

**Norris City Council
Regular Meeting**

**September 9, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the City Council of Norris Tennessee convened September 9, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

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

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

Legal Representation: P. Edward Pratt and Brian Bibb

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Mitchell.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Mitchell made a suggestion to move the following items up under New Business up and Councilmember Painter moved to go into closed session to hear from legal representation regarding the two items listed below and Councilmember Nicholson seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with all councilmembers voting "Aye."

- a) **CONSIDERATION OF GOING INTO CLOSED SESSION TO HEAR FROM LEGAL REPRESENTATION REGARDING COVENANT LIFE INTERNATIONAL, INC. V. CITY OF NORRIS AND ALL SUBSEQUENT COUNTERSUITS UNDER: T.C.A. 8-44, SMITH COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION V. ANDERSON, 676 S.W.2D 328, 332-333 (1984), DORRIER V. DARK, 537 S.W.2D 888 (1976), VAN HOOSER V. WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, 807 S.W.2D 230 (1991)**
- b) **CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ON LEGAL REPRESENTATION'S ADVICE**

At 6:02 p.m. the recording device was turned off and members of Council and the City's Attorney's exited the room for a private consultation.

Mayor Mitchell reconvened the meeting at 6:24 p.m., members of council and legal representatives rejoined and the recording device was turned back on and the meeting continued.

Mayor Mitchell made a motion to table items a) and b) to a scheduled special called meeting on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to consider legal representation's advice and Councilmember Grinder seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with all councilmembers voting "Aye."

HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC

Ron Hill, resident, asked about the criteria of the exemption elements of the Stormwater fees. Mr. Ledford responded he didn't have the ordinance in front of him and couldn't answer his question at the moment, but he would get back with him regarding his questions.

George Miceli, resident, stated he had sent an email to Council and city staff regarding the city's website and its efficiency and congratulate city staff for their hard work and great communications to the residents through the city's website.

Martha Shear, resident, inquired about the paving of the parking lot at Archer's and asked if there was an update on the building. Mayor Mitchell stated that was private property and that he didn't know any new updates. Mr. Ledford stated the city did not pave the parking lot.

Kathy Barger, resident, stated they are still working trying to get the Archer's building rented or purchased but it's a work in progress.

Mayor Mitchell reported he will be holding a Town Hall meeting and all city council candidates are invited to participate. Each participating candidate will be given unstructured time to present and/or discuss topics. Those meetings are scheduled for Saturday, September 21, 2024. The two sessions are as follows; 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. and the other 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., both will be held in the Community Room, 20 Chestnut Drive, Norris, TN.

MINUTES

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 8, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Councilmember Grinder made a motion to approve and Councilmember Grieve seconded. The motion passed by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye." Councilmember Nicholson abstained.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 12, 2024 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

Councilmember Grinder made a motion to approve and Councilmember Grieve seconded. The motion passed by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye." Councilmember Painter abstained.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 12, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve and Councilmember Grinder seconded. The motion passed by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye." Councilmember Painter abstained.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

UPDATE ON SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS PROJECT

Mr. Whited reported there are no new updates.

UPDATE ON SIA SAWMILL ROAD PROJECT

Mr. Ledford reported Tony Wilkerson, Water Superintendent, has been working with the State on the locations of utility lines.

UPDATE ON FACILITIES CONDITION

a) Community Building (Gym Fans)

Kerry Hevel, the Public Works Director, reported receiving a quote from a bidder indicating that the cost to purchase and install fans would be around \$18,000. Mr. Hevel also discussed the noise level of the fans. Council decided to keep this item on the agenda but agreed not to take any action at this time.

b) Workshop on Community Building Needs

Council decided to keep this item on the agenda but agreed not to take any action at this time.

c) McNeeley Siding Bids

Mr. Ledford reported bids have been sent out and there has been no feedback.

REVIEW OF SWOT SURVEY FOR CITY OF NORRIS STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Ledford reported the purpose of the survey was described as gathering a broad, high-level vision from residents rather than prioritizing specific projects. The Community Development Board will take over the survey process for further development.

CAPITAL OUTLAY NOTE – UTILITY

Mayor Mitchell stated this is not needed but wants to keep it on the agenda for future use.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #691-2024, ENTITLED, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORRIS, TENNESSEE, AMENDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025”

Councilmember Grieve made a motion to approve the first reading and Councilmember Nicholson seconded. The motion passed by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.” A Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, October 14, 2024 at 5:30 a.m.

CONSIDERATION OF FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #692-2024, ENTITLED, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORRIS, TENNESSEE, AMENDING CHAPTER 3: TREE COMMISSION”

Councilmember Grinder made a motion to approve the first reading and Councilmember Nicholson seconded. The motion passed by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.” A Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, October 14, 2024 at 5:30 a.m.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #20-2024, ENTITLED, “A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE 2024-2025 ‘SAFETY PARTNERS’ MATCHING GRANT”

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

REVIEW OF POTENTIAL RIGHT-OF-WAY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

After a lengthy discussion, council agreed this needs to be discussed at a future workshop.

CONSIDERATION OF GOING OUT FOR BIDS ON CELL PHONES AND SERVICE

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

CONSIDERATION OF MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

No appointments at this time.

DEPARTMENT AND COMMISSIONS REPORTS

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT – Mr. Ledford publicly recognized city office employees, Bailey Whited and Sandy Johnson, for their commitment to tackling complex issues, resolving problems, and saving the City money. He also complimented Kerry Hevel by stating the city has never looked better! 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) – Water Superintendent Wilkerson reported that a fire hydrant at 118 Orchard Road was removed due to obstruction by a large tree. A new hydrant will be installed in a more accessible location. In the meantime, the fire department’s hoses can reach all homes in the area from a nearby functioning hydrant. 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”

PARKS & RECREATION – No update on Creamery Park; a Bocce Ball set has been purchased and is available for anyone to use on the outside lawn in front of the gym building. The set will be stored with the other recreation equipment in the gym area.

BILLS PAYABLE – No report.

MINUTES AND REPORTS (BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS)

RECREATION COMMISSION – Councilmember Nicholson reported according to Brianne Kibler, they still need volunteers to help with the Halloween Trail that is scheduled for October 26, 2024.

WATERSHED BOARD – Councilmember Grieve reported the drawing for deer hunt was a success. There are still a few Archery permits available in the city office.

TREE COMMISSION – Councilmember Nicholson reported they are still watering the trees. He also reported the Arboretum sign has been stolen once again.

ANIMAL SHELTER COMMISSION – No report.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – No report.

LITTLE THEATRE –. May Boardman reported their next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 19, 2024 and they are still looking for board members.

PLANNING/BZA – No report.

ARCHIVES – No report.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Grieve moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. and Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.”

Sandy Johnson, City Recorder

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

October 14, 2024

Chris Mitchell, Mayor