

**Norris City Council  
Regular Meeting**

**June 12, 2023  
7:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

The regular meeting of the City Council of Norris Tennessee convened June 12, 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**

No changes were made.

**HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC**

Spencer Boardman, resident of Reservoir Road, requested the City Manager to contact AT&T for assistance in removing a fallen branch tangled in their wires on his property.

Ms. Chris Campbell, resident of Oak Ridge, asked Council how to get Norris properly posted on Google Maps as she is having issues with delivery persons finding Norris. Council did not have an answer to the issue.

Several citizens requested that the Council speak louder so that everyone can hear their comments.

George Miceli, resident of Butternut Drive, asked if a downed tree totally blocking the utility right of way behind his home could be reported to CUB for tree removal.

**MINUTES**

**APPROVAL OF THE MAY 8, 2023 REGULAR MEETING** – Councilmember Painter made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilmember Grieve seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter, and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.”

**APPROVAL OF THE MAY 8, 2023 PUBLIC HEARINGS** - Councilmember Grieve 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 MAY 2, 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 MAY 22, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING** - Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilmember Grieve seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter, and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.”

**OLD BUSINESS**

**(This item was moved from New Business)**

Linda Tafelski, resident, addressed council to request forgiveness on property tax penalties and the ensuing recoupment lawsuit filed by the county on behalf of the city. According to Ms. Tafelski she never received her tax bill for her adjacent empty lot however, she did receive her property tax notice for her residence. According to Mr. Ledford, delinquent letters were mailed out in May and were later turned over to the county attorney to pursue further action. Councilmember Grinder made a motion to grant forgiveness and Councilmember Grieve seconded. After further discussion, Councilmembers Grinder and Grieve withdrew their motion and Mayor Mitchell suggested we table the item to the July 10, 2023

council meeting to give staff more time to communicate with County Attorney, Mr. Yager regarding their process of the summons. He also requested staff have a process regarding policies on how property tax delinquent notifications should be sent to residents. Ms. Johnson, City Recorder, stated this year we should put a notice in the Norris Bulletin and also on the water bills for the month of July.

**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL, SIA SAWMILL ROAD PROJECT-** Mr. Ledford reported he has no new updates.

**HWY 61/441 LIGHTING PROJECT** – Mr. Ledford reported a traffic study had been performed and the State didn't think a traffic light was needed however, their recommendation was to add signage and repaint traffic lines.

**UPDATE ON FACILITIES CONDITION** - Mr. Ledford reported the maintenance actions continue and he also emphasized the air conditioning in the Library/Recreation room would cost approximately \$11,000.00 to repair.

**CAPITAL OUTLAY NOTE** – No update

**ORDINANCE#646, ENTITLED, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORRIS, TENNESSEE, 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 Grinder made a motion to approve as written, and Councilmember Grieve seconded. After further discussion, the motion failed.

Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to amend the ordinance to change section 10-221 (1) to read “This section shall not apply in the W-1 Watershed District” and the phrase “belonging to” to “owned/rented by”, and Mayor Mitchell seconded. The motion passed by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter, and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.”

The original motion was voted on as amended. The motion passed by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Painter, and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.” Councilmember Nicholson voted “Nay.”

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

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

**RESOLUTION #3-2023, ENTITLED, “A RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORRIS/NORRIS WATER COMMISSION AND EXEMPT EMPLOYEES.”** Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve the three agreements and discuss the water superintendents at the NWC meeting on Monday, July 19, 2023 and Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Nicholson, Painter, and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.” Councilmember Grinder opposed.

**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, Nicholson, Painter, and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.”

**SETTING A DATE ON A MEETING SURROUNDING THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING –** Councilmember Painter made a motion to schedule a public input and discussion meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION #4-2023, ENTITLED, “A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORRIS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, LLC FOR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN.”** - Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve the ordinance, and Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter, and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.”

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #651, ENTITLED, “AN ORDINANCE TO TITLE 3 OF THE NORRIS MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING MUNICIPAL COURTS.”** - Councilmember Grinder made a motion to approve the ordinance and the ordinance failed due to lack of a second. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to amend the ordinance by removing the age requirement and accept the \$50.00 fine and Councilmember Grinder seconded. After further discussion, the motion failed. Mayor Mitchell made a motion to amend the ordinance to strike the entire section regarding the fines and Councilmember Grinder seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter, and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.”

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #650, ENTITLED, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORRIS, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND TITLE 17, REFUSE AND TRASH DISPOSAL, CHAPTER 1: REFUSE, SECTION 17-107, REFUSE COLLECTION FEES.”** - Councilmember Painter made a motion to approve the ordinance, and Councilmember Nicholson seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter, and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.”

**CONSIDERATION OF GOING OUT FOR BIDS ON 2023-24 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS -** Councilmember Grinder made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Painter seconded. Mayor Mitchell abstained. The motion failed. After a lengthy discussion regarding curb maintenance, Councilmember Grinder made a motion to table this item to the July 10, 2023 City Council meeting, and Mayor Mitchell seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Nicholson, Painter, and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.”

***FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES #652-654 WERE CONNECTED AND VOTED ON ALL TOGETHER, THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:***

**ORDINANCE #653, ENTITLED, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORRIS, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND TITLE (1), GENERAL ADMINISTRATION CHAPTER (3), CITY MANAGER, SECTION 1-305 EXCEPTIONS TO MANAGER’S POWERS, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES.”**

**ORDINANCE #654, ENTITLED, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORRIS, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND TITLE (18), WATER AND SEWER CHAPTER (1), WATER AND SEWERS, SECTIONS 18-101, 18-104, AND 18-110.”**

**ORDINANCE #652, ENTITLED, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORRIS, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE PERSONNEL POLICY OF THE CITY OF NORRIS.”**

Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve the ordinances on first reading, and Councilmember Painter seconded. The motion passed by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Nicholson, Painter, and Mayor Mitchell voting “Aye.” Councilmember Grinder stated he will not support the three ordinances therefore, voted “Nay”.

**MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR –** The Norris City Council is in a process of building on the progress/successes of the previous Norris Water Commission (NWC). We are currently serving as NWC and in the process of the Operations transiting to be a department. The purpose of the change is to provide the Superintendent with additional support to address increased regulations in both Water and Sewer scopes.

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #655, ENTITLED, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE NORRIS MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING OUTDOOR ADVERTISING”** - Councilmember Painter made

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

**DISCUSSION ON THE CITY OF NORRIS PURCHASING POLICIES** – This item will be on the July 10, 2023 agenda, no action taken.

*THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. –*  
Public Hearings: Ordinance #650, #651, #652, #653, 654 and 655

*THE ITEM BELOW WAS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. –*  
Second Reading of Ordinance #648, #650, #651, #652, #653, 654 and 655

**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 everything was going great with the Recreation Program.

**WATERSHED BOARD** – No report

**TREE COMMISSION** – No report

**ANIMAL SHELTER COMMISSION** – 1 cat and 1 puppy has been adopted.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** – No report.

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

**PLANNING/BZA** – No report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Grinder made a motion to adjourn at 9:49 p.m. Councilmember Nicholson seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Grieve, Grinder, Painter and Mayor Mitchell voting "Aye."

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Sandy Johnson, City Recorder

**APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL**

July 10, 2023

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Chris Mitchell, Mayor