

August 3, 2016

The Norton City Council met in regular session Wednesday, August 3, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., with Mayor Jim Miller presiding. Council members present were Jerry Jones, Dennis Gilhousen, Jeff Urban, Chriss McDiffett, Gary Lacy and Ron Briery. Others present were Tom Lasser, Craig Eveleigh, Lisa Herman, Cameron Archer, Jamie Amlong, Dan Bainter, Ron Ridley, Karen Griffiths, Chad Buckley and Darla Ellis.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to approve the July 20, 2016, council meeting minutes as written. Vote taken. Motion carried.

The following building permits and sidewalk replacement requests were presented:

Larry J. Enfield - Replace curb at NE corner of Main & Second Street intersection

Marcus Ulmer - Replace sidewalk at 111 N. Wabash

Craig Eveleigh, President of the Norton County Community Services Association, was present to ask what the City's plans are for the old parks building in Elmwood Park. He stated they have outgrown their building and would like to use it as their maintenance building for the fair. The Parks Committee will meet to discuss this and will invite him to the meeting.

Tom Lasser was present to discuss the status of their chemical process at the water plant. He will continue to work with the Water Plant staff to run tests and discussed the savings that will result from the changes.

Jerry Hawks stated the new Police/Court clerk has had 2 days of onsite training with Data Technologies. They are working on getting old cases closed out that have been paid off. Ron Ridley reported she is doing a good job in the Police Department as well. Amanda Dreher has also started her orientation and will be sworn in as a Police Officer at the next council meeting. Brock Blackstone has completed his paperwork and will start shift work later this week. Jerry Jones asked if they could come to the next city council meeting to be introduced.

Motion was made by Jeff Urban and seconded by Jerry Jones to waive the formal third reading of Ordinance #1688. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jeff Urban and seconded by Jerry Jones to adopt Ordinance #1688, repealing Sections 7-401 through 7-408 concerning fire insurance proceeds funds for the City of Norton, and adopting in its place certain insurance proceeds funds, within the City of Norton. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Ron Ridley reported a First Responders Appreciation Day will be held in Elmwood Park on August 27 from 5:30 to 8:30, and will be open to the public. Tim Sprigg will provide music and food will be served. Donations are being accepted to cover the costs.

Chad Buckley reported the City Council is invited to Valley Hope's annual meeting and dinner on August 18. He also reported on activity of the various city crews, and stated the Highway 36 Geometric Improvement project continues to progress.

The Public Safety Committee discussed the purchase of city cell phones. Nex-Tech has quoted a plan for 5 phones. Four of the phones would be used by the police department and one phone would be used by the City Administrator. Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jeff Urban to approve the purchase of 5 cell phones from Nex-Tech for City use. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Gary Lacy to authorize the transfer of \$4,310 from the Electric Fund to the Bond and Interest Fund, to provide sufficient funds for the bond and interest payment due for the Washington Square Bond Issue. This amount will be transferred back to the Electric Fund from the Bond and Interest fund after the next tax distribution is received from Norton County in September. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Cameron Archer asked why the 15 minute parking sign was removed on the west side of City Hall, and stated there is an ordinance which specifies 4 spaces as 15 minute parking and 2 spaces for firemen only. The sign will be replaced next week.

Chriss McDiffett stated the Public Works Committee met and discussed drainage for the CDBG street grant project. They also discussed the sidewalk on W. Crane and recommend to move the sidewalk off of the curb. Moffets' project will start soon and the City will pay for the concrete for the curb and handicap ramps. A sidewalk request has also been received from the Norton Telegram.

City Clerk Darla Ellis reminded the Council the 2017 budget hearing will be held on Wednesday, August 10 at 5:15 p.m. She also stated the property abatement hearing for 615 E. Lincoln is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17 at 5:45 p.m.

Jamie Amlong requested a joint meeting with the Finance Committee and the Utility Committee. It was scheduled for August 15 at 4:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to approve Appropriating Ordinance #15 as a whole. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded Jerry Jones to recess the meeting, to reconvene on August 10 at 5:15 p.m. Vote taken. Motion carried.

August 10, 2016

The Norton City Council reconvened in regular session Wednesday, August 10, 2016, at 5:15 p.m., with Mayor Jim Miller presiding. Council members present were Jerry Jones, Dennis Gilhousen, Chriss McDiffett, Gary Lacy and Ron Briery. Jeff Urban was absent. Others present were Cameron Archer, Ron Ridley, Wilson Ellis, Chad Buckley and Darla Ellis.

Mayor Miller opened a Public Hearing, for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied for 2017. The proposed total 2017 budget expenditures were published as \$13,109,680, with an estimated tax rate of 65.145 mills. The estimated tax rate for 2016 was 59.586. The proposed increase for 2017 is 5.559 mills. There were no comments or questions from the public and the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to approve Resolution #14-2016, expressing the property taxation policy of the City of Norton Governing Body with respect to financing the annual budget for 2017. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to approve the 2017 budget as published and presented. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Ron Briery stated Travel and Tourism has discussed a request to increase the percentage of transient guest tax they give to the Chamber of Commerce from 25% to 35%. If the Chamber of Commerce and Travel and Tourism both approve the change, then the City Council will discuss the change to their agreement.

Wilson Ellis stated his Nex-Generation internship ends this Friday and he wanted to thank the City for allowing him this opportunity. He stated he has really enjoyed it and it was a valuable learning experience.

Mayor Miller reported the city's backhoe has transmission problems so Sellers will need to repair it.

Motion was made by Ron Briery to adjourn. Council adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Mayor: _____
James L. Miller