

December 7, 2016

The Norton City Council met in regular session Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., with Mayor Miller presiding. Council members present were Jerry Jones, Dennis Gilhousen, Jeff Urban, Chriss McDiffett, Gary Lacy and Ron Briery. Others present were Tom Davis, Robert Bowman, Dana Paxton, Dan Bainter, Ron Ridley, Karen Griffiths, Chad Buckley and Darla Ellis.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Chriss McDiffett to approve the November 16, 2016, council meeting minutes as written. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Chriss McDiffett and seconded by Dennis Gilhousen to approve the November 29, 2016, special city council meeting minutes as written. Vote taken. Motion carried.

The following building permits were presented:

Valley Hope Treatment Ctr – \$649,000 - Remodel and addition at 709 W. Holme Street

Dwight Heikes - \$ 5,441 – Reroofing at 404 W. Warsaw

Dwight Heikes - \$ 8,634 – Reroofing at 707 N. Jones

Pat Douglas - \$ 1,200 – Reroofing at 429 South Street

Motion was made by Jeff Urban and seconded by Jerry Jones to waive the formal second reading of Ordinance #1693, restricting vehicular parking in an area in the 100 block of South Wabash Avenue within the City of Norton, Kansas. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jeff Urban and seconded by Jerry Jones to waive the formal second reading of Ordinance #1694, restricting vehicle parking and mandating certain handicap parking on the north side of the 300 block of E. Washington Street and on the west side of the 100 block of S. Wabash, within the City of Norton, Kansas. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Mayor Miller presented a plaque of appreciation to Tom Davis for over 34 years of service to the City. His retirement date was December 2. The Council thanked him for all of his years of hard work.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to adopt Resolution #26-2016, declaring the City of Norton, Kansas to be an official entrant in the Kansas Pride Program. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Chad stated Reva Benien is the new Pride Chairperson and she is applying for a grant for downtown signage. The Mayor or Chad will provide a letter of support for the grant application.

Chad reported the Dane G. Hansen Foundation has instituted a new program aimed at engaging interns in community projects. The foundation has set aside funds to pay the intern to work on projects following specific guidelines for up to 400 hours during summer break. The City may have some options in the civil engineering field for participating in the program. Tara Vance will work with Chad regarding a proposal for the summer of 2017.

Chad stated there are still times available on the schedule to oversee the Red Kettle and ring the Salvation Army bell at either Jamboree or Shopko. Chad also asked if the City was interested in providing the Safe Ride Home this year on New Year's Eve. Blasi taxi service is available to participate at a cost of \$7.50 per ride home. Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jeff Urban to offer a Safe Ride Home on New Year's Eve at the cost of \$7.50 per person getting a safe ride home. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Chad Buckley stated earlier this year, Jody Enfield was temporarily moved to full time in the police department. Chad recommends the City move him to permanent full time status, at a pay range of 11-E on the City payscale, with full benefits. Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Ron Briery to move Jody Enfield to permanent full time status at a pay range of 11-E with benefits. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Gary Lacy to authorize the transfer of \$46,071.08 from the Special Pool Sales Tax fund to the General Pool Fund to cover the deficit for the 2016 pool season. The Parks Committee will review the expenses at their next meeting. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Dennis Gilhousen to adopt Resolution #23-2016, making a determination that there will be no automatic escalator for water rates for the year beginning January 1, 2017. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Gary Lacy to adopt Resolution #24-2016, making a determination that there will be no automatic escalator for sewer service charges for the year beginning January 1, 2017. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jerry Jones and seconded by Gary Lacy to adopt Resolution #25-2016, making a determination that there will be no automatic escalator for solid waste collection charges for the year beginning January 1, 2017. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Jerry Jones asked if the Public Works crew could pick up the broken curb on State Street. He suggested staff figure out a program to repair the curb in the downtown area and keep it cleaned up. He asked if the City had ever finished sealing the cracks in the parking lot at the pool. Chad stated they had not.

Karen Griffiths stated a demand letter has been sent to Wes Bainter but she has not received a response yet. There has been no response to the ads for race promoter or pool manager. Council said to re-advertise for both after the first of the year.

Chriss McDiffett stated he, Gene Carter and Chad started surveying the asphalt streets last week. They will set up another time to survey the remaining streets and hope to have a report in the next few weeks.

Gary Lacy stated the Utility Committee discussed advertising for the vacant Water/Sewer plant operator position; he would like to discuss this further regarding the starting range and pay, and appropriate deadlines to complete the required certification.

Ron Briery scheduled a Personnel Committee meeting for January 9, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Jerry Jones to move into executive session at 5:56 p.m. until 6:10 p.m. to discuss non-elected personnel, with the Mayor, Council, City Administrator and City Clerk present. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Council reconvened at 6:10 p.m. Motion was made by Ron Briery to return to executive session at 6:12 p.m. until 6:20 p.m. to discuss non-elected personnel, with the Mayor, Council, City Administrator and City Clerk present. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Council reconvened at 6:20 p.m. Motion was made by Ron Briery and seconded by Dennis Gilhousen to have the Animal Control Officer maintain a daily log including start and end times of his daily tasks and calls he receives for animal control, to include daily feeding, cleaning and callouts. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Chriss McDiffett and seconded by Jerry Jones to approve Appropriating Ordinance #23 as a whole. Vote taken. Motion carried.

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

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Mayor: _____
James L. Miller