

**March 2, 2016**

The Norton City Council met in regular session Wednesday, March 2, 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. Others present were Justine Benoit, David Cressler, Robert Bowman, Dana Paxton, Dan Bainter, Mark Dewees, Ron Ridley, Karen Griffiths, Chad Buckley and Darla Ellis.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Gary Lacy to approve the February 17, 2016, council meeting minutes as written. Vote taken. Motion carried.

The following building permit was presented:

Norman Olliff - \$6,200 – Re-roofing at 410 N. Brown

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to approve David Cressler's request to use the Livestock Barn on March 19 for a concert/dance from 6:00 p.m. to midnight, with the understanding there will be no alcohol on the premises. He has provided proof of insurance and will pay the rental fee of \$25.00. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Justine Benoit of Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission was present to discuss the contract and documents for the grant which was awarded for street improvements on a portion of Crane and Second Street. The grant award is \$400,000 and the City's matching funds total \$439,200. Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Gary Lacy to approve the Grant Agreement with the State of Kansas Department of Commerce for project #16-PF-020. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jeff Urban and seconded by Ron Briery to waive the formal second reading of Charter Ordinance #18, exempting the City from the provisions of K.S.A. 14-201, relating to the appointment of the position of Chief of Police, amending the Norton City Code 1-301, and providing substitute and additional provisions on the same subject. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Karen Griffiths reported Thomas Outdoor Advertising, Inc. has sent the City a request to renew their lease for their existing advertising sign on City owned property located in the 100 block of S. State Street, for a period of 3 years. Karen stated they would agree to an annual lease instead. Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to approve a one year lease agreement with Thomas Outdoor Advertising, Inc. for their advertising sign on S. State Street. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Chief of Police Ron Ridley reported the 800 MHz radios have been put into service as of February 22 and he is very happy with the communications upgrade. He stated this week marks the one year anniversary for Officer Mark Dewees since he joined the Norton Police Department. Chief Ridley said Officer Dewees has been a huge benefit and has brought valuable experience to the City.

Motion was made by Chriss McDiffett and seconded by Gary Lacy to approve the request for water services outside the city limits for Larry and Mary Anne Canaday at 15425 W. Armory Drive. They have signed a Water Service Agreement and Consent to Annexation. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Chriss McDiffett and seconded by Gary Lacy to approve the request for water services outside the city limits for Dustin Pfannenstiel and Lacy Frack east of Norton on KQNK Road, contingent upon the transfer of ownership of the property. They have signed a Water Service Agreement and Consent to Annexation. Vote taken. Motion carried.

City Administrator Chad Buckley reported he and Chriss McDiffett attended the preconstruction conference for the upcoming Geometric Improvement project, which includes Highway 36 from Subway to West Street. Construction will begin April 18, 2016 and a public meeting will be held the first week in April; the contractor, engineer and city staff were encouraged to talk to each business owner regarding the construction. Work will begin on the north side of the highway first. There was some concern about the crosswalk area, and this will be discussed with the school.

Rawhide Iron Works has submitted an estimate of \$1300 for the handicap ramp railing at the Whitney building, and an estimate of \$900 for the handicap railing and \$350 each for the 2 step hand rail at the Sprigg building in the downtown area. Motion was made by Chriss McDiffett and seconded by Gary Lacy to approve the hand railing for Mark Whitney's building at 109 E. Main, and Tim Sprigg's building at the 100 block of S. Kansas, with the property owner's and the City each paying half the cost. Vote taken. Motion carried.

City Attorney Karen Griffiths will review an agreement between the City and Prairie Land Electric for the expansion project at the Rhoades Substation south of Norton. The expansion is intended to enhance the reliability of and increase the capacity of the Rhoades substation to better serve the load of both entities. Gary Lacy stated the Utility Committee will discuss this further after Karen reviews the agreement.

Chad Buckley reported he purchased a 2001 Dodge Van for the prison crew to use this summer while working on brick streets. The concrete work in the pool parking lot will begin this week. The dates for the county-wide spring cleanup have been set for April 18-20. Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to set the city-wide cleanup days for April 18-20 as well. Vote taken. Motion carried.

A new sidewalk at the library has been proposed; Chad recommended that the Public Works Committee meet with the Library Board to discuss the location of the sidewalk. Chad will invite them to the next Public Works Committee meeting.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Gary Lacy to authorize the City Administrator to purchase the necessary plants and shrubbery for the swimming pool entrance and east side of the pool, at a cost not to exceed \$5,000, with volunteer labor being provided to plant them. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Gary Lacy and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to approve the hiring of Bradley Nuzum to fill the third lineman job, which was authorized at the last council meeting. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Chad Buckley stated he would like to thank John McClymont for his hard work and efforts on his building renovations at 120 S. State Street. The building looks very nice and the improvements are appreciated.

Motion was made by Jeff Urban and seconded by Jerry Jones to approve the Norton Horse Council's request to add June 11 to the 2016 Norton Arena Schedule in Elmwood Park for an additional Horse Show. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to approve the revised job description for Police Patrol Officer. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Jeff Urban stated he is very thankful that the City has proper shoring equipment and extends his sympathy to the Hays community and families involved in the recent tragedy relating to the trench collapsing.

Motion was made by Chriss McDiffett and seconded by Ron Briery to approve Appropriating Ordinance #5. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery to adjourn. Council adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

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

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