

**Norris City Council
Regular Meeting**

**April 10, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the City Council of Norris Tennessee convened April 10, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

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

Also present were Charles Adam Ledford, City Manager and Bailey Whited, Assistant 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

Mayor Mitchell added to the agenda the following items: Cross Connection Inspection from Norris Water Department and to Propose a Bidding Process for Recreation and Parks. He also requested to move item I.) Consideration of Recognizing the Official Birthday of the City of Norris under Old Business up to the beginning of the meeting as well as item a.) A Representative of the Anderson County Highway Department to Address the Council on a Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant under New Business. Mayor Mitchell also removed item k.) Consideration of Resolution #3-2023, entitled, "A Resolution of the Council of the City of Norris, Tennessee to Abandon Undeveloped Road Easements on parcel #043.0020" under Old Business.

HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC

Tommy Mariner, the Norris representative to the Anderson County Library Board, spoke regarding an ongoing issue of book challenges and requests from citizens regarding sexual and violent content in the county's four public libraries. Three books have been challenged, "Families Like Mine," "Grandad's Camper" and "It Feels Good To Be Yourself." Mr. Mariner reported several threats have been made to librarians and members of the Library Board, but stated if you are concerned about your child getting a book he suggested you should go to the library with them.

MINUTES

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 13, 2023 REGULAR MEETING – Councilmember Painter made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilmember **Grinder** seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 20, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING - Councilmember Grieve made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilmember Nicholson seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 13, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING - PUBLIC HEARING - Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

ITEMS MOVED UP FROM THE AGENDA ORDER

I.) Under Old Business

CONSIDERATION OF RECOGNIZING THE OFFICIAL BIRTHDAY OF THE CITY OF NORRIS

Larry Beeman, Chairman of 75th Birthday Celebration Steering Committee, reported to council that Councilmember Nicholson has some information to share regarding the date. Councilmember Nicholson reported he received the act from 1949 and it states the act was passed by the state and approved by the Governor on April 7, 1949. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion the Council agrees the official date of incorporation is April 7, 1949 based on the States Legislature and Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

a.) Under New Business

A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ANDERSON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON A SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL GRANT

Nick Vowell, Anderson County Highway Department, reported to council an opportunity to apply for a Safe Streets and Roads Grant that could benefit the city with several projects. Council suggested he work with Mr. Ledford on getting the information he needs for the grant. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to agree to participate for the grant depending on the cost associated with the grant and Councilmember Grieve 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, SIA SAWMILL ROAD PROJECT AND HWY 61/441 LIGHTING PROJECT

Mr. Ledford reported he has no new updates.

CONSIDERATION OF LEAVE BUYOUT AGREEMENTS #1 & #2

Mr. Ledford stated the leave buyout Agreements #1 and #2 consist of purchasing accrued annual and compensatory time and will solve the existing leave issues in the departments. He recommended approval of the agreements which would compensate the employees over a period of six (6) years. Councilmember Grinder made a motion to accept the leave agreements as submitted 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 COMPENSATION FOR 401K MATCHING FUND SETUP AGREEMENT

Mr. Ledford reported in September 2020 the City established a matching retirement program, however in October 2022 the City passed a resolution and began matching 3% against the retirement program. During the interim period, two employees joined the program assuming the city was matching up to 3% of their retirement, however a third employee had signed up but his application didn't go through due to error on the sites website. Mr. Ledford backtracked to the initial attempt and determined this employee should have been compensated as well. Councilmember Painter made a motion to approve the agreement and Councilmember Nicholson seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

UPDATE ON FACILITIES CONDITION – Mr. Ledford reported he received the inspection report on the McNeeley building repairs and he plans to meet with the gentleman who performed the inspection and with Kerry Hevel, Public Works Director to discuss what can be done in-house and get started on those. There are some additional services that will need to be contracted but will report back to council on recommendations. Once Mr. Ledford meets with the inspector, he plans to move forward with getting inspections on the Community building and Police/Fire building.

CAPITAL OUTLAY NOTE – Mayor Mitchell stated this item is incorporated in the budget process and it should remain on the agenda.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #642, ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORRIS, TENNESSEE, ADOPTING REVISED PERSONNEL POLICIES – Mr. Ledford went over the highlighted changes in the policy. Councilmember Painter made a motion to approve as amended on first reading and Councilmember Nicholson seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye." A special called meeting was scheduled on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. for a public hearing.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE #641, ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE 2018 EDITION" – Councilmember Grinder made a motion to approve and Councilmember Grieve seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

ADDITIONAL ITEM ADDED

PROPOSE A BIDDING PROCESS FOR FUNDING RECREATION AND PARKS

Mayor Mitchell stated he would like to make our recreations something to be proud of and class A and that requires funding. He stated council will see him find ways to support that process. Mayor made a motion to authorize Recreation and Parks Director to work with Mr. Ledford on getting a bid process started for the following items: Pavilion, kiosk, picnic tables and water fountain at Eric Harold Park; Kiosk and water fountain at Disc Golf Course; Pavilion, kiosk, picnic tables, benches, water fountain and fencing at Oak Road Park; and specialty surface paint/surface for flooring to increase safe play for pickleball in the Community Building gymnasium. Councilman Grinder seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

WATER CROSS CONNECTION INSPECTION

Mayor Mitchell stated he would like a brief update to council since we have an entity that stated they were going to have their water altered and they communicated that to the state. Mayor Mitchell was speaking to Norris Water Commissioner's and Tony Wilkerson, NWC Superintendent, and stated we did the inspection and he understands the distinction between Water Commission and building code, and he is not asking to address the code. Mayor Mitchell asked what they have done, does it create in any way a health and safety issues within your scope. Mr. Wilkerson reported the water supply is protected. Mayor Mitchell asked if there were any reason for us to think there had been some alterations and do we need to do a building code review. He stated when he reads Mr. Wilkerson's report it implies that someone told you that there had been an alteration to the water. Mr. Wilkerson stated the water supply is protected, and internally all he can do is give a recommendation. Mayor Mitchell stated he is referencing the campground and the sanctuary that they need to have backflow protection. Mr. Wilkerson stated he ask the gentleman that was there to see their connection, they did a walk through and said he didn't know where it was at and that he would get back to him and he hasn't heard back from him. Mayor Mitchell stated he encouraged all of councilmembers to have detailed conversations with Mr. Ledford regarding this topic. Councilmember Painter reported she distributed the report and communication that was handed out to the NWC meeting and public to Council members before tonight's meeting so they could read it before the meeting. Councilmember Grinder stated that the codes and rules should be followed and everyone treated fairly. Mayor Mitchell agreed and thanked the NWC and Mr. Wilkerson for their work. Mr. Wilkerson stated he and NWC would like to be included in the meetings council has with Mr. Ledford.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 643 – ENTITLED, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORRIS, TENNESSEE, AMENDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023”

Councilmember Painter made a motion to approve the first reading and Councilmember Nicholson seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye." A special called meeting was scheduled on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. for a public hearing.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #4-2023, ENTITLED, “A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORRIS, TENNESSEE TO ESTABLISH PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ORDINANCE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY”

Councilmember Painter made a motion to approve and Councilmember Nicholson 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"

MINUTES AND REPORTS (BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS)

RECREATION COMMISSION – Brianne Kibler, Chair, reported they are getting ready for Summer Recreation Program, hopefully hiring same employees from last year. She also reported they plan to meet with Community Development Partners on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 to discuss the Master plan.

WATERSHED BOARD – Councilmember Grieve reported the previous minutes are in the agenda packet and Joe Feeman reported that they were planning forest burn on Saturday, April 15, 2023 of approximately 50 acres and a several students from UT will be assisting with the burn.

TREE COMMISSION – Councilmember Nicholson announced Arbor Day was a great success. He also reported the trees would be delivered next Monday, April 17, 2023 and would need some assistance from the Public Works employees.

ANIMAL SHELTER COMMISSION – No report

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – No report.

LITTLE THEATRE – No report.

PLANNING/BZA – No report.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Painter made a motion to adjourn at 9:55 p.m. Councilmember Grieve 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

May 8, 2023

Chris Mitchell, Mayor