

CITY OF NORTON SHORES  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
October 28, 2014

A regular work session of the Norton Shores City Council was held on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 4814 Henry Street.

Present: Mayor Nelund, Council Members Beecham, Dolack, Flanders, Hylland, Jurkas, Martines, Moulatsiotis and Ostrom; also Mark Meyers, Mike Huston, Carrie Pierce, Jerry Bartoszek, Dan Shaw, Bob Gagnon, Lynne Fuller and Susan Franklin

1. Mid-Year Economic Outlook

City Administrator Mark Meyers introduced Mr. Ed Garner, President of Muskegon Area First, who presented a mid-year Economic Outlook report which was prepared by the W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. He also noted some recent economic development projects in the city. Overall the employment outlook is very positive.

2. Potential Mona Lake Boat Launch Project

Finance Director Mike Huston presented a preliminary assessment of the feasibility of such a project. Positive factors for the project include a manageable approach incline and there is sufficient area for a launch less than 1/3 the size of Mona Lake Park's boat launch and to repurpose part of the eastern beach parking lot. Negative considerations are boaters coming too close to swimming activities, shallow water depth, staffing requirements including patrolling of the area to deter misuse and vandalism, the requirement for MDEQ permitting and wetlands mitigation. Estimated cost of clearing, grading, paved drives and parking, engineering and permitting would begin at \$150,000 to \$200,000. Her report also recommended a wetland study to determine the likelihood of obtaining an MDEQ permit and the steps necessary for mitigation. Engineer Jim Murphy stated a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers would probably also be required.

Mayor Nelund reminded Council that this would be a capital improvement project. However, Mr. Huston stated that maintenance costs would come from the General Fund. Council Member Dolack shared some historical information from 1979 when a proposal to construct a launch was presented to the City Council but did not pass. Council Member Ostrom stated there may be State funding available to assist with the cost. Council Member Martines objected to the project because a large percentage of Norton Shores residents are not boat owners.

Council directed staff to proceed with a wetlands study and exploring State funding. Council Member Martines also requested that staff look into joint maintenance of the launch with the City of Muskegon Heights.

3. Police Garage/Addition Update

Police Chief Dan Shaw gave an update on construction of the new garage and addition to the Police Department. There have been some issues with the storm and sanitary sewer lines which required a change order. Mr. Huston reported that though the cost of the project has increased from original estimates the installment payments will still be within the budgeted amount of \$98,000 annually with an interest rate of 2.45% if the loan is closed by November 10, 2014. Mr. Meyers also stated the loan will be for a period of 11 years rather than 12 as originally planned.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.



Lynne A. Fuller, City Clerk