

## February 21, 2018

The Norton City Council met in regular session Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at 5:30 p.m., with Mayor Jim Miller presiding. Council members present were Jerry Jones, Dennis Gilhousen, Chriss McDiffett, Gary Lacy, and Ron Briery. Mark Dewees was absent. Others present were Reva Benien, Rose Garrison, Jenda Jones, Robert Bowman, Cameron Archer, Jamie Amlong, Cynthia Cullumber, Gerry Cullumber, Karen Griffiths, Chad Buckley, and Darla Ellis.

Jamie Amlong led those present in the Flag Salute. Chief of Police Gerry Cullumber gave the invocation.

Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to approve the February 7, 2018 city council meeting minutes as written. Vote taken. Motion carried.

The following building permit was presented:

Catholic Church Parish Hall - \$42,750 – Reroof building located at 104 S. Wabash

Reva Benien, Rose Garrison and Jenda Jones were present on behalf of Norton Pride; Reva presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Chad for his outstanding and dedicated support in making Norton a Community of Action.

Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Gary Lacy to waive the formal third reading of Ordinance #1711. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Gary Lacy to adopt Ordinance #1711, amending Article 206 of Chapter 15 of the City Code, clarifying the City is responsible for the maintenance of the water service from the water main to the first valve closest to the water main. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Chief Cullumber reported he is moving a candidate from Minden, Nebraska, forward in the hiring process for the police officer position. He also reminded everyone of the Internet Fraud and Safety presentation the Police Department will be offering February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Library at 6:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to hire Erin Archer as the 2018 Pool Manager at a salary of \$450 per week beginning with Memorial Day. She will be expected to work at least 40 hours each week. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to offer the temporary seasonal parks/cemetery mowing position to Mike Coffey again for 2018. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to approve the purchase of a covered drift-control sprayer attachment for the grasshopper mower from Engel's Sales and Service for the parks department at a cost of \$6,030, to be used for spraying parks, streets and right of ways. Ron Briery asked if another local salesman was contacted for a bid. Motion was withdrawn with permission of the second.

Chad Buckley reported he will be replacing three windows at NWKLS, and recommends to continue replacing a few each year to make the building more energy efficient.

Motion was made by Chriss McDiffett and seconded by Gary Lacy to approve the bid from Johnson Service Company to replace the manhole at the corner of Warsaw and Wabash, and install a sewer liner to cover the pipe at the intersection of Hwy 36 and Hwy 283, at an estimated cost of \$18,000. Vote taken. Motion carried. They will also fix an area in the northeast corner of the Alta lot, where a fiber optic cable has been bored through the sewer main. Chad will contact AT&T regarding their responsibility for the repairs to the sewer main and inform them any liability for damage caused as a result of this is their responsibility.

Chad stated the landowners had an informal meeting and reported they have the required number of landowners in favor of pursuing the proposed street improvements for Valley Vista, Woods, Wilberforce and Brown. Motion was made by Chriss McDiffett and seconded by Dennis Gilhousen to direct staff to contact bond council, Gilmore & Bell, and ask them to prepare the petitions necessary for landowner's signatures for the street improvement project, with the understanding that the City would pay for 75% of the project and the landowners 25%, with the landowners paying for the project on equal assessments. This will be a special assessment, which is assessed over 15 years or they can pay up front. The city will issue bonds for the project. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Chriss McDiffett and seconded by Gary Lacy to approve the bid from NW Diesel to rebuild the engine on the 1991 IHC truck #4, at a cost not to exceed \$9,000. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Gary Lacy and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to transfer surplus funds totaling \$75,000 to the multi-year capital improvement fund and \$75,000 to the municipal equipment reserve fund. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Gary Lacy to adopt Resolution #3-2018, setting the maximum rated capacity of customer generated energy at 83.34 KVA through parallel generation and net metering which will be allowed on the City's electrical system. Vote taken. Motion carried.

The Norton Community Garden Coalition has requested a resolution of support to include with their future grant applications. The Parks Committee will discuss this request.

Chad stated he and Chief Cullumber have talked to the Sheriff regarding the increasing cost for dispatch service, and the impact this has on the Police Department budget. The cost has increased from \$44,000 in 2004 to \$121,000 for 2018. Chad stated it is his recommendation to have the City Attorney notify Norton County in writing that the City requests an amendment to the agreement, setting a cap of 8 mills per year for dispatch services. As the assessed valuation increases, the amount paid to the county for dispatch services would increase accordingly. The Public Safety committee will discuss this recommendation.

Norton Pride will have a ribbon cutting on February 26 at 12:00 noon at Washington Park for the directional sign project. The City will be sending out a letter to customers informing them a chlorite sample was not submitted to KDHE during the fourth quarter of 2017. Chad thanked the staff, council and the community for all of their support over the last 3 years. Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to thank Chad for his service to the City and wish him well at Lyons. A farewell reception will be held for Chad from 2-4 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Vote taken. Motion carried.

The bid opening for the electric CDBG project will be February 27<sup>th</sup> and Chad asked to reconvene at 4:00 p.m. to award the bid. Council decided to wait and approve the bid at the March 7 council meeting instead.

Jerry Jones stated the Parks Committee met with a group who is trying to raise funds to replace the playground equipment at Pool Park. They will organize fund raisers and bring a plan back to committee. He also reported the Economic Development speaker from the Department of Commerce was very informative and interesting.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to sell the City's 1970 Chevy pickup by sealed bid on Nex-tech Classifieds with the ad to run for 2 weeks, with the right to refuse all bids. This vehicle currently has the welder, generator, and cutting torch in the back of it, and is stored inside. Jerry stated those items could be put on a trailer. Vote taken. Motion carried 3-2 with Jerry Jones, Ron Briery, and Dennis Gilhousen voting yes and Chriss McDiffett and Gary Lacy voting no.

Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to accept the bid from All Service Contracting Corp. to remove the existing media and supporting material from 2 filters at the water plant, and inspect and test the underdrains of those two filters, at a cost of \$111,127 to be paid from the water fund. If other issues are discovered during this process, they will be addressed. This will provide 2 operational filters for the summer, and the third filter will be discussed during budget time for next year. Jamie Amlong stated staff replaced 2 valves on one of the filters today; All Service Contracting should be here to begin work within 3 weeks. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Dennis Gilhousen stated Chad has discussed the water situation at the football field with Phil Wilson. USD 211 paid \$15,000 in 2006 for the City to lay a water line to Elmwood Park in exchange for free water at Travis Field; however, a water system cannot be put in so the contract is non-performable. Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Gary Lacy to issue a check for \$15,000 to USD 211, with the understanding that the agreement will be void and the City will start billing USD 211 for their water usage at Travis Field beginning when the water is turned back on. Vote taken. Motion carried 3-2 with Dennis Gilhousen, Chriss McDiffett, and Gary Lacy voting yes, and Ron Briery and Jerry Jones voting no.

Ron Briery reported to the Airport Board that the hangars will be metered. All of the hangars are now metered, and the owners will begin receiving a bill for electric usage beginning April 1. Ron also stated the Airport Board is applying for federal funds for a project at the airport.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to approve Appropriating Ordinance #4 as a whole. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery to adjourn. Council adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

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

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