

February 3, 2016

The Norton City Council met in regular session Wednesday, February 3, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., with Mayor Jim Miller presiding. Council members present were Jerry Jones, Jeff Urban, Chriss McDiffett, Gary Lacy and Ron Briery. Roberta Ryan was absent. Others present were 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 January 20, 2016, council meeting minutes as written. Vote taken. Motion carried.

The following building permits were presented:

Randy & Cindy Linner - \$15,000 – Dwelling remodel at 106 S. Case Ave.

Warren Heaton - \$ 2,520 – Reroofing building at 128 S. State Street

Mayor Miller reported Roberta Ryan has resigned her position for Councilmember of Ward II, effective immediately. Karen Griffiths stated the Mayor has 60 days to appoint a replacement with the consent of the Council. If the position is not filled after 60 days, it would be put to a vote. Mayor Miller stated he might have a recommendation for the next city council meeting.

Mayor Miller thanked all of the crews that helped with snow removal the last few days, and the police department and emergency personnel for all of their work during the recent snow storm.

Karen Griffiths stated there is new legislation being considered regarding the property tax lid, which would advance the tax lid deadline to July 1, 2016. She stated the proposed bill would set the tax lid so the City could not raise taxes above the consumer price index in any year, and they could actually be forced to reduce taxes, if the increase in taxes was not based on specific criteria. Karen will prepare a Resolution in opposition of this legislation for the council to consider at the next meeting.

Chief of Police Ron Ridley reported the 800 MHz radios are in and are being programmed. A shared user agreement must be on file with KDOT prior to activation, and it has been signed and returned. Chief Ridley also reported the Police Clerk position has not been filled and applications are still being accepted.

City Administrator Chad Buckley reported the City was awarded a CDBG grant for street improvements on a portion of Crane and Second Street. A number of city employees have been completing several National Incident Management System classes. Marc Homan of Befria, Inc. met with employees regarding supplemental insurance policies. Gerald Speer will return to the seasonal position of prison crew supervisor for 2016, to supervise a crew to repair the brick streets in Norton. Chad thanked the City crews for their work during the recent snow storm, and also thanked Roberta Ryan for her time on the City Council.

Chad Buckley stated he has been receiving Bobcat bids. Motion was made by Chriss McDiffett and seconded by Gary Lacy to approve the bid of \$34,829.72 from Titan Equipment Company for a 2016 S590 skid steer. The funds will be taken from electric, parks and public works funds. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Chad Buckley stated the City has received several applications for the Apprentice Lineman position. The Utility Committee will meet to review the applications and available financing for the additional position.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to allow Befria, Inc. to offer supplemental insurance to city employees through payroll deductions, at no cost to the city. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Jeff Urban to adopt Resolution #3-2016, adopting the annual salaries for certain city employees of the City for 2016. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Jerry Jones stated someone has started to climb the railroad track right-of-way on the south side of the viaduct by Elmwood Park again, so guardrails need to be put up or something.

Motion was made by Jeff Urban and seconded by Chriss McDuffett to approve the 2016 Norton Arena Schedule to include the following dates and events in Elmwood Park: Smith Memorial Team Roping on May 28; 4-H Open Horse Show on June 25; District Horse Show on July 6-7; 4-H Open Horse Show on July 16; 4-H/FFA Show on July 25; Kids Team Penning on July 26; NCHC Team Roping on July 27; and NCHC Ranch Rodeo on July 28. When dates for other events are determined, they will need to be approved by City Council. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Chriss McDuffett stated the Public Works Committee discussed the water meter policy. They also discussed a request from Thomas Outdoor Sign for a three year lease renewal for the sign located in the parking lot west of the State Street and Washington Street intersection. Chad Buckley was directed to get more information from the Chamber regarding their plan for the parking lot, and possibly have them contact the sign company and negotiate with them directly. The Chamber is discussing street signs to direct visitors to various locations. A final recommendation on the signs will be presented to council. The Committee also discussed the sidewalk on the north side of Moffet Drug. Mayor Miller reminded the Utility Committee they still need to discuss water for the football field.

Ron Briery said he plans to ask Travel and Tourism if they would contribute toward the purchase of Kansas flags. The City will need to purchase additional aluminum poles for the flags if they are purchased.

Motion was made by Gary Lacy and seconded by Chriss McDuffett to approve the Class B Club License for Bullseye Media at 118 S. Kansas Ave. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to approve Appropriating Ordinance #3. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Chriss McDuffett to adjourn. Council adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Mayor: _____
James L. Miller