

June 20, 2018

The Norton City Council met in regular session Wednesday, June 20, 2018, at 5:30 p.m., with Mayor Jim Miller presiding. Council members present were Jerry Jones, Dennis Gilhousen, Mark Dewees, Chriss McDiffett, Gary Lacy, and Ron Briery. Others present were Robert Bowman, Jody Enfield, Gerry Cullumber, Karen Griffiths, James Moreau, and Darla Ellis. Jody Enfield led those present in the Flag Salute and Chief Cullumber gave the invocation.

Motion was made by Dennis Gilhousen and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to approve the June 6, 2018 city council meeting minutes as written. Vote taken. Motion carried.

The following building permits were presented:

Jacob Hickman - \$ 7,500 – Reroofing at 301 N. Kansas

Kevin/Tara Esslinger - \$ 1,000 – Construct ramp at 316 N. Grant

Chief of Police Gerry Cullumber reported the Police Department hosted a Community Meeting on June 19 and 37 citizens attended. He stated he thought it went very well and the citizens were very supportive and appreciate of what the Police Department does. Mark Dewees stated he attended the meeting, and was disappointed there wasn't more representation from the City Council to show support for the department.

Mayor Miller thanked the City Office staff for dealing with all of the calls and inquiries during the recent water situation. City Administrator James Moreau reported on the issues at the water plant due to the blue-green algae at Sebelius Lake, which resulted in water restrictions being implemented on Tuesday, June 19. KDHE advised the City to not utilize lake water as a water supply source which restricted the City to using well water only. There was a problem with the valve to bypass the plant, which required the city to run well water through the plant process which takes longer to produce water. This valve has now been fixed. Due to possible low water pressure in the City's system, KDHE issued a boil water advisory for the City late Tuesday afternoon. James stated he hopes to have the boil order lifted by Friday at the earliest, but it would most likely be Saturday. The City is utilizing its wells and maintaining sufficient water levels.

KDHE said they have never had blue-green algae get into a water plant in Kansas. A chemist will be here tomorrow afternoon to work with the water plant operators on a possible solution to treat the surface water and then sample and test it to see if the algae is out of the system. James stated we need to try and find a long term solution for the blue-green algae at the lake, and he will communicate with Wildlife and Parks and other agencies to see if we can solve the problem.

James stated when the water restrictions are lifted, the City will encourage residents to continue practicing wise water management by not watering lawns between the hours of 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. during peak hours, because that is when the most evaporation occurs and does not help your lawn or pocketbook.

James reported the preconstruction conference for the street improvement project was held at the Library Community room last week. Project construction will start on June 25. Brown Avenue from the Highway to Woods Drive will be closed for construction first, and Wilberforce Street from West Avenue to the dead end at the school. Access will be available to the residents or shuttles will be provided for them. Chriss McDiffett suggested that James visit with KDOT to see if they will allow them to park along the highway right-of-way during construction. James stated project updates will be posted on the City's website as well as on the City's Facebook page throughout the project.

James reported All Services Contracting Corp. will not be able to be here to install the new underdrain and air header piping for filter 1 at the water plant until July, so the City will continue to operate with one filter.

Jerry Jones reported the Parks Committee discussed and approved the Methodist Church's request to allow the bicyclists to use the showers at the pool. The Committee also met with representatives of the Amusement Association and the fair rides will be put up beginning next week.

Dennis Gilhousen reported 2 test holes have been drilled in Elmwood Park and were not sufficient for watering the football field. They will try another test hole and report back.

Ron Briery stated a hearing regarding the condition of the property at 406 S. Second is scheduled for July 5 at 5:45 p.m. The property owner was involved in an altercation in Phillips County in May, and is hospitalized in Kearney, Nebraska. He asked if Council would like to proceed with the hearing as scheduled, or continue it to a later date. Karen Griffiths stated someone called in and asked for a continuance but the time frame of when he will be able to attend is unknown. Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to postpone the hearing 2 additional weeks, until July 18th. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to approve the American Legion Rider's special event cereal malt beverage license for the Norton Car Show on July 6, in a confined, roped off area by Norton and Main Street. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Gary Lacy and seconded by Dennis Gilhousen to approve Appropriating Ordinance #12 as a whole. Chriss McDiffett questioned the bill from BG Consultants. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ron Briery to adjourn. Council adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Mayor: _____
James L. Miller