

CITY OF NORTON SHORES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
January 22, 2019

A regular work session of the Norton Shores City Council was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at Norton Shores City Hall, 4814 Henry Street.

Present: Mayor Nelund, Council Members Beecham, Cross, Flanders, Hylland (5:42), Jurkas, Morgenstern, Moulatsiotis and Sladick; also, Mark Meyers, Doug Hughes, Jon Gale, Bob Gagnon, Mike Huston, Jerry Bartoszek, Anthony Chandler and Shelly Stibitz

1. Harvey Street Sewer Proposal

Public Works Director Jerry Bartoszek shared with Council members that a residential development is being proposed near the southeast corner of the City at the former Lake Fran campground. This area does not have sanitary sewer available and the City has been working with the developer on ways to connect the proposed development to the system. The preliminary plan includes construction of a lift station with a force main to pump sewage across US-31 to the gravity sewer on the west side of the highway. The cost, including sewer lines within the development, is estimated at \$779,020. The developer is prepared to fund an estimated 12.5%, \$87,424, to construct the gravity sewer, lift station and force main and pay the entire cost for everything within the development. The City's cost share is estimated at \$452,646 but the developer recently increased the number of sites to 53 which could reduce the City's final overall cost by providing \$98,580 in connection fees. Once service is available to this area of the City, extension of the sewer line will be possible north of Judson Road and improve the possibility of future development. Mr. Bartoszek also confirmed that the development would be connected to our water system. Council members were in favor of moving forward with the recommendation.

2. Catamaran Mooring at Ross Park Beach

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Huston described an opportunity brought to him by a resident that would add value to Ross Park Beach at a very low cost. Following the resident's suggestion, Mr. Huston is proposing that the City accept an offer of ten catamaran moorings at no cost from the City of Muskegon to be placed on Ross Park Beach. The Department of Environmental Quality had issue with the moorings being placed too near critical dune areas in the City of Muskegon which is not a concern at Ross Park. Boat owners had paid \$400 annually for rental and signed waivers releasing the municipality of any liability. Council members were in favor of the Parks and Recreation staff developing a fee schedule to offer catamaran mooring on Ross Park beach.

3. Mona Lake Channel Wall Repair

At the September 2018 work session, repair along the south side wall of Mona Lake Channel was discussed. The Maranatha Bible & Missionary Conference Center is on the south side of the channel and their representatives approached the City, as well as Mona Lake Improvement Association, with options for repair of the wall and a request that the engineering and repair be split among the three entities. Maranatha has reported that the total cost for engineering, permits and repair total an estimated \$74,382 and they are seeking 1/3 of those funds be paid by the City. The Mona Lake Improvement Association (MLIA) has chosen not to participate if Maranatha proceeds with this proposal for engineering, permits, beach restoration and channel wall repair. They are willing to contribute a 1/3 share to another proposal totaling \$10,000 that was for channel wall repair only. Council members questioned whether Maranatha's request for funding from the City remained at 1/3 of the \$74,382 if MLIA doesn't participate. It is still unclear who owns the south channel wall, if it is crucial to repair the wall immediately, Maranatha's maintenance plan following repair to preserve the improvements, and what the actual repair breakdown of the \$74,382 estimate includes. City Administrator Mark Meyers will contact Maranatha representatives to convey these concerns. City Council determined that participation in the project is premature at this time.

4. Retail Water Rates

At November's work session, Mr. Bartoszek informed City Council that wholesale water rates would be rising due to improvements to the filtration plan over the next several years. Our water service provider, City of Muskegon, is raising the rate to the West Michigan Regional Water Authority at a \$0.17 per 1,000 gallon increase that Mr. Bartoszek is recommending be passed on to water customers. This will result in a new per 1,000 gallon rate of \$4.15 proposed to begin with the April 2019 billing period. Council members suggested that water customers be informed of what improvements the increase will fund, the average household increase per quarter and not implementing the increase before formal approval, as well as, methods the City could use to relay this information to water customers. The proposed water rate increase implementation can be delayed until the May 2019 billing and notices posted on utility invoices, the City's website and social media.

5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

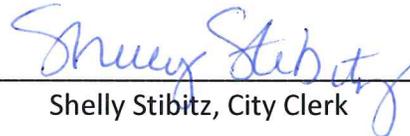
Following a public forum held at the November Planning Commission meeting, suggestions from City staff and the public were researched and incorporated into a final draft of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update. Several of the proposed areas were discussed in more detail and questions presented regarding grant funding and maintenance responsibilities. As with the 2009 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, pathways

were identified but not listed in any order of priority and completed when appropriate grant funding was available or in coordination with other improvements. Mr. Bartoszek clarified that the Michigan Safe School Zone Grant can only be applied for by a school district. Mr. Meyers' response to Council Member Sladick was that, historically, former City Councils' have opted for the City to maintain sidewalks. The Council requested that staff designate criteria to prioritize the proposed pathways in the updated Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

General Comments

Mr. Meyers reminded Council and staff of the upcoming Strategic Planning Meeting and Employee Service Awards Luncheon later in the week.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.



Shelly Stibitz, City Clerk