

CITY OF NORTON SHORES  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
April 22, 2014

A regular work session of the Norton Shores City Council was held on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 5:35 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 4814 Henry Street.

Present: Mayor Nelund, Council Members Beecham, Dolack, Flanders, Kinney, Martines, Moulatsiotis and Ostrom; also Mark Meyers, Carrie Larks, Mike Huston, Jerry Bartoszek, Dan Shaw, Bob Gagnon, Lynne Fuller and Doug Hughes

Excused: Council Member Jurkas

1. Proposed Special Use Permit Requirements – Financial Viability

At the February 24<sup>th</sup> Council work session Public Works Director Jerry Bartoszek presented a draft of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that would require developers requesting special use permits to submit documentation indicating financial viability of the project as part of the application. Council recommended the proposed amendment be brought forward for Planning Commission and Council consideration. However, at their April meeting the Planning Commission recommended that this ordinance amendment not be introduced. City Attorney Doug Hughes explained that the Commission was concerned about personal financial information becoming public information through FOIA and felt that the requirement would be anti-business. It was noted that there are other similar requirements in the Code of Ordinances such as performance bonds, feasibility studies or payment for infrastructure completion in the case of new development. Council members agreed that although they are still interested in the amendment it could be simplified. Staff will revise the proposed language for Council review.

2. Options to Reconsider or Rescind Previous Agenda Items

Mr. Hughes provided information on options available for the Council to reconsider previous actions. He explained that a motion may be reconsidered but only at the same meeting during which the original action is taken, among other criteria. A negative decision can be reversed through a motion and second to rescind prior action. If there is no prior notice of the motion a two-thirds majority is required. If the request is included as an agenda item only a simple majority is required. Council discussed placing a time limit on requests to reconsider in the City Council Rules but ultimately decided it wasn't necessary.

3. Proposed FY 2015 Operating Budget

City Administrator Mark Meyers and Finance Director Mike Huston presented the proposed operating budget for Fiscal Year 2015. The current property tax millage rate of 10.55 mills will remain and services will be maintained at current levels. The General Fund was balanced with the use of approximately \$504,428 from fund balance. Included is an additional payment of \$497,000 toward unfunded pension liability. The proposed budget includes an additional utility worker I position left previously unfilled in the Water and Sewer Fund. The replacement is because all water and sewer services (connection, installation, etc.) have increased to above pre-recession levels.

3. Proposed FY 2015 Operating Budget (continued)

Mr. Meyers explained that any requests for further staffing changes or additions are on hold, largely because of a personal property tax issue that will come before the voters in August. If the proposal passes, personal property tax would be replaced by alternate funding. Currently there are no definite plans to replace personal property tax if the ballot question is defeated.

Council Member Flanders inquired about the \$23,250 appropriation for police uniforms and Police Chief Dan Shaw explained it is an annual appropriation for replacement of regular and dress uniforms. Council Member Moulatsiotis asked if any services are in need of improvement. Mr. Meyers said that department reorganization has addressed any need for revised or enhanced services.

Mr. Meyers, as well as Mayor Nelund and Council members, commended staff on their hard work and diligence through the budget process.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

  
Lynne A. Fuller, City Clerk