

March 1, 2017

The Norton City Council met in regular session Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 5:30 p.m., with Mayor Jim Miller presiding. Council members present were Jerry Jones, Dennis Gilhousen, Jeff Urban, Chriss McDuffett, Gary Lacy and Ron Briery. Others present were David and Debbie Graham, Vern and Maryln Keiser, Jerry Hawks, Robert Bowman, Dana Paxton, Dan Bainter, Dan Sisk, Ron Ridley, Karen Griffiths, Chad Buckley and Darla Ellis.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Dennis Gilhousen to approve the February 15, 2017, council meeting minutes as written. Vote taken. Motion carried.

The following building permits were presented:

Midwest Energy - \$ 6000 – Remodel commercial building at 208 N. State Street

Chad Buckley - \$ 1000 – Construct greenhouse at 509 N. Second Ave.

Wes Bainter, Inc. – Permit Renewals for 1001, 1003, 1005 and 1007 Reagan Ave.

Vern and Maryln Kaiser were present to discuss a proposed ordinance to reduce the speed limit on Armory Drive from 30 mph to 20 mph. Mayor Miller stated the school had expressed concern regarding children's safety due to the excessive speed on Armory Drive. Vern asked if the speed limit will be enforced if it is reduced to 20 mph. Chief Ridley stated there are six separate locations regarding school safety to enforce and they are limited by their number of staff. Dave and Debbie Graham expressed their concern also, and stated there are no speed limit signs in front of the Eisenhower School. The cedar trees on the north side of the school block the view of the new parking lot also. The proposed ordinance was referred back to the Public Safety Committee for further discussion on March 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Dan Sisk stated it was reported at the last council meeting that 5 street lights were out on Highway 36. He stated only 2 lights were out and they have been fixed.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to amend Ordinance #1695, to include paragraph F regarding a grandfather clause for the existing storage container at 308 ½ N. Grant. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Dennis Gilhousen to waive the formal third reading of Ordinance #1695 as amended. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to adopt Ordinance #1695, as amended, regarding Chapter 16 of the City Code as it pertains to zoning regulations within the City of Norton, regarding the regulation of temporary storage/shipping containers. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Mayor Miller reported a letter was received from the Kansas Water Office regarding an agreement for Keith Sebelius Reservoir. He would like the Utility Committee to study the issue and then he would like a joint Utility/Finance work session scheduled to discuss it.

Karen Griffiths stated she and Chad discussed demolition properties. After three years elapse from the time the cost is assessed, the City can request a tax sale and the proceeds from the sale would be used to pay for the lien. In the past, some cities have gotten ownership of a property after demolition, but in those cases there was an agreement with the property owner. State statute doesn't allow you to automatically take the property after demolition.

Municipal Judge Jerry Hawks stated he was present to answer questions regarding releasing a pit bull back to an owner rather than putting it down. He stated the dog was never ordered to be put down during the history of the case, which began in October of 2014. The dog was declared to be vicious and then fell under the vicious dog requirements. It was found loose again in December of 2015, and was ordered to leave town and never return. It was found in Norton again in February and impounded. The dog was released to the out of town owner, after payment of impoundment fees. The Prosecutor is getting information to determine if additional charges should be filed for disobeying a previous court order. Judge Hawks stated if the Council ever has any questions regarding Municipal court, he would be happy to meet with them.

Police Chief Ron Ridley reported the trial of Bobby J. Tallent has concluded this afternoon, with Mr. Tallent entering into a plea agreement where he plead guilty to lesser charges. Sentencing is scheduled for May 1.

Chad Buckley reported the Planning Commission met and discussed the remapping of the designated zones within the City. J.P. Metzler of RMA Engineering has agreed to provide a new map for the city and also send an electronic copy in for the City website. It will be updated with vacated alleys and other changes.

Chad Buckley stated the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the National Mill Dog Rescue worked with City Officials on Sunday, February 26, to take custody of 63 dogs located in a house in the 500 block of W. Washington Street. Chad stated he would like to thank everyone who helped in this process. He also reported he will begin interviews this week for the engineering students which have applied for the Engineering Intern position provided by the Hansen Foundation and K-State Extension.

Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Ron Briery to approve the purchase of a Rhino DB150 mower for \$10,795.45 from Landmark Implement, Inc. of Arapahoe, Nebraska, to be paid from line item 01.16.454. This would be purchased instead of the grasshopper mower which was budgeted. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Ron Briery to go into Executive Session at 6:14 p.m. for 20 minutes until 6:34 p.m to discuss non-elected personnel, with the Governing Body and the City Administrator present. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Council returned to regular session at 6:34 p.m. No motions were made as a result of Executive Session.

Chad stated the Crane Street project will start in May. A preconstruction meeting will be held and he hopes to have an informational public meeting for homeowners and interested parties. Gary Lacy asked if some curb work could be added since the project came in under bid. Chad will talk to Thaniel about it.

Jerry Jones asked if the City is going to do anything on Washington Street this summer. Chad stated water lines are being done first. He stated the Public Works Committee will need to meet and talk about chip sealing and other street projects and prioritize the projects.

Dennis Gilhousen asked if the contractor has fixed the parks building roof yet. Chad said he has not.

Motion was made by Gary Lacy and seconded by Jerry Jones to waive the formal first reading of Ordinance #1698, pro-rating utility billings for owners of rental properties, based on the date services revert to them. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Gary Lacy to waive the formal first reading of Ordinance #1697, designating a stop intersection on W. Wilberforce at Grant Avenue. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to adopt Resolution #6-2017, amending the Norton Personnel Rules regarding payment for travel and training time. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to go into Executive Session at 6:47 p.m. for 30 minutes until 7:17 p.m. to discuss non-elected personnel, with the Mayor, Council, Administrator and City Attorney present. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Council returned to regular session at 7:17 p.m. No motions were made as a result of Executive Session.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to approve Appropriating Ordinance #5 as a whole. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Dennis Gilhousen to recess, to reconvene on Friday, March 3 at 9:00 a.m. Council recessed at 7:23 p.m.

March 3, 2017

The Norton City Council reconvened in regular session Friday, March 3, 2017, at 9:00 a.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 Missy Amlong, Kelly Sweet, Bethany and David Porter, Ron Ridley, Karen Griffiths, Chad Buckley and Darla Ellis.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to go into Executive Session at 9:01 a.m. for 30 minutes until 9:31 a.m., to discuss non-elected personnel with the Mayor, Council, Administrator and City Attorney present. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Council resumed in regular session at 9:31 a.m. Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to return to Executive Session at 9:36 a.m. for 15 minutes until 9:51 a.m., to discuss non-elected personnel with the Mayor, Council, Administrator and City Attorney present. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Council resumed in regular session at 9:51 a.m. Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to return to Executive Session at 9:52 a.m. for 10 minutes until 10:02 a.m., to discuss non-elected personnel with the Mayor, Council, Administrator and City Attorney present. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Council resumed in regular session at 10:02 a.m. Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to authorize City Administrator Chad Buckley to negotiate for the City with Chief of Police Ron Ridley regarding his employment agreement with the City of Norton. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery to adjourn. Council adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Mayor: _____
James L. Miller