

CITY OF NORTON SHORES  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
April 24, 2018

A regular work session of the Norton Shores City Council was held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at Norton Shores City Hall, 4814 Henry Street.

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

Absent: Council Members Cross and Jurkas

1. Mona Lake Watershed Council – Water Quality Study

City Administrator Mark Meyers reminded City Council of the ongoing Michigan Tech University and Restorative Lake Sciences study that was contracted by the Mona Lake Watershed Council. Watershed Council Member Don Trygstad presented a shortened version of the findings to-date. The bottom of the lake has an area with excessive amounts of phosphorus which lays dormant until an event occurs that lowers the oxygen levels of the lake and causes an algae bloom. The study revealed that a summer storm pushed cold Lake Michigan water through the channel into Mona Lake far enough to create an imbalance in the normal temperature levels at an area where the phosphorus is concentrated, depleting oxygen and releasing latent phosphorus, resulting in the lake's algae bloom last August. The Watershed Council believes the two-year study will continue to reveal more information imperative to the health of the lake in its second year and provide alternative solutions to mitigate problems. They are asking the City to make a commitment for \$20,000 in funding towards the \$150,000 study. Council members agreed that the City should contribute to protecting one of our biggest assets, not only for the good of the City, but as a property owner on Mona Lake.

2. Deer and Snow/Leaf Fence Requests

Public Works Director Jerry Bartoszek provided some history concerning recent requests regarding fencing. Due to resident concerns arising from two situations, several communities in West Michigan were polled and found to have fence requirements similar to ours. Council members agree that temporary snow/leaf fencing is unattractive but serves a purpose and would like staff to draft language coordinating the start and end dates of leaf removal with temporary fencing. Mr. Meyers discussed the request to raise the front yard fence height requirement from 4' to 6' for the purpose of keeping deer away from vegetation. Council members and staff agreed that 6' would not be high enough to deter deer and could result in misuse of the regulation. The consensus was that front yard fencing remain limited to 4' in height.

3. Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget

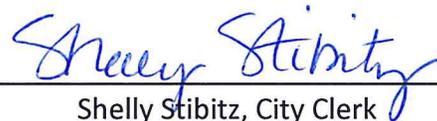
Mr. Meyers was pleased to present the proposed FY2019 Operating Budget to City Council with the millage rate and services maintained at current levels. Finance Director Mike Huston provided an overview of the budget referring to the charts included with

the budget book and stated that all are in good shape and balanced. Mr. Meyers provided some insights of the proposed budget including continued additional funding toward the pension plan and retiree health care. He also proposed increasing the General fund balance from 15% to 20% of expenditures over a three year period. Council Member Morgenstern asked at what point we would need to discontinue the TIFA pass-through practice. Mr. Meyers anticipates three fiscal years of TIFA pass-through which provides tax revenue of approximately \$500,000 to the City's General Fund and more than \$500,000 to other taxing jurisdictions annually. Council Member Flanders asked about the status of the purchase of properties in Eastowne and City Attorney Doug Hughes stated that closing documents are currently being recorded on five lots and two lots are in a six-month redemption period. Council Member Flanders inquired if, due to the Sheriff's Department decision to discontinue marine patrol of Mona Lake, Police Cadets could be assigned to that task. Chief Jon Gale replied that specialized training is required and that full-time officers are currently enrolled. Council Member Hylland was interested in the goal of patrolling Mona Lake as he, and other Council members, want the lake to be enjoyed. Chief Gale indicated that patrolling is intended to assure boaters and lakefront owners that there is a police presence and enforcement will not be heavy-handed. At Council Member Moulatsiotis' request, Mr. Meyers described the proposed strategic planning process as approximately two meetings with Council and staff to create a broad plan of goals for the City projected for completion over the next 5 – 10 years. Council Members complimented staff on a well-prepared budget and agree that it be brought forward for approval at the May 1, 2018 meeting.

General Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelly Stibitz, City Clerk