

CITY OF NORTON SHORES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
November 25, 2014

AGENDA 6b
DATE 12.2.14

A regular work session of the Norton Shores City Council was held on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Norton Shores City Hall, 4814 Henry Street.

Present: Mayor Nelund, Council Members Beecham, Dolack, Jurkas, Kinney, Moulatsiotis, Ostrom and Rood; also Mark Meyers, Carrie Larks, Mike Huston, Jerry Bartoszek, Jon Gale, Bob Gagnon and Doug Hughes

Excused: Council Member Martines

1. Fiscal Year 2014 Financial Audit

Finance Director Mike Huston introduced Doug Vredevelde of Vredevelde Haefner, LLC who presented the Fiscal Year 2014 audited financial statements. The report has been prepared in compliance with provisions of GASB Statement 34. The report shows the City ended the year in sound financial condition with some funds adding to Fund Balance/Retained Earnings and no fund in a deficit condition. Any fund with a reduction in fund balance has adequate reserves and the FY-2014 results will have little impact on the current fiscal year. Also, the reductions in fund balance were budgeted for specific projects. It should be noted that the City is now required to maintain separate Local and Major Streets funds. Also, pension liability will be reported differently in the future. City Administrator Mark Meyers thanked Mr. Huston for his work preparing for the audit.

2. Wildlife Management Plan and Feeding Ban Ordinance

Director of Administrative Services Carrie Pierce presented a sample Wildlife Management Plan and sample ordinances to ban wildlife feeding. At the September 2014 work session Council discussed options to control the deer population. A representative of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) suggested that the City consider development of a Wildlife Management Plan and an ordinance to ban feeding of wild animals. Mrs. Larks has been working with Jeff Auch, Director of the Muskegon Conservation District about these projects. A copy of the City of Montague's Wildlife Management Plan was included in the agenda packet. Norton Shores' plan would be similar but would also address endangered species and nuisance wildlife specific to Norton Shores. A feeding ban ordinance would mirror language the State currently has in place. Council Member Martines asked if an intern could be used to assist with these documents but Mrs. Pierce said the Conservation District would be doing most of the work. Council directed staff to move forward with preparing the plan and the ordinance for Council review.

3. Phase I Trail Project – Black Lake Park

Mr. Huston presented revised plans for the first phase of a trail system throughout Black Lake Park. Staff originally proposed a looped trail in the northern section of the park, including a boardwalk/observation platform in the lake. While developing the bid specifications for the project the consultant, Pat Cornelisse proposed a revision to the plan which connects the northern section of trails to the parking lot at the southern end. She is also proposing that the boardwalk be added at a later time due to cost and the additional time needed to obtain the necessary permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Staff is recommending the commencement of the revised plan and inclusion of the boardwalk in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget. Council Member Beecham asked what materials will be used to construct the trail. Mr. Huston explained that the trail will be a combination of wood chips, bare ground, gravel and concrete and will meet all ADA standards. Council Member Ostrom asked if the water level has been studied. Mr. Huston assured him that Ms. Cornelisse's plan includes consideration of the water level. Council directed staff to proceed with the plan as proposed.

Comments

Council Member Dolack asked if the leaf sites could remain open past November 30th. Mr. Meyers said staff will discuss it if the weather changes.

Mr. Meyers reported that the paving of Norton Avenue and McCracken Street is scheduled for Monday, December 1st. Council Member Beecham stated that Martin Road between Mt. Garfield Road and Sternberg Road is in bad condition. Mr. Meyers stated that staff will follow up on the matter.

Council Member Moulatsiotis asked if neighborhoods could be compelled to contract with a single refuse hauler if the City does not enter into a city-wide contract. Council Member Dolack asked where a single hauler would be disposing of the refuse because that is not a subject of the Request for Proposals. Mr. Meyers suggested the Council let the bid process run its course and the matter be discussed as planned January 2015 work session.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.


Carrie A. Pierce, Acting City Clerk