

April 5, 2017

The Norton City Council met in regular session Wednesday, April 5, 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 Bob Neff, Robert Bowman, Dale Henry, Cameron Archer, Jamie Amlong, Dan Bainter, Dan Sisk, Karen Griffiths, Mark Dewees, Chad Buckley and Darla Ellis.

Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Chriss McDuffett to approve the March 15, 2017, council meeting minutes as written. Vote taken. Motion carried.

The following building permits and sidewalk/curb replacement requests were presented:

Shad Chandler - \$140,000 – Construct airport hangar at Norton City/County Airport
Bruce Weigel - \$ 3,000 – Re-roofing at 910 Kennedy Drive
Betty Brooks - \$ 7,500 – Re-roofing at 1005 Eisenhower
Mary Gnagy - \$ 7,500 – Re-roofing at 406 E. Waverly
Karla Reed - \$ 500 – Re-roofing garage at 814 N. Grant
Dennis Paden - \$ 5,053 – Re-roofing at 513 N. Grant
Bill Peterson - \$ 6,317 – Re-roofing at 812 N. Grant
Richard Voss – Sidewalk and Curb Replacement request at 208 & 210 E. Washington Street
Delma Lee - Sidewalk Replacement request at 409 N. First Street

Bob Neff was present to request the City's assistance with the drag races, as the City has done in the past. He stated the car show is July 8 and they would like to have the drag races again. He will meet with the Airport Board next week to get their approval. The airport property would need to be mowed prior to, and bleachers and trash cans moved to the event. In the past, the police department has also ran radar during the races. Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jeff Urban to provide assistance for the drag races on July 8, contingent upon approval from the Airport Board. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Mayor Miller reported the City of Norton received the award for Most Improved Water System by the Kansas Rural Water Association during their annual conference in March. He congratulated Jamie and the other water plant employees, and also thanked Tom Lasser for his work with the treatment process. Jamie also thanked Pat McCool from KRWA for his help to the City.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Gary Lacy to waive the formal third reading of Ordinance #1697. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Dennis Gilhousen to adopt Ordinance #1697, designating a stop intersection on W. Wilberforce at Grant Avenue. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Gary Lacy and seconded by Jerry Jones to waive the formal third reading of Ordinance #1698. Vote taken. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Miller reported Tony Grysch has resigned his position on the Tourism Committee. Mick Miller has expressed interest in filling the vacant position. Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to accept the Mayor's appointment of Mick Miller to fill the unexpired term on the Tourism Committee, with the term expiring January 31, 2018. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Karen Griffiths explained an ordinance allowing the City to create a Land Bank to purchase or obtain properties that have been abandoned or foreclosed upon, and maintain and facilitate the redevelopment, marketing, and/or disposal of the properties. A Land Bank Committee comprised of the Mayor and City Council would be established to oversee the Land Bank. Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Gary Lacy to waive the formal first reading of Ordinance #1699, establishing a City Land Bank pursuant to KSA 12-5901, et seq., within the City of Norton, Norton County, Kansas. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Interim Police Chief Mark Dewees reported the Public Auction for the abandoned vehicles in the City's impound lot will be held on Saturday, April 22 at 10 a.m. in front of City Hall. The impound lot will be open that morning before the auction to allow the public time to view the vehicles prior to the auction.

Jerry Jones asked about a situation recently where an individual was reported walking around with a rifle and several businesses went on lockdown. He stated he felt the local radio station should have been notified of the situation and that everything was okay with no criminal intent. Mark Dewees stated he put something on the Police Department's Facebook page to notify the public that there was not a cause for concern.

Chad Buckley reported the KSU engineering student that had previously accepted the summer engineering intern position has decided to continue taking classes this summer rather than take the intern position. FHSU will be contacted to see if they have any engineering students who might be interested. Chad also reported on various work projects being completed by city crews.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Jeff Urban to approve the bid from Norton Sheet Metal of \$7,295 to replace the east air conditioner unit on the north side of the Library. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Gary Lacy to authorize the City Administrator to sign an Access to Property Agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the Norton Carbon Tetrachloride Site. A contractor will be in Norton to test for underground contaminants during the weeks of April 10 and April 17. City crews will be working closely with the contractor to locate utilities ahead of the soil probing. Vote taken. Motion carried.

City Administrator Chad Buckley reported the Pre-construction Conference for the CDBG Street project will be held on Thursday, April 6 at 2 p.m. at the City Office. A public information meeting regarding the project will be held later that day at 5:30 p.m. at the Library Community Room with the Engineer.

The School offered to give their unused platform merry-go-round to the City to be used in one of the City parks. Dennis Gilhousen said there is not a good place for it at the pool park and there is not room in the mulched area in Elmwood Park. Chriss McDuffett suggested Tweed Park. Dennis Gilhousen said he appreciates the School's offer, but thinks the City should decline.

Chad Buckley reported Define will be closing the street in front of their business for an Open House on Saturday, April 8. They will have activities in front of the business from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

It was announced that the funding of the 2017 CDBG Electrical Project may be in jeopardy if the federal fiscal year 2017 budget is not approved or the program is eliminated. The Engineer for the project has been notified to not start the design until the City knows whether the funding will be approved.

Jeff Urban stated the City Employee Handbook specifies that the employees should be allowed two rest periods each day which should not exceed 20 minutes in length; the Handbook does not say that an employee has to take his own vehicle to break or that they have to use vacation for their break. He said the City has very dedicated employees who do their job, and breaks have never been abused. Mayor Miller said the breaks are a benefit to the employees and are on paid time by the City; the City does not have to give 20 minutes, and vacation time can be required if they take more than 20 minutes. He said concerns about abuse have been received and suggested that it be discussed by the Personnel Committee. He said nobody is being denied a break; they are just being told it is limited to 20 minutes.

Chriss McDuffett said the Public Works Committee discussed the proposed sidewalk north of Armory Drive. Kellen Jacobs is working on this project and has the City's support. He stated street work for this summer was discussed, and they plan to start on Sunset along the curb and gutter. They also plan to try and improve the flow pan on the east side at West and Woodfield. They will visit with the residents along there first.

Motion was made by Chriss McDuffett and seconded by Gary Lacy to approve Delma Lee's request for sidewalk replacement at 409 N. First. The City will provide the labor and the property owner is responsible for the cost of material; the project might not get done until fall. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Chriss McDuffett and seconded by Jeff Urban to approve Richard Voss's request for curb and sidewalk replacement at 208 and 210 E. Washington Street. The City will provide the labor and the property owner is responsible for the cost of materials. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Chriss McDuffett and seconded by Gary Lacy to approve Farm Bureau's request for concrete replacement at 205 N. Kansas. They will hire a private contractor to replace the sidewalk and driveway, and the City will pay for the sidewalk concrete only. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Gary Lacy stated the new basketball goals at Mapes Park look very nice. Electric Distribution Supervisor Dan Sisk reported on the status of the hospital project.

Motion was made by Gary Lacy and seconded by Chriss McDuffett to accept the low bid of \$108,146.10 from Equipment Technology, LLC, for a 2017 bucket truck; sales tax will be about \$9,192. The other bid received was from Altec Industries, Inc. for \$112,132.00. Jerry Jones said the City is in need of a new fire truck or the City could lose their fire rating. Jeff Urban said he agrees the fire equipment replacement is more important. Ron Briery agreed and said the electric department's current equipment is good. Vote taken. Motion tied 3-3 with Dennis Gilhousen, Gary Lacy, and Chriss McDuffett voting yes and Ron Briery, Jerry Jones, and Jeff Urban voting no. Mayor Miller broke the tie by voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Gary Lacy and seconded by Chriss McDuffett to approve the bid from Solutions North Bank for a 4 year lease purchase agreement to finance \$88,000 at 3.25% interest. The following bids were received: Solutions North Bank - 3.25%; The Bank - 3.97%; First State Bank - 4.75%. Vote taken. Motion tied 3-3 with Dennis Gilhousen, Gary Lacy, and Chriss McDuffett voting yes and Ron Briery, Jerry Jones, and Jeff Urban voting no. Mayor Miller broke the tie by voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Dennis Gilhousen to approve Appropriating Ordinance #7 as a whole. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Jerry Jones said he would like to require the employees to document their overtime on their timesheets by listing the time they are called out and the time they finish the work, for record keeping purposes.

Motion was made by Ron Briery to adjourn. Council adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Mayor: _____
James L. Miller