

**Norris City Council
Regular Meeting**

**August 12, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the City Council of Norris Tennessee convened August 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

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

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.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Mitchell.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Nicholson requested to move up Recreation Commission under approval of minutes.

HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC

Councilmember Grieve stated he has been snooping around and found something positive here in Norris and stated a new restaurant will be coming in and they have a suggestion box for what types of food you would like for them to prepare.

Sarah Miceli, resident, added to that by stating the suggestion box will be there for the next couple of weeks if you want to add suggestions.

Mayor Mitchell announced that he will be hosting a "Town Hall" meeting on Saturday, September 21, 2024, for the candidates in the upcoming November 2024 election. The exact time of the meeting has yet to be determined. This event will give candidates an opportunity to present their platforms and answer questions from the public.

MINUTES

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 8, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Councilmember Nicholson proposed several corrections and recommended approving the minutes at the September meeting, which Grinder seconded. The motion passed by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

ITEM MOVED UP

MINUTES AND REPORTS (BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS)

RECREATION COMMISSION –Per Councilmember Nicholson request, Norris Recreation has been awarded a \$750,000.00 grant from Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) for their Recreation Master Plan. Mayor Mitchell explained the grant was a 50/50 match with a three-year time limit. Mr. Whited reported the plan would include demolition and removal of existing tennis courts, followed by the development of a new complex. The new complex will feature a tennis court, 3 or 4 designated pickleball courts, and a new outdoor basketball court. Additionally, upgrades to existing restroom facilities will ensure complete ADA compliance, and ADA compliant parking always will be added to all new facilities. and renovating the restrooms.

OLD BUSINESS

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Mr. Whited reported that after consulting with the City's attorney, he was advised that the City administration should not move the sidewalk farther from the mature trees along the street and onto school property without first completing a deed transfer of the land from the county to the city. An

alternative option would be to overlay a new sidewalk on top of the existing one and raise the adjacent ground to eliminate any drop-off trip hazard. Council agreed they would ask the school board to assist with the financial burden of this project.

SIA SAWMILL ROAD PROJECT

Mr. Ledford stated there was no update.

Update on Facilities Condition – Community Building (Gym Fans) – Mr. Ledford reported that he is currently obtaining quotes for installing large fans in the gym as a more cost-effective alternative to the expensive repairs or replacement of the existing, non-operational air conditioning unit.

Capital Outlay Note

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

Reconsideration of Ordinance #690-2024, entitled, “An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Map by Rezoning a Portion of Parcel 031 083.00 From FAR: Forest, Agriculture, and Recreation and P-1: Professional and Civic District to C-2: General Commercial District”

After an extensive discussion, and with no representative from Covenant Life Church present once again, Councilmember Grinder made a motion to deny the request, which was seconded by Councilmember Nicholson. The motion passed by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.”

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Ordinance #689-2024, entitled, “An Ordinance of the City of Norris, Tennessee, Establishing a Base Rate for Stormwater User Fees, Setting the Amount of the SFU (Single Family Residential Unit)”

Councilmember Grinder moved to table the ordinance until the project is ready for action, and Councilmember Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.”

Consideration of Request for Proposals (RFP) for McNeeley Siding Replacement

Mr. Ledford reported that at the last council meeting, he requested approval for proposals for the siding replacement. However, recognizing that the job is too small to attract bids, he is now requesting to add gutter replacement to the proposal. Councilmember Grinder moved to approve, and Councilmember Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.”

Review of SWOT survey for City of Norris Strategic Plan

After a lengthy discussion, several residents commented and gave suggestions regarding the survey and those suggestions will be taken into consideration. Mayor Mitchell stated there would be future workshops where residents could give their input.

Consideration of Resolution #19-2024, entitled, “A Resolution Approving an Agreement Between the City of Norris and Municipal Technical Advisory Services (MTAS) for the Codification and Revision of its Ordinances”

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

Consideration of Mayoral Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Mayor Mitchell nominated Ralph Jordan and Dennis Yankee be reappointed to the Watershed Board. Councilmember Grieved moved to approve and Councilmember Grinder seconded. The motion passed by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson 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”

Susan Miceli stated the public has no idea of the workload and responsibilities the public works department takes on. She suggested the report of the public works director be posted on the city’s website.

PARKS & RECREATION – Mr. Whited reported the Disc golf had a successful fundraiser to help the animal shelter.

BILLS PAYABLE – No report.

MINUTES AND REPORTS (BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS)

RECREATION COMMISSION – Brianne Kibler reported the Norris Annual Picnic on the Commons is coming up on Saturday, August 24, 2024.

WATERSHED BOARD –Councilmember Grieve reported the Watershed Deer Hunt drawing is Wednesday, August 15, 2024. Registration will begin at Noon and the drawing will begin at 2:00 p.m. Joe Feeman reported the trees that threatened the safety of the wellhead building have been cut down around the spring water source.

TREE COMMISSION – No report.

ANIMAL SHELTER COMMISSION – No report.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – No report.

LITTLE THEATRE – May Boardman stated they will reconvene on September 19, 2024 and they are in need of board members.

PLANNING/BZA – No report.

ARCHIVES – Mayor Mitchell presented Joe Feeman, Archives Chairman, with recordings he had made and collected over the years while interviewing many of Norris’s older residents. Mr. Feeman expressed his interest in making this oral history of Norris accessible to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Grieve moved to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. and Councilmember Grinder seconded. The motion passed by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.”

Sandy Johnson, City Recorder

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

September 9, 2024

Chris Mitchell, Mayor