

CITY OF NORTON SHORES  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
November 28, 2023

A regular work session of the Norton Shores City Council was held at the Norton Shores Branch Library Community Room, 705 Seminole Road, on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Nelund, Council Members Fisher, Hylland, Jurkas, Kasher, Morgenstern, Moulatsiotis, Sowa and Olson; also, Anthony Chandler, Doug Hughes, Joe Kinnucan, Chris Lyonnais, Jim Murphy, Lexi Stibitz, and Marc Vanderstelt.

1. Muskegon Area Transit Systems (MATS) – Public Transportation Authority

Interim City Administrator Anthony Chandler introduced Transit Manager for the Muskegon Area Transit Systems Jim Koens to present information to City Council of their current system and answer questions about a possible new system. A 2019 route study was done through a State of Michigan Grant and it recommended MATS change to an Act 196 Authority. The county, which currently heads the transit system, wants to separate itself from the entity and give the control to individual municipalities in the form of a transportation authority. The change would require municipal participation in creating an Articles of Incorporation to be filed with the State of Michigan that would include the geography of the routes, mechanisms, and funding. Council Member Hylland stated that the fixed routes wouldn't benefit Norton Shores residents as much as Micro Transit. Council Member Olson expressed his concern with the County not being able to uphold the service and that it wasn't financially beneficial. Council Member Jurkas inquired about the actual number of Norton Shores residents that use the current transit system and Mr. Koens explained they have "on and off" data but can't identify where a passenger resides. Council Member Moulatsiotis expressed he was in favor of having the transit system in Norton Shores and asked who would be part of the team to write out the Articles of incorporation with Mayor Nelund explaining it would be the City Administrator and staff and not anyone in an elected position. After discussion City Council was in favor of continuing to attend Public Act 196 Transportation Committee meetings.

2. Fiscal Year 2023 Audit Synopsis

Norton Shores Finance Director Chris Lyonnais and Doug Vredevelde, of Vredevelde Haefner LLC, presented the findings of Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Audit and declared the City to be in good financial standing. The City received a clean audit opinion with no findings.

3. Proposed Change to Water & Sewer Division Rules and Regulations

Director of Public Works Jim Murphy addressed the City Council with the proposed changes to the rules and regulations for water and sewer. Mr. Murphy explained the areas without water hook up to Norton Shores have signed letters committing themselves to Norton Shores City water once it becomes available. Council Member Morgenstern inquired about the large increase for the cost of service and it was confirmed the service cost reflects the inflated cost of equipment. City Council was in support of the water and sewer rules and regulation changes.

4. Proposed Change in Fees for Norton Cemetery


Director of Public Works Jim Murphy discussed the discrepancy of the rates for the two Norton Shores cemeteries. The new Ellis Cemetery rates were updated during the October 17, 2023 City Council meeting and moving forward both cemeteries should have consistent fees. City Council supported the updated fee schedule for Norton Cemetery.

General Comments

Council Member Jurkas wished Mayor Nelund a happy birthday.

Council Member Morgenstern asked where they were with the process of hiring the new City Administrator. Mayor Nelund explained they had the first round of interviews and that they were moving forward with another round with the final two candidates.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lexi Stibitz', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

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Lexi Stibitz, Deputy Clerk