

Norris City Council Minutes
Monday, December 9, 2019

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT THE CITY OF NORRIS CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019, AT 7:00 P.M. WITH THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: LARRY BEEMAN, BILL GRIEVE, RON HILL, CHRIS MITCHELL, AND LORETTA PAINTER.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mitchell.

HEAR THE PUBLIC

George Miceli, 98 Butternut, asked about the status of the Norris Service Station after the BZA meeting concerning variance requests that were not approved. City Manager Hackler stated he had not heard from the owner.

Charles Nicholson, 86 Pine Road, asked about the status of the old power poles around town and if the City was working on getting those removed. Mayor Mitchell stated he had been in contact with CUB and was told there is a timing issue with moving some of the lines, but the City would continue to monitor the situation. Charles Nicholson also expressed concern about the location of the Safe Route to School sidewalk in front of the middle school and the damage to the trees near the sidewalk that would occur. Mayor Mitchell stated the SRTS grant would be discussed later in the meeting.

Joe Feeman, 28 Laurel Place, asked why the Council Meeting Minutes were not on the City website. City Manager Hackler stated we are working on the website and would update the minutes on the City Website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **The minutes of the November 15th, 2019 Council Meeting were presented for approval with a minor correction on page three of the minutes. Motion was made by Council Member Hill to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Council Member Grieve. Motion carried by voice vote.**

OLD BUSINESS

2. **East Norris Sidewalk Grant Status** – City Manager Hackler reported the design plans had been approved and we are waiting on right-of-way approval.
3. **Safe Routes to School Grant Status** – City Manager Hackler reported we are waiting on approval/funding from the State. City Manager Hackler stated he had went back to the Design Engineers with two proposed designs that the Tree Commission had offered. City Manager Hackler stated the design change could be done, but when he discussed this with TDOT he was told with a design change we are

very much at risk to get out of line with the funding and lose the funding. If the City does not fulfill the contract, the City would be at risk and be required to pay any costs that have already been incurred and not have the sidewalk and improvements. Tree Commission Chairperson Nicholson said one suggestion was not to build the new sidewalk on top of the old sidewalk, but to remove the old sidewalk and use the base of the old sidewalk to build the new one. City Manager Hackler stated it is not the cost, but we would be changing the design and this is a timing issue - any design change would not be completed within the time window of the grant. Mayor Mitchell asked what can be done in the existing scope to protect and improve the likelihood of the health of the trees. Tree Commission Chairperson Nicholson said his current answer would be thoughts and prayers; and he stated the best hope would be to intensive fertilization and irrigation programs.

5. TDOT Property Option - City Manager Hackler stated the City had voted last month to keep the option open by voting yes to bidding on the State property by Sycamore and Highway 61. City Manager Hackler stated the lady at TDOT asked if the City was interested in acquiring the property for public use. City Manager Hackler stated since we are a government entity, we have first option to use the property for public use and they essentially give the City the property with that option. City Manager Hackler stated he polled the individual Council members and they were very much interested in going for the public option and he had replied back to the person at TDOT that the City of Norris was very much interested in applying for the property for public use. The original plot proposed by the church is just the property to the left of Sycamore (if you are facing the church). The application will include this property and also the property across from Sycamore all the way to East Norris Road. City Manager Hackler stated he is in the process of completing the application and submitting it. City Manager Hackler stated the state has a definition for public use and parks, recreation, etc. qualify as public use. City Manager Hackler thinks there will be space for a dog park, arboretum, open grassy area for events, and also add some event parking. Spencer Boardman, 112 Reservoir Road, hopes as the City progresses with this project, we need to make sure the citizens of Norris and the members of Covenant Life Church have a chance for input for what they would like to see in front of the church building. He said the city needs to be a good neighbor and we do not need to look at just the City of Norris, but also the adjacent property owners. Mayor Mitchell stated he agreed with Mr. Boardman and he went and spent about an hour with the Minister of the church and he knows of the evolving plans and what is being discussed. Mayor Mitchell said it was a very positive conversation and it is his intention to do exactly what has been said in the meeting and it will be open for public input. Vice Mayor Beeman asked if the City has to declare what the use of the property will be in the application. City Manager Hackler stated he has not seen that yet; it just becomes City property as long as it is used within the constraints of that agreement and there is no time frame on public use development. City Manager Hackler stated if the City changes its mind and wants to use the property for commercial development, the City would have to notify the state and have to pay fair market value for the property. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Beeman to authorize City Manager Hackler to complete and submit the application to apply for donation of the property for public use and submit to the State of Tennessee with some costs for title work and surveys if application is approved. Motion was seconded by Council Member Painter. Motion carried by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Ordinance 616 – An Ordinance to Adopt a Fee Schedule for the Norris Municipal Code, Title 18, Utilities and Services, Schedule of Charges for Water and Sewer Services – 2nd Reading -

City Manager Hackler reviewed the rate changes in Ordinance 616 and the cross-connection charge would go from \$35 to \$50. City Manager Hackler stated there is no change from the first reading of the ordinance. City Manager Hackler noted most of the customers have a ¾ inch meter. The rate change on the ¾ inch meter rate will go from \$19.37 to \$24.51, an increase of \$5.14. City Manager Hackler stated the Public Hearing on Ordinance 616 was held today at 6:30 p.m. with no comments from the public. Motion was made by Council Member Painter to approve Ordinance 616 on second reading. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. Motion carried by voice vote.

7. Certified Public Library Manager – Mayor Mitchell recognized Jenny Heffron, Norris Community Library for her recent graduation on November 15th, 2019 from the Tennessee Public Library Management Program as a Certified Public Library Manager.

8. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Hackler reported on the following:

- 1) City Budget – as of 11-30-19 property tax collection is on track at 95%. Total expenses are 20.35%.
- 2) Water Budget – as of 11-30-19 total expenses are 38.91%.
- 3) Planning Workshops will begin on January 11, 2020 at 10 a.m. The initial meeting will be dedicated to scoping work teams, schedules, and goals. Water Commission workshops will resume in January 2020 with new assessment goals.
- 4) Public Work activities include pothole repair, brush, and leaves. An emergency order was placed to remove some dangerous trees in a couple of locations in the City with the most urgent being on Oak Road.
- 5) City Office, Police Department, and Public Works were reviewed in an annual TOSHA inspection. No serious violations were noted. A report will be provided within 30 days.
- 6) Grant Updates were already discussed.
 - a. East Norris Sidewalk Grant – No Change
 - b. Safe Routes to Schools Grant – No Change
 - c. Sawmill Road SIA – No Change
- 7) A Police Department occupational injury has resulted in chemical exposure while cleaning vehicles. There was no lost work or work restrictions occurred. The cleaning chemical will be removed and no longer used.
- 8) See attached City Manager Report.

9. Accounts Payable, Minutes, and Reports - Mayor Mitchell asked Council for questions or comments concerning accounts payable, minutes, and/or reports. There were no questions or comments. Spencer Boardman asked about the City paving schedule and when Dairy Pond Road was scheduled to be paved. City Manager Hackler said he is looking into paving all the City streets and obtaining a loan and use the State Street Aid Funds to pay the loan payments. City Manager Hackler stated Public Works Director Kerry Hevel was currently working on an estimate to pave all the City streets.
14. Motion was made by Council Member Grieve to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. Motion carried by voice vote at 8:30 p.m.



Scott Hackler, City Manager



Janet Parks, City Recorder