

CITY OF NORTON SHORES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
September 24, 2019

A regular work session of the Norton Shores City Council was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at Norton Shores City Hall, 4814 Henry Street.

Present: Mayor Nelund, Council Members Beecham, Hylland, Morgenstern, Moulatsiotis, Olson and Sladick; also, Mark Meyers, Bob Gagnon, Jon Gale, Mike Huston, Jim Murphy, Anthony Chandler and Shelly Stibitz

Absent: Council Members Flanders and Jurkas

1. Fire Department Annual Report Video

Fire Chief Bob Gagnon gave City Council members an overview of how the Fire Department came to the decision to create their Department's Annual Report in video format. Ordinance Enforcement Firefighter Don Vanderkooi has experience as a videographer and the Department has been posting videos on social media of activities. The videos appear to have a better response than written posts or reports and Chief Gagnon and his staff are hopeful that the annual report will be better received in this format as well. After watching the video, Council Member Beecham asked where it will be available for the public to view and Council Member Morgenstern wondered if any permissions had to be obtained for personal footage. Chief Gagnon stated that the video will be posted to social media and the City's website and that all of the footage on the current video is of general content and didn't require any permissions. Along with the video, the Fire Department will submit a condensed written annual report mainly consisting of statistics over the previous fiscal year.

Following the viewing of the Fire Department's annual report, Police Chief Jon Gale presented a video created for the purpose of police recruitment. Over the past several years the Police Department has struggled in attracting applicants for openings in the department and the video will serve as a tool to capture interest in police service in Norton Shores. Chief Gale also shared with Council members a new Michigan based certification program similar to CALEA that they are researching. The Michigan version is more economical and already has better participation than its nationwide counterpart.

2. Fire Department Lock Box Program

Chief Gagnon described the Lock Box Program whereby a business or homeowner stores a key to their building or home that Fire personnel have access to during an emergency. Twenty years ago, the City initiated the program using Supra products. Supra recently announced that as of July 2020 they will discontinue supporting the type of lock boxes in place in Norton Shores. The company does offer an advanced version that operates with

Bluetooth technology offering higher accountability. Chief Gagnon and Fire Marshal Ted Karnitz presented research they conducted on the upgraded Supra system as well as two different advanced systems from the Knox Company. Each of the options presented would require a considerable investment from either the City or the user, or a shared investment from both. Council members shared their opinions about the need for advanced technology, whether the City or the user should pay for the upgrade and asked for statistical information related to the use of the boxes by emergency personnel. Council Member Beecham suggested a survey be conducted during the next Business Registration cycle to obtain users input. Fire personnel will research the availability and cost for a manual key lock box option.

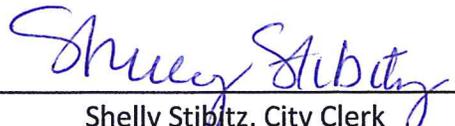
3. Garbage Truck Hours of Operation

Due to come Council members' concerns about high noise levels in the early part of the day, Chief Gale called local trash haulers to inquire about their hours of operation. The business owners were cooperative, stating that trucks typically service commercial clients earlier in the morning and begin residential pick up after 5:30 a.m. This schedule was described as the most convenient and safe, keeping the trash haulers off the road at the same time as morning commuters and school buses as much as possible. Chief Gale explained that the current ordinance related to disturbing the peace would be hard to enforce, requires the individual driver be ticketed following a legitimate complaint and must rely on the complainant's appearance in court at a later date. Chief Gale reported that there have not been any official complaints made to the Police Department about garbage haulers disturbing the peace. Council Member Sladick suggested that trash haulers be permitted and have guidelines to follow and City Administrator Mark Meyers shared that Spring Lake Township has this type of process in place. City Council asked Chief Gale to further research whether access to the landfill is dictating the trash haulers start time and confirming whether the company could be ticketed for disturbing the peace and not the driver. This information will be used to draft an amendment to the Ordinance.

General Comments

Mayor Nelund reminded everyone that the Public Safety Open House is scheduled for the upcoming weekend on Saturday, September 28, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.



Shelly Stibitz, City Clerk