

# Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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## “Meet and Greet with New Council Members”



It's City101. The new members of the Norfolk City Council recently attended the bi-monthly staff meeting of City of Norfolk managers. Although Thad Murren, representing Ward 4, was appointed to the council at the September meeting, Rob Merrill from Ward 3 and Shane Clausen from Ward 4 were just recently elected to their positions at

the November 2 general elections. All three asked questions and gave comments at the meeting that City managers, the Mayor and the City administrator usually hold the Wednesday morning before a council meeting. Council meeting agenda items are discussed along with any other current city matters.

The new members listened and then participated in the discussion of items that would be voted on by the Council. City operations manager Gary Miller and City streets manager Jim Koch answered questions from Shane Clausen about sidewalk repair. City attorney Clint Schukei explained to Merrill that the companies who did feasibility studies for the City were under contract to also do the project work.

Randy Gates, City of Norfolk finance director, explained how the Downtown Improvement District is funded and Beth Deck, City Clerk described to the members the process of getting a special designated liquor license.

Murren told the new council members that in the last two months he has already learned a lot about city operations and the City managers' role in keeping things run smoothly. "I have all the respect in the world for the people in this room. They're doing a fantastic job," Murren said.

Mayor Fuchtman encouraged the new members to contact any City manager if they had a question or if they or one of their constituents needed information. "These people are great to work with. Don't hesitate to call any of them if you have a question about city operations," Fuchtman said.

The new members will soon be issued city owned laptops that will be used for Council business during their term of office.

Scott Cordes, City Prevention Manager, said it's good to have new City Council members meet with the City managers. "We welcome the opportunity to get to know our elected officials and for them to get to know the various City divisions," Cordes said.