion carried.

The following building permits were presented:

Chase & Abby Rice - \$300,000 – Construct new commercial building at 104 S. Second Street

M.J. Ward (Thistle) - \$ 15,000 – Remodel commercial building at 126 S. State Street

Keli Habiger, Economic Development Director, was present to update the Council on economic development activity over the last 6 months. She stated three E-community loans have been approved and \$27,000 in tax credits have been sold. Economic Development is hosting the first Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge in Norton County on March 1, 2017. It includes a high school age group competition and a junior high competition. Keli also stated she is working with John Engelbert on a possible revolving loan fund project. She reported on the status of the East Norton development in the Blickenstaff addition and the council discussed the housing projects with her. She stated she appreciates the City's support.

Shawn Gosselin was present to discuss the new building project at 104 S. Second. He stated he had met with the Code Inspector before any dirt work was done and they agreed the new building would be in line with the other buildings on the block. He said he thought he had verbal permission to proceed, and trenched and poured the footings. He said a week later, the Code Inspector contacted the main contractor and said the footings needed moved 2 feet to the west. Chad Buckley stated the building permit should have been approved before any work started. Chriss McDiffett stated a set of plans needs to be required and approved before anything is started. Chad stated the Planning Commission has been discussing this and is working towards requiring site plan reviews for new construction in the future.

Mayor Miller stated a committee has been surveying the street conditions and determining the best way to fix the problems. He said he hopes the sidewalk projects can be put aside while the streets are worked on this summer.

Karen Griffiths reported she contacted Wes Bainter regarding his housing project in Ryan Addition. He plans to finish the four housing projects and would like the Council to give him until September 1, 2017 to have everything finished. He has agreed to use new trusses, and not to use the siding that has been onsite for months and is weathered. The siding on the last 4 units was supposed to be replaced and hasn't been. The fencing is down again also. Karen and Chad will take pictures at the project site and send them to Wes. City Council had set a deadline of June 1, 2017 during their November 16, 2016 council meeting, and felt that deadline was sufficient. Karen Griffiths will talk to Randy Hrabe with Northwest Kansas Housing regarding the City's options.

City Administrator Chad Buckley stated several employees and firemen will be attending a Kansas Fire and Rescue Training course in Norton on January 14. Crews are picking up tree limbs and making electrical repairs from the Christmas storm. The water service for the new fitness center has been installed on S. Second Street. Chad also reported he is getting information regarding a more permanent aeration system in the digester to discuss with the Utility Committee in the future.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Gary Lacy to give a 2% cost of living adjustment to all full time city employees effective with the January 18 pay date. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Jerry Jones stated the Public Safety Committee met and is looking for financing options for a new fire truck. Ron Briery suggested contacting the Fire Chief at Smith Center for grant options.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to adopt Resolution #1-2017, waiving the annual requirement of generally accepted accounting principles and fixed asset accounting for the calendar year ending December 31, 2017. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Jeff Urban to approve Appropriating Ordinance #1 as a whole. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery to adjourn. Council adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_  
James L. Miller