

**Norris City Council
Regular Meeting**

**May 8, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the City Council of Norris Tennessee convened May 8, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

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

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

No changes were made.

HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC

George Miceli, Butternut Drive, spoke regarding a street light that is out at Highway 61, and that area is very dark. Mr. Ledford will contact CUB to have the light checked out.

Don Nathan, Dogwood Road, spoke regarding the stormwater run-off near Dogwood Road and for the new extension of the road at the middle school construction project. He strongly advised council or the school needs to address this issue. Mr. Nathan stated this type of issue is an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issue and it needs to be addressed as soon as possible. Mayor Mitchell and Council agreed this is an issue and they will address it at their earliest convenience. Mr. Ledford will reach out to Dr. Parrott, Superintendent, Anderson County Schools, and will report back to Council the results of their conversation.

Councilmember Grinder requested to speak as a citizen instead of a Councilmember to address the comments made in the May 3, 2023 Courier News stating the recent resignations of the Norris Water Commissioners (NWC). The Courier stated "The Norris Water Commission has been criticized as ineffective and derelict in its duties recently as a result of a lack of long-term maintenance on the sewer system, which has resulted in fines and mandates for improvements by state environmental regulators." Councilmember Grinder stated he didn't know who had criticized them or their effectiveness, but he felt sure it wasn't a whole lot of people. He stated the prior Water Commissioners resigned because of their own personal reasons and they were doing a really, really good job. Councilmember Grinder expressed his hope that in the future, the Courier News reporter will use better judgement in his wording. He also stated this kind of verbiage is hurtful to the commissioners and it's inaccurate. He stated the stormwater issues is not a recent problem, but it is a result of 10, 20, 30 and 40 years of past Water Commissioners and City Council's failure to identify and address the issues. Councilmember Grinder expressed his hope that in the future, the Courier News reporter will use better judgement in his wording.

MINUTES

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 10, 2023 REGULAR MEETING – Councilmember Grinder made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilmember Grieve seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 10, 2023 PUBLIC HEARING - Councilmember Grinder made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilmember Grieve seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 24, 2023 BEER PERMIT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING - Councilmember Grinder made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilmember Grieve seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, 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.

UPDATE ON FACILITIES CONDITION - Mr. Ledford reported he met with the library staff and they worked out a path over the next few months on how to identify those issues they talked about and how to move forward. He stated most of these issues will be addressed over the next two-three months. Mr. Ledford stated there was not a roof repair on the library and they left the idea of the siding open and they are going to get back with him regarding their recommendation on siding with the understanding most of the siding will need to be replaced. Roof repair information will be forthcoming. Spencer Boardman, resident, asked Mr. Ledford to observe the lighting issues at the outdoor stairway of the library, it appears there is little to no light at night and could be a hazard. Mr. Ledford added that to his list of issues to remediate.

CAPITAL OUTLAY NOTE - Mayor Mitchell stated he believes the status is, it is ready and they will act on it whenever the need is there.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE #642, ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORRIS, TENNESSEE, ADOPTING REVISED PERSONNEL POLICIES" - Councilmember Grieve made a motion to approve the ordinance, and Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

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

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE #647, 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 of ordinance, and Councilmember Grieve seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

ORDINANCE #646, ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 10, CHAPTER 2, DOGS AND CATS, BY ADDING LANGUAGE TO REGULATE THE DISPOSAL OF ANIMAL WASTE AND INTRODUCE A TRIAL PERIOD FOR ADOPTING PETS" - Councilmember Grieve made a motion to approve the first reading of ordinance, and Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

ORDINANCE #648, 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 Grinder made a motion to table this item and discuss further details at a special called meeting and public hearing on Monday, May 22, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. and Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING 2023 FIREWORKS - Councilmember Painter made a motion to approve the purchase of the fireworks, and Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE #649, ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORRIS, TENNESSEE, AMENDING TITLE 1, CHAPTER 1, CITY COUNCIL, BY CHANGING THE TIME OF REGULAR MEETINGS" - Councilmember Grinder made a motion to approve on first reading which changes the meeting time from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Councilmember Grieve seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

Councilmember Grinder also made a motion to schedule Public Hearings on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. on the following Ordinances:

- 1) Ordinance #646, Entitled, "An Ordinance of the City of Norris, Tennessee, Amending Title 10, Chapter 2, Dogs and Cats, By Adding Language to Regulate the Disposal of Animal Waste and Introduce a Trial Period for Adopting Pets"
- 2) Ordinance #647, 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"
- 3) Ordinance #649, Entitled, "An Ordinance of the City of Norris, Tennessee, Amending Title 1, Chapter 1, City Council, by Changing the Time of Regular Meetings"

Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

Ploomie Granado, Hilltop Lane, spoke regarding an article that was in the Courier Newspaper regarding the Norris Water Commissioners (NWC) and she stated she made a phone call to the Courier News and questioned Chambers Williams, editor of the Courier News, as to who made the comments about the Norris Water Commission that he reported in the May 3, 2023 edition. Ms. Granado stated it was very hurtful to the city and if you were misquoted then it needs to be addressed, and she stressed she hopes this never happens again. She stated you are never going to get people to volunteer when they are spoken to negatively.

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 – Nothing to report

MINUTES AND REPORTS (BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS)

RECREATION COMMISSION – Brianne Kibler, Chair, reported they are getting ready for 2023 Summer Recreation Program, the program will last for seven (7) weeks, and the same two (2) employees returning.

WATERSHED BOARD – Councilmember Grieve reported the burns went well although some spots didn't get done. Spencer Boardman reported the trail maintenance projects for the summer have been identified.

TREE COMMISSION – Spence Boardman thanked the volunteers who helped with the tree planting along Highway 61 and the grass seed that was spread, and for the people volunteering to take care of the honor trees planted throughout the city. He also thanked Public Works Department, and the Anderson County Sheriff's Department they were a big help. He stated there was great utilization of the water wagon.

ANIMAL SHELTER COMMISSION – No report

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – Councilmember Grinder reported the 2023 Concerts on the Commons are fully planned. They start on the first Friday of June and continue on Fridays through June. The final concert will be held on Norris Day.

LITTLE THEATRE – May Boardman reported they are on tract for their commitment to the City's 75th Anniversary Celebration play in 2024.

PLANNING/BZA – Training of new members is continuing.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Grieve made a motion to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. Councilmember Grinder seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

Sandy Johnson, City Recorder

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

June 10, 2023

Chris Mitchell, Mayor