

**Norris City Council
Regular Meeting**

**March 11, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the City Council of Norris Tennessee convened March 11, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

The following Councilmembers were present: Bill Grieve, Will Grinder, Mayor Chris Mitchell, Chuck Nicholson and Loretta Painter.

Also, present were Charles Adam Ledford, City Manager, Sandy Johnson, City Recorder and representatives of the press from Courier News and the Norris Bulletin.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Mitchell.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Painter suggested the city manager review the boards and commissions ordinances and update them so they have the same flow and report back to council in April with an overview of the progress. Councilmember Grieve moved to approve the agenda and Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC

Al Fletcher, resident, spoke in regards to having a memorial for Barbara Fletcher and Adam Ledford suggested he come meet with him and discuss his ideas.

Larry Beeman, 75th Anniversary Committee Chair, gave a reminder of several upcoming dates and activities as follows:

- April 7th is the 75th Anniversary of the City of Norris and there will be a proclamation read and a tree planting ceremony at 2:00 p.m. on the Commons
- April 8th the Norris Post Office will provide a stamp that recognizes Norris' 75th Birthday and you can bring a blank envelope or piece of paper and get the stamp on it.
- April 12th -14th will be the Little Theatre play "Where I Belong" at the Museum of Appalachia, tickets are now on sale
- May 18th at 4:00 p.m. will be the official birthday celebration and a community photo will be taken near the pavilion
- June 20th - Learn the history of our town during the Norris Historical Bus tour beginning at the Norris Dam Visitors Center, and travelling through the watershed and meanders along the streets of the original Norris cottages and buildings.
- Coming soon is the 75th Anniversary Commemorative book, this will be a hardback book and filled with photos and will focus on the significant role volunteers play in continuing the living history of Norris.

Mayor Mitchell reported the Recreation Commission will meet March 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. and encouraged everyone to review the master plan and give comments and feedback to Bailey. The goal is that we will see it at our next council meeting for approval of the application for a grant.

MINUTES

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Councilmember Nicholson moved to approve once a few suggested changes were made, Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

OLD BUSINESS

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Mr. Ledford reported he has requested updated estimates on both this topic and SIA Sawmill Road Project. He stated Bailey reached out to the engineer firms and talked with them and they are in the process of developing the estimates and an update will be provided at the next council meeting.

SIA SAWMILL ROAD PROJECT

Mr. Ledford reported he has been notified that this project has been reassigned and he attempted to reach out to them.

Update on Facilities Condition – Setting a Facilities Meeting

Mr. Ledford reported an inspection has been completed and he has provided a copy of that report to Kerry Hevel, Public Works Director, for his review but they have not had time to discuss it together. Mayor Mitchell asked Mr. Ledford to come back with recommendations and what you propose to address at the next council meeting.

Capital Outlay Note

Mayor Mitchell stated he wants to leave this on the agenda until it is needed.

Discussion on Storm Sewer System

Consideration of Second Reading of Ordinance #672, entitled, “An Ordinance of the City of Norris, Tennessee, Establishing a Stormwater Utility and Fee Structure”

Mayor Mitchell stated we had a public hearing earlier and this ordinance does not have the fee structure or organization chart. Councilmember Nicholson was opposed to section 16-209 because it does establish a flat fee for all residents and he asked if council was ready to approve a flat rate for all residents. Several Councilmembers responded yes, they are ready to move forward and vote. Mayor Mitchell gave Councilmember Nicholson more time to revise the verbiage and they would come back to this item later on in the agenda process. Councilmember Nicholson agreed and was given more time to examine his decision and he eventually moved to approve the ordinance with a proposed amendment which failed due to lack of a second. Councilmember Grinder made a motion to amend the ordinance by eliminating section 16-203 (6) of the ordinance and Mayor Mitchell seconded. The motion passed 4-1 by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.” Councilmember Nicholson abstained.

Discussion and Consideration related to City of Norris Online Presence

Councilmember Nicholson stated after the last council meeting, he had forward to council several nearby entities using Facebook and would like to hear their thoughts on those entities.

Councilmember Grinder stated he uses Facebook and looked at Oak Ridge and Clinton's pages and stated they seem to use theirs for general information, but doesn't appear to have any negative aspects. He believes it could be part of the communication plan.

Councilmember Painter stated she looked at the population of those cities and we are much smaller than those other cities who have Facebook. She stated she is interested in having a workshop to fully discuss this topic. Councilmember Painter stated she is concerned about people being able to make negative comments and the amount of time staff would spend trying to keep up with and monitor, and what are we willing to take off of what they are currently doing. Councilmember Painter feels our web page should be monitored more often and updated more often. She stated she is interested in hearing more information and would like to have a workshop to discuss potential methods of online city communications with the public.

Councilmember Grieve agrees with Councilmember Painter. He questioned who in the office currently has time to monitor a Facebook page.

Councilmember Grinder stated a comprehensive plan from Adam would be very helpful

Mayor Mitchell stated we are currently in a dilemma right now because we currently have organizations who have Facebook, Tree Commission, Recreation Commission and Little Theatre to name a few. He

stated if we are going to have social media, we need a policy that is consistent. Mayor Mitchell stated we need to have a purpose and a goal. Councilmember Painter stated no one knows who has control or clear guidance on the Little Theatre page. Mayor Mitchell asked how do we manage comments.

Councilmember Painter made a motion to schedule a meeting on Monday, April 29, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. and Councilmember Grinder seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Confirming Mayoral Appoints to City Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Mayor Mitchell moved to nominate Kim Hill to the Recreation Commission; Don Barger to the Watershed Board; and Al Lesar to the Community Development Board and Councilmember Grieve seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

Consideration of Approving Watershed Timber Sale

Councilmember Grieve moved to approve the bid and Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

Consideration of Awarding Bid and Approving Resolution #1-2024, entitled, "A Resolution Approving an Agreement Between the City of Norris and Elizabeth H. Cochran for Stage Manager of Norris Little Theatre 75th Anniversary Theater Production"

Councilmember Grinder moved to approve the bid and resolution and Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

Discussion and Consideration of Utility Tree Safety – Council had a brief discussion regarding tree safety and the need for guidelines regarding planting trees anywhere within the city where roots could potentially impact underground utilities. It was suggested where possible when planting trees to keep a 10 foot barrier from the underground buried utilities.

Consideration of Resolution #2-2024, entitled, "A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to Submit an Application for the Norris Area Community Foundation 2024 Grant."

Councilmember Grinder moved to approve the resolution and Councilmember Grieve seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

Consideration of Resolution #3-2024, entitled, "A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Establish a Policy with the Clinton Utilities Board to Require the City's Approval Prior to Utility Service Activation."

Councilmember Painter moved to approve the bid and Councilmember Grinder seconded. After a brief discussion, Councilmember Painter amended the resolution to read as follows: "*A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Establish a Policy with the Clinton Utilities Board to Require the City's Approval Prior to Providing Utility Service Activation*" and Councilmember Grinder seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye." The amended original resolution was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

Consideration of First Reading of Ordinance #673, entitled, "An Ordinance of the City of Norris, Tennessee, Amending the Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023 and Ending June 30, 2024"

Councilmember Nicholson moved to approve the resolution and Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye." Councilmember Grinder moved to schedule a public hearing on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. and Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

Consideration of Resolution #4-2024, entitled, “A Resolution Approving an Agreement Between the City of Norris and Community Development Partners, LLC for Administrative Consulting Assistance of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation American Rescue Plan Act Competitive Project”

Councilmember Grinder moved to approve the resolution and Councilmember Grieve seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.”

DEPARTMENT AND COMMISSIONS REPORTS

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT – A copy of the report as presented is attached as “Exhibit A”

POLICE DEPARTMENT – A copy of the report as presented is attached as “Exhibit B”

FIRE DEPARTMENT – A copy of the report as presented is attached as “Exhibit C”

NORRIS WATER COMMISSION (NWC) – A copy of the report as presented is attached as “Exhibit D”

PUBLIC WORKS - A copy of the report as presented is attached as “Exhibit E”

BILLS PAYABLE – No report.

MINUTES AND REPORTS (BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS)

WATERSHED BOARD – Joe Feeman reported they plan to have a control burn at the wildlife openings and forest burn with UT on board. He also reported the timber sale is now under contract and will begin soon.

TREE COMMISSION – Joe Feeman reported the school board will purchase replacement trees for the Norris Middle School driveway area.

ANIMAL SHELTER COMMISSION – No report.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – No report.

LITTLE THEATRE – May Boardman reported practice for the 75th Anniversary play continues and they are pleased to have Liz on board.

PLANNING/BZA – Joe Feeman reported they plan to have both boards meet at the same time.

ARCHIVES – Joe Feeman reported they received donations of pottery made by Ernie Wilson.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Grieve moved to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. and Councilmember Grinder seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.”

Sandy Johnson, City Recorder

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

April 8, 2024

Chris Mitchell, Mayor