

CITY OF NORTON SHORES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
May 27, 2014

A regular work session of the Norton Shores City Council was held on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 4814 Henry Street.

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

1. Cemetery Rates Recommendation

Public Works Director Jerry Bartoszek proposed adjustments to the cemetery rate schedule. The rates are reviewed annually and since rates were last revised in 2003 labor, equipment and utility costs have increased. A survey of other area cemeteries was utilized to establish the recommended rate revisions. Council Member Kinney asked that staff quantify the increases in labor, equipment and utility costs. City Administrator Mark Meyers said staff will provide the information. Council agreed to move the proposal forward for consideration.

2. Revisions to Proposed Zoning Amendment – Financial Viability

At the February 24th 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. However, at their April meeting the Planning Commission recommended that this ordinance amendment not be introduced. 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. The matter was again discussed at the April 22nd work session and staff was directed to revise the proposed language for Council review. The revised language provides examples of documentation to illustrate financial viability which include verification of a line of credit, commitment letter from a lending institution, and personal financial or performance guarantee. Several criteria have been deleted including verification that the developer or development is not subject to any current or impending legal action, insurance coverage, audit and regular financial monitoring of the development, and a requirement that the developer report instances that threaten financial viability. Council Member Flanders expressed that there may still be a perception that it's difficult to do business in Norton Shores and the ordinance amendment may add to that perception. Other Council members stated that most of the complaints they receive are related to other ordinances and a desire to do something that does not comply with the ordinance. Mr. Meyers stressed that the ordinance may be used at the City Council's discretion depending upon the specific circumstances of the development. Council agreed to move the proposed ordinance amendment forward for introduction.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.


Lynne A. Fuller, City Clerk