AGENDA 6b
DATE 5.3.16

CITY OF NORTON SHORES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
April 26, 2016

A regular work session of the Norton Shores City Council was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 4814 Henry Street.

Present: Mayor Nelund, Council Members Beecham, Flanders, Hylland, Moulatsiotis and Ostrom; also Mark Meyers, Anthony Chandler, Mike Huston, Jerry Bartoszek, Jon Gale, Bob Gagnon, Shelly Stibitz, and Joe Kinnucan

Excused: Council Members Dolack, Jurkas and Martines

1. Muskegon County Senior Wellness Committee Presentation

Lisa Tyler, Community Director, Senior Resources of West Michigan, made a presentation to the City Council on behalf of the Muskegon County Senior Wellness Committee. The committee was formed in 2014 to discuss the increasing need for programs that support older adults remaining in their own homes in their later years. A county-wide millage question will be placed on the August 2, 2016 primary ballot that asks for .50 mills and, if passed, is expected to bring in over $2 million annually for eight years. Funds will be collected by the County of Muskegon and the County intends to take requests for qualifications from non-profits to act as a fiduciary. Several of the programs funded through the Older American's Act at Senior Resources cannot keep up with the demand for services. This has resulted in creating wait lists and forcing some individuals out of their homes as they seek care in hospitals and nursing homes. Ms. Tyler wanted council members to be aware of the basis for the millage request so they will be better prepared to speak on its importance with their constituents.

2. Potential Solar Energy Project

Chief Bob Gagnon shared with the Council his discussions with Rob Rafson, Chart House Energy, over the past year for potential energy savings at Fire Station #3. Mr. Rafson advised him that the south facing roof and building location were prime attributes for successful operation and energy savings with solar panel technology. At the time other priorities took precedence but the concept is once again being explored. Chief Gagnon visited a facility using solar panels and has been in conversation with Spring Lake Township about a similar project their fire department is installing. Mr. Rafson shared a proposal for Fire Station #3 and several possible purchase avenues. He feels that during various seasons the City could realize an energy savings ranging from 60% – 100%. Council Member Ostrom stated that his understanding is that Michigan is one of the worst states for solar energy efficiency due to cloud cover and asked whether wind energy would be more suitable in our region. Mr. Rafson responded that, while wind

energy is significant near the lake, the cost to run and maintain turbines is high. Mr. Meyers stated that he also had been in initial meetings with Chart House Energy and was intrigued with the opportunity to promote clean energy with low risk to the City. There was a consensus of Council to have Chart House Energy submit a final proposal for consideration on a future agenda.

3. Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Operating Budget

City Administrator Mark Meyers and Finance Director Mike Huston presented the proposed operating budget for Fiscal Year 2017. The proposal demonstrates a balanced budget with continuation of a 10.95 millage rate and, in fact, this year's budget is very much status quo. Staff continues to appropriate additional funds to reduce the City's pension liability and projects a 15% fund balance which is within acceptable levels. Fiscal Year 2017 marks the third consecutive year that overall property values have risen.

Mr. Meyers highlighted some of the items presented in the budget message. Unemployment is down again this year as the economy continues to improve and industrial and retail remain strong. Housing is strong as well and we are on pace for 50 new home starts. Even though taxable values only rose .3% we still continue to grow with plenty of space for now. During this budgeting process there was just one request for staffing changes with the addition of two contracted positions in the Police Department for maintenance of CALEA records and the evidence room.

Council Members were appreciative of the concise budget message prepared by Mr. Meyers and the pie chart visuals supplied by Mr. Huston. Mr. Meyers thanked staff for their time and effort in preparing budget requests. The Fiscal Year 2017 Budget will be placed on the next City Council agenda for adoption.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

M. D. Stibitz

M. D. Stibitz, City Clerk