

January 20, 2016

The Norton City Council met in regular session Wednesday, January 20, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., with Mayor Jim Miller presiding. Council members present were Jerry Jones, Chriss McDiffett, Gary Lacy and Ron Briery. Jeff Urban arrived at 5:32 p.m. Roberta Ryan was absent. Others present were Robert Daniels, Kendra Baker, Robert Bowman, David Cressler, Dana Paxton, Steve Cole, Dan Bainter, Cameron Archer, Ron Ridley, Chad Buckley and Darla Ellis.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to approve the January 6, 2016, council meeting minutes as written. Vote taken. Motion carried.

No building permits were presented.

David Cressler was present to ask permission to have a music event which would be open to the public in Elmwood Park when the weather is nicer. Council stated when he has a specific date and location, he can submit his request for council approval.

Robert Daniels said he received a Notice and Order on the trailer house located at 210 E. Woodfield, giving him 60 days to demolish and remove the structure. He agreed the trailer house needs to go, but stated he will be doing the demolition himself and it is too cold to tear it down right now. He is trying to rectify the problem and asked for more time. Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jeff Urban to give him a 120 day extension from January 20th to have the structure demolished and removed, and if he runs into a problem he can come back and request more time. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to waive the formal third reading of Ordinance #1683. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to adopt Ordinance #1683, relating to the appointments to the Norton City/County Airport, and amending Section 5 of Ordinance #1500. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Gary Lacy to waive the formal third reading of Ordinance #1684. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Gary Lacy to adopt Ordinance #1684, amending Chapter 16, Article 1 of the Norton City Code relating to the appointment dates of the City Planning Commission. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to waive the formal third reading of Charter Ordinance #17. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to adopt Charter Ordinance #17, amending Section 4 of Charter Ordinance #11, relating to the provisions of the Convention and Tourism Committee of the Transient Guest Tax Act. Vote taken. Motion carried.

City Administrator Chad Buckley reported the Hansen Foundation has approved a grant application for a new concrete parking lot west of the intersection of State and Washington. The Public Works crew will remove the existing material, prepare the site, and provide the labor to finish the concrete. Ruth Hartman also informed the City that the Library received funding from the Library Foundation for landscaping along the library building. Chad was asked to get more information on the landscaping they are proposing to do.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to have the City's Public Works crew do the concrete work to finish the pods and the narrow strip between the parking lot and Wilton Street, before the pool opens this year; the concrete will not be colored or stamped. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Darin Riedel met with the Parks Committee regarding landscaping at the Norton Aquatic Center, which included planting new trees. Motion was made by Jerry Jones that Riedel's Garden Center be used as the landscaping contractor for the Norton Aquatic Center, and authorize them to order the oak and pear trees, so they will arrive in time for spring planting. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to retain Riedel's Garden Center to be the landscaper at the Norton Aquatic Center. They would be responsible for whatever landscaping is approved by the City Council at a future date. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Chriss McDiffett and seconded by Gary Lacy to purchase a 2016 Freightliner M2106 with Cummins 300 ISL, Allison automatic, single axle with Newway 20 yard rear load Cobra with kickbar and reeving winch, from Elliott Equipment Company at a cost of \$99,150. This price includes the trade-in of the 2011 International refuse truck, and will be paid from the refuse fund. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Chad Buckley said the City is getting prices for a new skid steer. The Public Works and Finance Committee will meet to discuss this on January 26 at 3:30 p.m.

Chad Buckley reported interviews for Electric Distribution Supervisor were held. Motion was made by Gary Lacy and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to promote Dan Sisk from Lineman to Electric Distribution Supervisor at pay range 16-D. He will have a 6 month probationary period. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Gary Lacy and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to hire Logan Keiswetter as a lineman, at range 12-D. He is available to start on January 25, and he will have a 6 month probationary period. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Marc Homan of Befria, Inc. will meet with city employees on January 26th to discuss the supplemental insurance plans that his company offers.

Chriss McDiffett asked if a preconference date has been set for the Geometric Improvement project for Highway 36. They are projected to start construction in April.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to accept the low bid from 911 Custom and approve the purchase of scene lights for #12 Rescue Unit, at a cost not to exceed \$6400, to be purchased from 01.14.463. This was a budgeted expenses for 2016. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to apply a 1.5% cost of living adjustment to the city pay scale and all city salaries effective the first pay period in February. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jeff Urban and seconded by Jerry Jones to approve the dates of July 23-30, 2016 for the Norton County Fair, and July 16, 2016 for an Open Class Horse Show in Elmwood Park. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Jeff Urban handed out a copy of KSA 21-5815 regarding criminal littering, which sets the fines that can be charged for those who illegally dump items at the City dumpsters.

Chriss McDiffett reported the Airport Board met and has a new fixed base operator's agreement and an airport manager's agreement for Delvis Miller to review.

Gary Lacy reported the Utility Committee met with Prairie Land regarding the new transformers for the Rhodes substation south of Norton. The City is at the peak of electricity that can be supplied, and a new transformer is needed to meet a higher demand. Work also needs done on the City's substation. Prairie Land is checking on some options and will notify the City when they find out.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jeff Urban to set the hours for the Norton Aquatic Center to be open in 2016 from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Ron Briery stated the Public Safety Committee met with the Municipal Judge regarding unpaid court fines. The Judge is going to try a few things to collect more accounts, including issuing warrants and suspensions, and submitting delinquent fines to a collection agency. He will report back to the committee in the future.

Mayor Miller said the public has told him that they don't know any of the police officers anymore. He asked Dana Paxton if the Telegram might be willing to do a small story on each officer for the newspaper.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to approve Appropriating Ordinance #2 as a whole. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to adjourn. Council adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Mayor: _____
James L. Miller