



December 11, 2019

Council Meeting of December 17, 2019
Subject: Dedicated Public Safety Millage
Renewal Ballot Language Approval

The Honorable Mayor
and
Members of the City Council

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The City Council recently discussed a renewal to the public safety millage at the November 26, 2019 work session. The public safety millage was passed in February 2011 which provided for a levy of up to 2 mills for a period of ten years and is set to expire next year.

Staff has developed a proposed Charter amendment and ballot language for the renewal request. The proposed ballot language will be forwarded to the Attorney General for review and then submitted to the Governor for approval.

A resolution is attached for the City Council's consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark C. Meyers
City Administrator

MCM/adc
Attachment

Administration/City Clerk (231) 798-4391	Assessing Division (231) 799-6806	Building Division (231) 799-6801	Finance/Treasurer (231) 799-6805	Fire Prevention (231) 799-6809	Fire Department (231) 798-2255
Parks/Recreation (231) 799-6802	Planning/Zoning (231) 799-6800	Police Department (231) 733-2691	Public Works (231) 799-6803	Streets Division (231) 798-2156	Water/Sewer (231) 799-6804

Norton Shores will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, handicap or political beliefs or other legally protected characteristics.

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Norton Shores, Michigan as follows:

1. That on February 2, 2011, by a 3/5 vote of its members-elect, pursuant to the authority granted by Public Act 279 of 1909, as amended, the City of Norton Shores established that Section 6.8 of the Charter of the City of Norton Shores read, in part, as follows:

The City shall have the power to assess a dedicated public safety millage which shall not exceed two (2) mills for a Public Safety Fund, annually for a period of ten (10) years, beginning in 2011 and ending in 2020 to be used exclusively for public safety operations.

2. The purpose of the proposed amendment is to provide for a renewal of the ten-year dedicated millage for public safety operations under the jurisdiction of the City of Norton Shores.

3. The City Clerk shall transmit a copy of the proposed amendment to the Governor of the State of Michigan for approval and transmit a copy of the foregoing statement of purpose of such proposed amendment to the Attorney General of the State of Michigan for approval, as required by law.

4. The proposed Charter amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of this City at an election to be held in Norton Shores on May 5, 2020, and the City Clerk is directed to give notice of the election and notice of registration in the manner prescribed by law.

5. The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors in the following format:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SECTION 6.8 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORTON SHORES TO PROVIDE FOR A RENEWAL OF THE TEN-YEAR DEDICATED PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE.

Shall Section 6.8 of the Charter of the City of Norton Shores, amended on February 2, 2011 to provide for a dedicated public safety millage which shall not exceed two (2) mills, be renewed for an additional ten (10) years starting in 2021 and ending in 2030?

It is estimated that the renewed millage will generate \$1,688,358.00 in first year revenue.

[YES]

[NO]

6. The proposed amendment shall be published in full together with the existing Charter provision altered by the amendment as part of the notice of election.

7. The canvass and determination of the votes of said question shall be made in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan and the Charter of the City of Norton Shores.

At a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Norton Shores, held at the Norton Shores Branch Library, 705 Seminole Road, on the 17th day of December 2019 the foregoing resolution was moved for adoption by Council Member _____. The motion was supported by Council Member _____.

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Resolution declared adopted/denied.

Shelly Stibitz, City Clerk



Internal Memo

November 18, 2019

TO: Mark C. Meyers, City Administrator

FROM: Anthony Chandler, Director of Administrative Services AC

SUBJECT: Public Safety Millage – Renewal Request

Staff has been meeting on a regular basis to discuss the ballot initiative to renew the public safety millage which is set to expire next year. The original millage request, passed in February 2011, was an amendment to the City Charter to authorize a levy of up to two (2) mills for public safety purposes only.

The City shall have the power to assess a dedicated public safety millage which shall not exceed two (2) mills for a Public Safety Fund, annually for a period of ten (10) years, beginning in 2011 and ending in 2020 to be used exclusively for public safety operations.

The original public safety millage was asked of Norton Shores voters because the city had to eliminate seven public safety positions, four police officers and three fire fighters. This reduction in our staffing level was necessary to balance the general fund budget during the recession. The public safety millage allowed the city to bring those positions back by supplementing the general fund.

City staff is proposing a renewal to this public safety millage as authorized by the City Charter, Michigan Election Law, and the General Property Tax Act. Michigan Election Law further requires that a Charter Amendment be held during a regular election date. City staff is recommending a public safety millage renewal proposal to be included on the May 5, 2020 general election ballot. The ballot language must explicitly state that this is a millage renewal. The city will need to submit the millage renewal ballot language to the Governor for approval prior to placing it on the May 5, 2020 ballot.

Annual revenues would amount to approximately \$1.8 million if the city were to levy the full two mills. However, the city currently levies 1.35 mills which generates roughly \$1.2 million. The revenues received from this millage have been instrumental in providing the necessary resources to effectively deliver police and fire services to our community.

Attached with this memo is an updated informational pamphlet that serves as a factual overview of the public safety millage renewal and also included is a draft resolution with the renewal ballot language for City Council's review. Additionally, a "Mayor's Message" and talking points documents, both utilized during the original millage request will also be updated. We are also anticipating that a private election committee will be formed to advocate for the millage renewal.

I am recommending that we discuss this millage renewal at the November 26, 2019 work session.