

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

A regular work session of the Norton Shores City Council was held on Tuesday, July 22, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 4814 Henry Street.

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

Absent: Council Member Ostrom

1. Solid Waste Management

Public Works Director Jerry Bartoszek presented the survey results and comments received regarding use of a single trash hauler in the city. The question was whether or not residents supported the use of a single hauler if the cost is the same or less and the service is the same or enhanced. Of those responding, 60% agreed or strongly agreed with the concept. Staff asked for direction on requesting proposals for the service. Council also discussed separating the city into quadrants and bidding the service based on those areas, but Mr. Bartoszek cautioned that different areas of the city may have different costs. Council Member Moulatsiotis asked what the term of a contract would be. Mr. Bartoszek and City Administrator Mark Meyers said typically it would be a long-term contract, possibly five years. Council Member Jurkas asked what would happen if the service is not acceptable once the contract is executed. Mr. Meyers and Mayor Nelund explained that the contract would be specific as to the City's expectations and the contractor would be expected to adhere to the agreement. It would be similar to the City's franchise agreement with Comcast in that there would be a staff liaison available to resolve any issues residents may contact the City about. Council Member Flanders said the respondents to the survey want the City to move forward so an RFP would be the logical next step. Mayor Nelund said the City may not receive any proposals and Mr. Meyers reminded Council that if proposals are received the City still reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of them. Council Member Kinney asked how customers would be billed and who would accept their payments. Mr. Meyers said it would remain that the company would bill and the resident would pay directly to them. Staff was directed to develop a Request for Proposals for review by the Council at a future work session.

2. Fireworks Regulations

Police Chief Dan Shaw presented options for the regulation of the use of consumer fireworks in the city. State legislation allows local governments to limit fireworks use, with the exception of the day preceding, the day of, or the day after a national holiday. In 2013 the Act was amended to also allow the prohibition of fireworks during the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on the days surrounding a national holiday. Since late May, 18 fireworks complaints have been received from residents. Five were logged the day prior, during and after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and all were prior to 1:00 a.m. and could

not be prohibited by ordinance. All but one of the other complaints occurred prior to 11:00 p.m. which is the hour most of the City's noise restrictions begin. Chief Shaw also noted that, in Muskegon County, Fruitport Township, Montague, Muskegon Heights and Norton Shores are the only jurisdictions that have not enacted ordinances restricting fireworks use. Council weighed the options of restricting the hours of use as well as whether or not they should be allowed on days other than those surrounding the holidays. They agreed that the best course of action is to prohibit fireworks use except between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 a.m. the day before, during or after a national holiday. Staff will prepare an ordinance amendment for Council to consider at a regular meeting.

3. Proposal 14-1, Personal Property Tax Reform

Mr. Meyers gave a PowerPoint presentation developed by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to explain a statewide proposal intended to reform the personal property tax which is on the August 5<sup>th</sup> Primary Election ballot. Legislation passed in 2012 and 2014 phase out the tax which local governments rely on to provide essential services. The law provides for a reimbursement mechanism through the State's existing use tax, but in order to implement this portion of the law it is necessary for Michigan voters to amend Public Act 80 to "reduce State use tax and replace with a local community stabilization share". It is believed that, if the proposal is defeated, personal property tax may be phased out with no reimbursement to local governments.

Comments

Finance Director Mike Huston gave Council members a questionnaire required by the City's auditors for completion and return to him.

Mr. Meyers informed Council that on October 8, 2014 the Public Works Department will be hosting the annual Public Works Rodeo at the City's facility on Mt. Garfield Road. Activities include a celebrity driving event where Council members can drive the equipment.

Mr. Meyers also provided an update on various street projects. The contractor working on Grand Haven Road will be off the job for one week due to other obligations but is still expected to complete the work by August 30<sup>th</sup> as required.

Mr. Huston announced that the ball field lights at Ross Park are operational and other electrical work necessary for the Arts and Drafts Festival has been completed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

  
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Lynne A. Fuller, City Clerk