

CITY OF NORTON SHORES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 23, 2015

A rescheduled work session of the Norton Shores City Council was held on Monday, February 23, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the Norton Shores City Hall, 4814 Henry Street.

Present: Mayor Nelund, Council Members Dolack, Flanders, Hylland, Jurkas, Martines, Moulatsiotis and Ostrom; also Mark Meyers, Carrie Pierce, Mike Huston, Jerry Bartoszek, Jon Gale, Bob Gagnon and Susan Franklin.

Absent: Council Member Beecham

1. Winnetaska Road Width – Fire Code

Fire Chief Bob Gagnon and Fire Marshall Ted Karnitz have been reviewing the Fire Code in relation to the private portion of Winnetaska Road and the ability to build and/or renovate structures in that area. In 2008, a memo detailing what activities were permitted and restricted due to the width and other conditions of the road was created by then Chief Purchase. City Council asked for these restrictions to be reviewed by Chief Gagnon.

Chief Gagnon presented a map listing width and other conditions and illustrating where turnarounds are required on Winnetaska Road. There are a number of trees that need to be removed to allow for fire apparatus to easily access the property. Until then, it is recommended by Administration that the 2008 memo be followed with the exceptions of: 1) allowing exterior decks, up to 400 square feet, to be constructed; and, 2) replacement of structure due to fire, storm, or other natural/man-made condition without changes to the roadway, considered on a case-by-case basis.

Council Member Moulatsiotis asked questions about who would respond in what type of trucks to this area. Chief Gagnon stated in the case of a fire, at least three tankers, one being from Norton Shores, among other apparatus, would respond. This would require a wider road or passing lanes to allow for one tanker to head in and one to head out at the same time.

Council Member Ostrom asked if the tanker is always full what the response time would be. Chief Gagnon responded that it is always full and ready to go when required. A response would depend on what other calls were being responded to and the road conditions. He agreed it would be a great disadvantage for timeliness given the narrow width of the road.

Council Member Hylland was concerned that these standards would not be enforced equally throughout the city. Fire Chief Karnitz responded that it depends on the type of road such as private vs. public. Mr. Hylland also stated he disagreed with regulations being enforced on homes that were built before the current Fire Code. He believes property owners should be able to rebuild their house on the original footprint in the case of a fire or natural disaster.

Mayor Nelund questioned how the Fire Code Board of Appeals worked if a citizen was denied the ability to build or renovate a home. Chief Gagnon said the board has the right to decide if the Code was applied correctly or not, but cannot allow something to be done outside of the Code.

City Council agreed to continue under the current Fire Code and ordinances related to this matter with the Chief and Fire Marshal working with the residents to improve their road. Chief Gagnon stated it is now up to the residents to provide the City with a road improvement plan that he can review and ultimately approve.

2. Ross Park Boat Launch Ramp Concept

Parks & Recreation Director Mike Huston presented a wetland determination study and conceptual drawing that were completed for a boat launch at Ross Park. Consultant Pat Cornelisse developed the plan and explained the project. It was determined the east parking lot would offer the most area to work with. However, having to work around the wetland area would require 1/3 of the beach to be paved for parking and the launch. This plan would allow for one boat ramp and 24 parking spaces at a cost of \$325,000. In addition, it is estimated that annual maintenance may be \$10,000. This figure does not include potential on-going dredging costs.

Council Member Ostrom mentioned the idea of working with the City of Muskegon Heights to help manage and maintain the boat launch they have on Mona Lake. It is an option that could allow our citizens easy access.

Mayor Nelund asked about the boat launch that was at Hidden Cove Park. It was explained the original launch was for small boats. Mike Huston will see if bringing back a launch at the park is feasible.

The consensus of City Council was to not pursue a boat launch at Ross Park. Reasons cited included cost, limited size and disruption to the beach area.

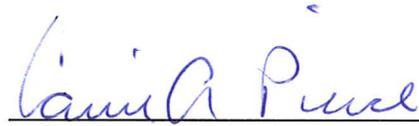
3. Wildlife Management Plan and Deer and Wild Turkey Feeding Ban Ordinance.

Director of Administrative Services Carrie Pierce presented a Wildlife Management Plan and Deer and Turkey Feeding Ban Ordinance. The Wildlife Management Plan addresses endangered and nuisance plants and animals with recommendations for controlling them.

The Feeding Ban ordinance prohibits the feeding of deer and wild turkeys. It includes two notable exceptions including bait feeding during deer season in specific areas of the city and bird feeders.

City Council recommended the plan be brought forward to a Council meeting for adoption by resolution and the Ordinance be presented for first reading.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Carrie A Pierce, Acting City Clerk