

**June 5, 2019**

The Norton City Council met in regular session Wednesday, June 5, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., with Mayor Jim Miller presiding. Council members present were Jerry Jones, Dennis Gilhousen, Robert Bowman, Gerald Jones, Donna Foley, and Ron Briery. Others present were Jonathon Herald, Jessica Norris, Rick Rostek, Donna Liddle, Dean Liddle, Jeff LeClair, Abbey Horn, Joseph Shelton, Cindy Cullumber, Jody Enfield, Gerry Cullumber, Karen Griffiths, James Moreau, and Darla Ellis. Rick Rostek gave the invocation.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Gerald Jones to approve the May 15, 2019 city council meeting minutes. Vote taken. Motion carried.

The following building permits were presented:

Bill / Amy Vacura – \$ 3,000 - Construct carport and re-roof house at 306 S. Norton  
Chris Cuthbertson - \$ 2,000 – Cut in garage door into block wall at 1118 N. State Street  
Brad/Christy Harding - \$27,000 – Replace deck with addition at 1018 Truman  
Mark Ulmer - \$ 1,700 – Re-roof house and demolish garage at 207 N. Norton  
Bruce Anderson - \$ 1,138 – Re-roof house at 401 E. Main

Jonathon Herald was present representing Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center. They serve 34 counties and their mission is to heal the trauma of abuse to children and adults through prevention, support and services. They now have a medical mobile unit to do medical exams to collect evidence with two registered nurses on staff, as well as two young men who are youth mentors. They assisted with 519 cases last year with 25 cases from Norton County. They receive funding from cities, counties and private donations, and asked the City to consider contributing again to help them continue to serve the area. Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Ron Briery to contribute \$2,500 to the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Jessica Norris of Nex-Tech, Inc. was present to discuss their telephone franchise agreement and video service agreement. The telephone franchise agreement requires notice six months prior to its expiration if changes are wanted; the franchise fee is currently 4% of annual gross receipts. The video service agreement requires notice one year prior to its expiration if changes are wanted; the franchise fee is currently 3% of annual gross revenues. Each agreement automatically renews for five successive years if no changes are requested. The agreements were referred to the Utility Committee to review and then the City will notify Jessica of their recommendations. Jessica also discussed other programs offered by Nex-Tech, including the Nex-Generation program, which currently has 7 intern positions in Norton County.

Mayor Miller expressed his appreciation to the volunteers who are giving their time to plant and water the flower pots downtown.

Karen Griffiths reported on the revised zoning maps which have been prepared to be consistent with the new zoning regulations adopted by Ordinance #1724, which implemented new zoning and use district regulations as recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Robert Bowman to suspend the rules and waive the 3 reading requirement for Ordinance #1725. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Jerry Jones to adopt Ordinance #1725, incorporating by reference the City's official zoning map to be in conformance with zoning regulations adopted by Ordinance #1724. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Karen Griffiths reported the City of Norton made a proposal to NKCR Railroad in 2017 to acquire the right-of-way from Graves Street west to W1. The Railroad never responded to the offer, so the deal was never completed. A local group, LIRR LLC, has been working behind the scenes to acquire the NKCR right of way that was going to be abandoned through Norton County. Karen stated she would like to meet with the Parks Committee on June 10 at 4 p.m. to discuss this issue.

Chief Cullumber stated the recent Purple Wave auction for impounded vehicles has closed, and the recent Coffee with a Cop was well attended. He also reported Officer Jacob Stenka has submitted his resignation. Chief Cullumber said he would like to require a contract for future police department officers. Future officers hired that are not certified, would be required to sign the contract, committing to stay with the City for 3 years after they are certified. If they resign prior to 3 years, they would be required to pay the City back for the cost of certification and uniforms. Karen and Chief Cullumber will work out terms for the contract and then meet with the Public Safety Committee for discussion.

James Moreau stated he has recently purchased a pneumatic roller and wood chipper from Purple Wave, and both have been delivered and used by the City departments. He also reported the Police Clerk/Court Clerk continues her efforts in writing letters to collect past-due court fines.

Donna Foley reported the Personnel Committee met and discussed proposed changes to the employee pay scale and the sick leave policy. Motion was made by Donna Foley and seconded by Ron Briery to adopt Resolution #10-2019, amending Article 3-4 and Article 4-5 of the Employee Handbook. Article 3-4 is amended by adding steps M and N to the pay scale; an employee would remain at the previous step (step L

and M) for 5 years before being eligible for an additional step increase with a satisfactory annual review. Article 4-5 is amended to state an employee who leaves employment without working for the City for a minimum of 5 consecutive years will not be paid for any accrued sick leave. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to adopt Resolution #9-2019, allowing the consumption of enhanced cereal malt beverages at a special event on public property in the City on July 12, and allowing the closure of public streets and alleys on July 12 and July 13 for the Norton Car Show. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to approve the Norton Chamber of Commerce's special event enhanced cereal malt beverage license for the Norton Car Show on Friday, July 12 in a confined, roped off area at Washington Street Park. Vote taken. Motion carried.

James Moreau stated the Public Works department will spray mosquitos every Wednesday evening throughout the summer, starting this evening. He also reported they are planning to run the new street sweeper every week, to pick up loose gravel and other debris around town.

Dennis Gilhousen stated the City's Procurement Policy has been reviewed and updated. The prior policy was established in 2005 and was outdated. Revisions include increasing the City Administrator's and Supervisor's spending authority and also prepares a procedural manual to outline the methods of procurement for all city purchases. Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Ron Briery to adopt Resolution #11-2019, adopting a Procurement Policy for the City of Norton, and repealing Resolution #15-2005. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Dennis Gilhousen to approve Appropriating Ordinance #11 as a whole. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery to adjourn. Council adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

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

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