

CITY OF NORTON SHORES  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
November 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, November 22, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Nelund, Council Members Flanders, Hylland, Jurkas, Kasher, Olson and Moulatsiotis; also, Mark Meyers, Taylor Hobby, Doug Hughes, Anthony Chandler, Jim Murphy, Chris Lyonnais, Jon Gale, Bob Gagnon and Bryan DeGroot

1. Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Audit

Norton Shores Finance Director Chris Lyonnais and Doug Vredeveld, of Vredeveld Haefner LLC, presented the findings of the Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Audit and declared the City to be in good financial standing. The city received a clean audit opinion with no findings.

2. Police Department Grant Opportunities

Police Chief Jon Gale informed Council that the police department was recently awarded two grants and that amendments within the FY2023 budget will be necessary to accept both awards. The first grant is a Federal grant for the Ride with Pride program. The Norton Shores Police Department was the only department in the nation to receive the Office of National Drug Control Policy's Drug-Free Communities award of \$125,000 per year for five years. There is a possibility of a five-year extension on this particular grant. The funding will cover salaries, supplies, training, evaluation of the program and marketing. Due to the requirements of the grant it will be necessary to hire a grant coordinator as a contract employee who will work approximately 10 hours per week. The funding must be allocated in the FY2023 budget in order to be accepted.

The second grant awarded was from the State of Michigan for funding to sponsor one of our police cadets as a full-time hire. The funds from this grant will cover tuition costs, lodging and wages while the cadet is attending the Police Academy at Westshore Community College. After successful completion of the academy the cadet will then be sworn in as a full-time Police Officer. An amendment to the FY2023 budget is necessary to cover the reimbursable costs. City Council voiced support for amending the budget.

3. Snow Plow Truck Replacement

Public Works Director Jim Murphy was seeking Council's input and direction regarding the idea of placing an order for a new 2024 model snow plow truck with snow control equipment. This piece of equipment would replace an existing 2009 International 7600 series unit which is the oldest unit in the fleet. Currently, if placed on the waiting list, the estimated arrival time for the complete outfitted truck would be twenty-four months. West Michigan International is currently taking orders for the 2024 models and staff would like to place the order for the new unit. Payment would then happen in two installments. The first being made at delivery of the cab

and chassis (FY2024) and the second would be made after the outfitting is complete (FY2025). City Council supported the recommendation to order the snow plow.

4. Veterans Memorial Maintenance

Anthony Chandler, Director of Administrative Services, discussed with Council the possibility of becoming the official “donee” of the Vietnam era UH-1H helicopter (Huey) that is on static display as a Veterans memorial at the opening of Hidden Cove Park at Seaway Drive and Grand Haven Road. For the past several years the Parks and Recreation Division has helped the local Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 31 maintain the grounds around the Huey. It is felt that the transition would be natural for the City to officially acquire the Huey and become the caretakers for the Veterans Memorial grounds. Council Member Flanders recommended that when the city becomes the official donee there should be a press release and a spot on the website where donations can be made to help fund the maintenance of the Huey.

General Comments

City Administrator Mark Meyers reminded everyone about the joint meeting with the Mona Shores School Board and the City of Roosevelt Park City Council on Monday, November 28 at 6p.m. at Campbell Elementary school.

Council Members inquired about possible holiday decorations being placed on Seminole Road. Mr. Meyers informed them that they are currently looking into holiday banners that could take place of the “It’s In Our Nature” banners for the season.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

  
Taylor Hobby, Acting City Clerk