

March 21, 2018

The Norton City Council met in regular session Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at 5:30 p.m., with Mayor Jim Miller presiding. Council members present were Jerry Jones, Dennis Gilhousen, Mark Dewees, Chriss McDiffett, Gary Lacy, and Ron Briery. Others present were Chris Murphy, Robert Bowman, Dana Paxton, Dan Bainter, Jacob Stenka, Cynthia Cullumber, Gerry Cullumber, Cameron Archer, Kyle Jones, Karen Griffiths, and Darla Ellis.

Chief Cullumber led those present in the Flag Salute. Chris Murphy gave the invocation.

Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Ron Briery to approve the March 7, 2018 city council meeting minutes as written. Vote taken. Motion carried.

The following building permits were presented:

Lucille Retke - \$ 6,800 – Reroofing at 307 W. Warsaw

Ann & Jeff Wolf - \$10,600 – Repair damage to garage at 322 N. Norton Ave.

Fire Chief Cameron Archer reported the Fire Department applied for a Hansen Grant to help with the purchase of a new fire truck, and were notified today that they have been awarded a \$50,000 grant. Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to proceed with the lease purchase of a new fire truck, and request lease purchase bids from the local banks for a 10 year term, with the \$50,000 grant funds being used as a down payment for the fire truck. Cameron will get an updated quote for the fire truck. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Mayor Miller reported James Moreau, who was selected for the City Administrator position, has accepted the position and was in Norton yesterday to sign his employment agreement and look for housing. Mayor Miller also discussed the certification requirements for the water and sewer plant employees and stated the employees who are not certified need to take their certification tests and get certified.

Karen Griffiths reported she sent a demand letter to AT&T regarding damage caused by their fiber optic cable which was bored through the City's sewer line. AT&T has made arrangements to have a contractor in Norton on March 29th to fix the damage.

Chief of Police Gerry Cullumber reported the City received \$1,240 from the public auction held on March 10, and he will be selling additional vehicles from the impound lot through PurpleWave after the required publication is complete. Gerry also introduced Jacob Stenka from Hebron, Nebraska, who started employment as a Police Officer last week.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to approve the proposal from Seewald Construction Company in the amount of \$12,680 to repair the tile and the Diamond Brite surface at the swimming pool. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to approve the 2018 Elmwood Park Schedule of Events. It was unknown if a car race will be held on Saturday during the Norton County fair; if a race is requested, the request will be presented to council for approval at a later date. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Jerry Jones stated there is a problem with stickers at the ballfields, since they were not sprayed on time last year. Kyle Wright has spent numerous hours working on the fields to take care of the problem.

Dennis Gilhousen stated the Utility Committee will meet on March 22 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the filter project at the water plant, and again on March 26 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the water situation at the football field with representatives from the School Board and the Superintendent.

Mark Dewees discussed proposed changes to the employee handbook, which include changing the anniversary date after a promotion, making clarifications to family care under the sick leave policy, and changing the employee pay scale so all department heads are on the same range. Motion was made by Mark Dewees and seconded by Jerry Jones to approve Resolution #6-2018, making additions and amendments to the City of Norton Employee Handbook and Norton Personnel Rules. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Chriss McDiffett reported the street improvement project was put out for bid last Friday. A pre-bid meeting has been set for April 9 and the bid opening will be April 16. The earliest construction start date is May 1 and the substantial completion date is November 2.

Motion was made by Chriss McDiffett and seconded by Gary Lacy to approve the Placement Agent Engagement Agreement with George K. Baum & Company to provide the City with investment banking services for temporary notes for the street improvement project, at a cost of 1% of the par amount of the temporary notes. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Chriss McDiffett stated a request was received for sidewalk replacement at 402 S. Second Street. He asked staff to discuss details of the request with the homeowner and then it will be considered.

Chriss McDiffett asked if the City should set a minimum amount that will be accepted for the purchase of the 1970 Chevy pickup which the City is accepting sealed bids on. Council decided it was not necessary since it was advertised that the City had the right to accept or reject any or all bids. A Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled to open and consider the bids after the March 31 bid deadline.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Dennis Gilhousen to approve Appropriating Ordinance #6 as a whole. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery to adjourn. Council adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Mayor: _____
James L. Miller