

CITY OF NORTON SHORES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
March 24, 2015

A regular work session of the Norton Shores City Council was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 4814 Henry Street.

Present: Mayor Nelund, Council Members Beecham, Hylland, Jurkas, Martines, Moulatsiotis and Ostrom; also Mark Meyers, Carrie Pierce, Mike Huston, Jerry Bartoszek, Jon Gale, Bob Gagnon, Shelly Stibitz, and Doug Hughes

Not Present: Council Members Dolack and Flanders

1. Muskegon Central Dispatch Smart 911

City Administrator Mark Meyers introduced Muskegon Central Dispatch Executive Director Shawn Grabinski who presented a new service being offered by MCD called Smart 911. This new software allows for the input of individual information by wireless phone users that will aid in the response time during emergency situations. Currently, in Muskegon County 75% of calls to 911 are made using wireless equipment which complicates response time because location cannot be easily tracked and people in crisis have difficulty providing information. Signing up for Smart 911 is free and can be set up using as much or as little personal information as an individual chooses. Smart 911 is active in 12 states at this time and all information provided is accessible when traveling in any of those areas. Signing up for the program is self-directed at www.smart911.com.

2. Regional Water Maintenance Agreement

Public Works Director Jerry Bartoszek briefed the City Council on the proposed Regional Water System Agreement between the City of Norton Shores and the Charter Township of Fruitport. He stressed the importance of setting up management of the new system including operation, maintenance and repair in anticipation of the scheduled mid-April switch to service from the City of Muskegon. Mr. Meyers asked if drawings of water mains, water towers, booster pump stations, master meters, and interconnections (Exhibit A) will be added to the agreement when available. Mr. Bartoszek confirmed that those items along with a Reliability Study will be completed and inserted after approval of the West Michigan Regional Water Authority. There was a consensus among City Council members to bring the agreement to the next City Council meeting for approval.

3. Water Service Charges

Mr. Bartoszek introduced a recommendation from the Water and Sewer Superintendent to adjust water service charges. Charges are reviewed annually and the City was found to be experiencing an increase in costs for the provision of water services and materials. The recommendation also includes reducing current water usage costs in the Idlewild community to align them with costs for water within the entire City when switching providers next month.

Council Members Jurkas and Hylland asked for clarification of fees associated with connection to the water main when using non-copper materials such as Pex. They expressed concern for homeowners and builders who chose these lower priced products only to have installation become cost prohibitive after additional fees required by the City. Mr. Bartoszek explained that further steps are required as a safety measure because non-copper materials like Pex have not yet been proven to be as reliable as copper. Mayor Nelund feels that if the adopted Building Code has determined these products to be acceptable then the City should not assess additional fees when using them. Mr. Bartoszek will conduct further research regarding the reliability of Pex materials and re-address fees for non-copper materials at the May work session. The proposed fee changes will be placed on the next meeting agenda for approval.

4. Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Improvement Program Budget

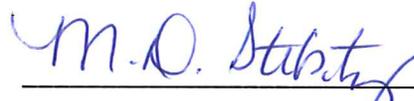
Mr. Meyers gave an overview of the budgeting process, its timeline, and emphasized that it is a team effort among the budget committee, department directors, and their staffs. He made note of some important items including the fact that Fire Department vehicle purchases are accounted for in reserved fund balance and that street resurfacing and sidewalk repair historically have the highest appropriations associated with them. He also highlighted a proposed appropriation for consulting services for a potential "Placemaking" project. The project would involve creating a sense of place along the Seminole Road corridor. Finally, he explained that based on the status of the MADL's Storyville project the anticipated appropriation to renovate the children's area of the library will likely be requested in Fiscal Year 2017. Mr. Meyers then asked Finance Director Mike Huston to review the figures presented.

Two council members inquired about the Fire Department's replacement schedules and Fire Chief Bob Gagnon reported that a schedule is set for all items and adjustments are made as needed. An example of this is the rescue vehicle proposed for replacement in Fiscal Year 2016 which was delayed from Fiscal Year 2015 when it was determined to be in fair working order and that other items required more immediate attention. The cost

of pagers was discussed with Chief Gagnon reporting that 50 pagers will be purchased at a cost of \$500 each which includes a 5-year maintenance program on each.

Budgeting continues as staff resumes meeting to develop the proposed operating budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.



M.D. Stibitz, Acting City Clerk