

CITY OF NORTON SHORES  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
September 27, 2022

AGENDA 6a  
DATE 10.18.22

A regular work session of the Norton Shores City Council was held at the Norton Branch Library Community Room, 705 Seminole Road, on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Nelund, Council Members Jurkas, Kasher, Olson and Sowa; also, Mark Meyers, Shelly Stibitz, Doug Hughes, Anthony Chandler, Jim Murphy, Chris Lyonnais, Bob Gagnon, Jon Gale and Ted Woodcock

1. TIFA Long Range Budget Plan

City Administrator Mark Meyers explained that the Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) Development and Financing Plan will sunset in December 2026. Due to this, the Budget Committee met with Department Heads to identify needs and formulate a plan for the remaining three fiscal years. The main focus will continue to be infrastructure and equipment. The proposed budget in the final years leaves a contingency for rising costs of planned projects and unexpected expenses. Mayor Nelund asked about extending the TIFA again and Mr. Meyers said that it has been extended several times previously and, with most of the infrastructure now in place, he would not recommend another extension. Council Member Jurkas asked what Industrial Expenses were used for and Finance Director Chris Lyonnais responded that it mainly pays for utilities and maintenance of the boulevard and sign at the entrance. Council Member Jurkas was also informed that Administrative Reimbursement is for expenses incurred of city staff for time dedicated to the TIFA district. Council concurred with the proposed budget.

2. Zoning Amendment Proposal for Deer Fencing

Planning and Zoning Administrator Ted Woodcock proposed amending the fence ordinance to address growing concerns from residents about the influx of deer on private properties. Mr. Woodcock found with a Google search and follow up contact that five communities in the USA, none in Michigan, have deer fence ordinances in place and report their success in deterring the animals from destroying private property. Mr. Woodcock finds this to be a better solution over an expensive deer cull that could result in driving animals away from public property and possibly increase their presence on private property. A draft ordinance allowing up to 8 feet high fencing (2 feet over regular fencing maximum) on side and back yards only, along with examples of acceptable materials, was included and discussed. Council Member Olson is not in favor of this fencing and feels it will be hard to keep upright at that height. He prefers the concept of a cull and suggested the City open Lake Harbor Park to hunters stating that it would be a more permanent solution. Mayor Nelund said that he didn't disagree with Council Member Olson but feels adopting a deer fence ordinance would be a good start and could be in place quickly. Mr. Woodcock told Council members that some residents are already installing 8 feet high fencing to

ward off deer and several residents were required to cut it down to the regulated 6 foot maximum. The proposed Deer Fence ordinance will be revised to "open air" fencing and brought forward for consideration.

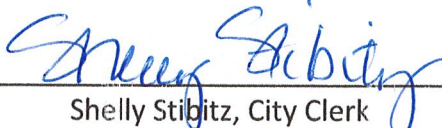
3. Updated American Rescue Plan Uses

Mr. Meyers shared that much of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) is designated to the Lake Harbor Trail and Ross Park Pavilion and Deck projects and asked for Council's direction in creating a plan for use of the remaining funds. At the May 2022 work session consideration was given to connecting three City of Muskegon Heights water customers to the Norton Shores system at a cost of \$25,000 and construction of pickle ball courts in Ross Park estimated at \$140,000 and reserving the remaining \$315,000 for future use. Council Member Olson asked when the decision for the funds has to be reported to the State and was told the deadline for proposed projects is December 2024. Council Member Olson feels the money proposed for pickleball courts should be kept as a contingency for overages of the Lake Harbor Trail. Mayor Nelund shared that he has heard concern that the Trail goes to the farthest edge of the City's border but feels pickle ball courts are more central to all residents and would be a good amenity. Council Member Jurkas asked about the concept of turning the tennis courts at Ross Park Elementary into pickleball courts and Mr. Meyers explained that Western Michigan Christian counts on the courts for tennis. Council agreed with the proposed water connections, pickleball court installation and a contingency fund for the remaining ARP funds.

General Comments

Parks and Recreation Director Anthony Chandler responded to questions about marked trees at Lake Harbor as those to be treated. Mr. Meyers informed Council that the joint school and cities meeting was changed to Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, commended public safety for the well-attended Open House the past weekend and mentioned the City's United Way Campaign, asking those who donate to contact Mr. Chandler to join the City's campaign and contribute to our goal of \$13,000. Mayor Nelund shared that campaign season began and the City's political sign ordinance was posted to Facebook informing candidates that Ordinance Enforcement will be picking signs that do not follow the Ordinance.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

  
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Shelly Stibitz, City Clerk