

CITY OF NORTON SHORES  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
February 22, 2022

A regular work session of the Norton Shores City Council was held at the Norton Branch Library Community Room, 705 Seminole Road, on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Nelund, Council Members Flanders, Hylland, Jurkas, Kasher, Moulatsiotis and Sowa; also, Anthony Chandler, Taylor Hobby, Jim Murphy, Chris Lyonnais, Bob Gagnon Brandon Poel and Matt Anderson

Absent: Council Members Morgenstern and Olson

1. Drone Presentation

Fire Chief Bob Gagnon provided an update to City Council regarding the fire department's purchase of a DJI Matrice 210 drone that was approved by Council in FY2019. Chief Gagnon stated that due to the ongoing pandemic, obtaining the necessary trainings and certifications had taken longer than anticipated. However, he was happy to share with Council that the department has now received all necessary licensing and waivers. This includes a waiver to fly at night, to fly beyond visual line of sight and the certificate of authorization. Three of the fire department personnel have been able to go through a series of trainings to obtain their FAA part 107 certification which is required to pilot the drone. Those currently certified to pilot the drone have done multiple training flights to familiarize themselves with its capabilities so that they are prepared when an emergency arises. Chief Gagnon played a video of a training flight at Black Lake Park as well as a live video of the drone being flown by Mona Shores High School to show the thermal imaging capabilities. At this time, Norton Shores is the only fire department in Muskegon County with an aviation unit.

2. Residential Cross Connection Policy

Water and Sewer Superintendent Matt Anderson informed City Council that after the State Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) performed our Water System Sanitary Survey in May of 2021 the City's Cross Connection Control Program (CCCP) was found to be in violation of Public Act 399 of 1976 which requires that the CCCP addresses all public water accounts. The City's Cross Connection Control Program is designed to protect the water systems from outside contaminants and has been in use for commercial and industrial properties. According to EGLE in order to be compliant the City must update the written cross connection program to include residential accounts and in turn must implement residential inspections and device testing. Mr. Anderson presented Council with what the revised Cross Connection Control Program may look like. The revision to the program to include residential accounts brings forth the possibility of hiring two full time water and sewer employees as opposed to outsourcing the work to a third party. Multiple options for covering the costs accrued by the added inspections were also presented.

These included fire suppression fees, an inspection charge, adjustment to the commodity rate or a ready to serve charge.

City Administrator Mark Meyers explained that there had been discussions in 2015 regarding a directive from the State that the City's Cross Connection Control Program should include a residential account component. At that time Council's decision was to postpone action until enforcement by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Mr. Meyers stated that the time is coming to make the revision to the CCCP, which he would propose be put in place in the FY2024 budget, and staff is seeking the direction of the Council as to what the parameters of the revisions should be.

Council Member Hylland raised a few concerns about the mandate, a significant one being the inspection fees that could be applied to residents and would be perceived negatively. He proposes that the best way to cover the cost of the inspections would be to implement a ready to serve charge built into the water bills every quarter. Council Member Jurkas inquired about whether or not there are any grant opportunities to help offset the costs brought forth with the mandate, which at this time there are no funding options through the State. Staff will now take the input from Council and work on refining the revisions of the CCCP before moving forward.


3. Prohibition of Employment of Relatives Ordinance

As requested at the October 2021 work session, Director of Administrative Services Anthony Chandler shared with Council the proposed draft amendment to Chapter 2, Section 2-237 of Article III of the Norton Shores Personnel Code to allow relatives of elective officials and employees to serve on the City's non-paid commissions and boards. Council members were in favor of the amendment.

General Comments

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

  
Taylor Hobby, Acting City Clerk