

CITY OF NORTON SHORES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
September 23, 2014

A regular work session of the Norton Shores City Council was held on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 4814 Henry Street.

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

Absent: Council Members Jurkas and Moulatsiotis

1. Deer Management

Director of Administrative Services Carrie Pierce presented information about managing the deer population in Norton Shores. At the January 2014 work session Council requested information and directed that a question regarding a deer cull be included in the Citizen Survey conducted in early summer. The results of the survey were very close with 46.89% agreeing or strongly agreeing to a deer cull and 46.23% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources controls harvesting deer in Hoffmaster State Park but there is evidence that the deer population has declined so there was no harvest in 2013. The only option the MDNR offers is a permit to allow sharp shooters or qualified law enforcement personnel to harvest deer on City property which would likely be Lake Harbor Park. There have not been deer complaints around any of the other parks. The City allows bow hunting of deer within city limits pursuant to State Law standards. A hunter must obtain written permission from any person occupying a dwelling within 150 yards of where they wish to hunt. The hunter must also receive verbal permission to retrieve the deer if necessary.

Mr. and Mrs. Garry Olson, residents of Forest Park Road, expressed concern about the large numbers of deer not only on their property but actually walking down Forest Park Road. They are concerned about the safety of drivers traveling on that winding stretch of road. Mr. Rob Dubault, also a resident of Forest Park Road was present to echo the Olson's concerns. He also reported that there are neighbors who feed the deer.

Mr. Nick Kalejs from the Muskegon field office of the MDNR stressed that any steps taken to reduce the deer population such as a cull would not be successful unless those steps are repeated over time. Council Member Hylland asked if the deer in the Forest Park Road area are transient or established. Mr. Kalejs said that deer in this area do not travel very much in their life time. Council Member Flanders asked about birth control but that is very expensive and also requires follow up and revaccination. Mr. Kalejs recommended the banning of wildlife feeding and adoption of a wildlife management plan to include the value and nuisance of a variety of wildlife. He also provided a list of deer resistant vegetation that could be shared with residents. Council supported the idea of an ordinance banning wildlife feeding but not culling or other options because they are expensive and have no long-term benefit.

2. Supplemental Heating – DPW Garage

Public Works Director Jerry Bartoszek requested approval of a change order with the mechanical contractor that installed the plumbing and heating/cooling system at the DPW garage on Mt. Garfield Road. The heating as designed and installed has been deemed to be undersized for the building. The building design firm Hooker-DeJong recommends installation of a second boiler parallel to the existing boiler and the addition of a heat exchanger to the heat pump system to supplement the geothermal system that provides heat to the office area. An additional benefit to this solution is that there would be heat if one of the boilers fails. The estimated cost of the improvement is \$47,100 which could be paid from TIFA funds. Mayor Nelund and other Council members expressed their frustration that the system was not designed to provide adequate heat when the building was constructed. City Attorney Doug Hughes was requested to review contractual language to determine liability for this additional cost. Council agreed to consider a change order with the mechanical contractor that originally installed all of the plumbing and heating/cooling systems at the facility.

3. Solid Waste Management

Mr. Bartoszek presented a draft of a request for proposals for solid waste management services. The RFP includes options of one service area encompassing the entire city or service areas by zones, both with a five-year contract term. The tentative schedule provides for a pre-proposal meeting with contractors on October 15 with proposals due October 28. Staff would then review the contracts and prepare a recommendation for Council to consider at the November work session. Council Member Dolack requested that Council be given ample time to review the recommendation prior to the work session. If a contract is approved it would begin March 30, 2015 and end June 30, 2020. Council directed staff to move ahead with distribution of the request for proposals as presented.

4. Proposed 2015 Local Street Improvement Program

Public Works Director Jerry Bartoszek reviewed the list of proposed projects to be completed in year six of the Municipal Road Fund. The plan calls for investing \$1,600,000 in local roads next year which includes using fund balance. Proposed reconstruction projects include the Castle Avenue from Lincoln Street to Leon Street, Wellwood Street from Southwood Avenue to Mayfair Avenue and Mayfair Avenue from Leon Street to Wellwood Street. Public Works Director Jerry Bartoszek also recommends the use of \$200,000 of the fund toward the grant match for Airline Road from Shettler Road to the US-31 off ramp.

Resurfacing projects proposed to be completed with the hot-in-place recycling process are as follows:

- Aue Road, Henry Street east to cul-de-sac
- Winslow Court loop
- Augustine Street, York Street, Norlock Street, Clayton Avenue, Crandall Avenue and Marianne Avenue
- Estes Street, Norton Avenue to Arbor Avenue
- Arbor Avenue, McCracken Street to Estes Street
- Shorewood Drive/Hendrick Road loop west of Lake Harbor Road
- Shorewood Drive, Lake harbor Road to Elmwood Street
- Lake Forest Drive, Seminole Road to Pineway Drive

Mr. Bartoszek also proposed an “ultra-thin” overlay to finish the surface on the majority of the streets and a standard 1-1/2” hot mix overlay on a few of the heavier volume streets or those with thinner existing asphalt. Council concurred with the department’s recommendations for Year 7 of the Municipal Road Fund projects.

5. Solicitation Ordinance

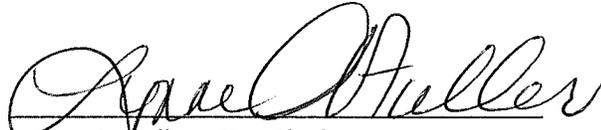
Police Chief Dan Shaw and City Attorney Doug Hughes discussed the difficulties of developing an ordinance to prohibit panhandling. If the City Council wishes to prohibit panhandling on public roadways, they should also prohibit charitable organizations from soliciting from motorists in the roadway. Both groups must be regulated in the same manner. Council is concerned about the safety factor for panhandlers but does not wish to prohibit non-profit organizations from conducting their annual fund raising campaigns. Mayor Nelund suggested that panhandlers be required to meet the Street Solicitation Policy standards. City Attorney Doug Hughes will look into that possibility.

6. Police Garage – Scope and Estimate

Chief Shaw updated Council on the design of the garage/addition. It has been necessary to change the original design presented to the Council due to a number of factors. Fire Code requires installation of a fire suppression system for garage structures over 12,000 square feet. The concept design was approximately 14,000 square feet. Installation of a fire suppression system would necessitate installation of a new water main and additional interior plumbing which would be cost prohibitive. There are also issues with drainage on the property. As a result, underground line must be installed to move storm water from the current building and the new structures into a retention basin in the northeast corner of the property. This is also an additional cost to the project.

To address the fire suppression issue the plan has been revised to separate the garage from the addition to the office area thereby reducing the square footage of the garage. Funds budgeted for Fiscal Year 2015 are not for the complete project, only for a payment. Finance Director Mike Huston is working with the bank to address the additional cost.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.



Lynne A. Fuller, City Clerk