

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, Joseph Hunnicutt, William Mays, and Terry Roop

Absent: Joseph Fawbush

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by the Assistant City Manager, Fred Ramey.

Upon a motion by Terry Roop, seconded by Mark Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the January 20, 2009 meeting as presented.

24160

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors.

24161

Mayor Mays welcomed all in attendance at tonight's meeting.

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Establishing Regulations for the City's Recreation and Conservation Zone (R-CR).

Mr. Ward advised this was discussed at Council's last meeting and he was directed to advertise a public hearing. The Planning Commission held their public hearing on January 9th and approved the proposed zoning language. This zone primarily encompasses our watershed area including the City's two reservoirs and Flag Rock.

There were no questions or comments from Council prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

24162

There being no public comments, Mayor Mays closed the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Mark Caruso, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Fawbush, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Establishing Regulations for the City's Recreation and Conservation Zone. This ordinance will be in effect in thirty days. (Insert)

In their packets, Council had a copy of a Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Norton and Mountain States Health Alliance d/b/a Norton Community Hospital. Present tonight representing them was Glen Helbert and Barbara Hale.

Mr. Helbert spoke briefly to Council and advised that this 340B Drug Purchasing Program will help the hospital with indigent care for outpatients as far as drugs are concerned. This program will allow the hospital to buy drugs at the same price as the government. He further advised that this program has been in effect for some time and Mountain States has employees in place to handle this program.

24163

Ms. Hale spoke briefly to Council advising how Norton Community Hospital qualified for this program. Both Ms. Hale and Mr. Helbert presented Council with handouts.

At this time, Vice Mayor Fawbush took his seat on Council.

Councilman Caruso asked if there was any liability to the City. The City Attorney advised he had looked over this Memorandum of Understanding and he saw no liability for the City.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Terry Roop, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Norton and Mountain States Health Alliance d/b/a Norton Community Hospital. (Insert)

Upon a question by the City Manager as to who would sign this document, Mayor Mays advised that he would do so.

Present tonight, representing the Clinch Coalition, discussing the affects of the Woolly Adelgid and its adverse impact on the Hemlock trees within the City was Carmen Cantrell and Diana Withen, who presented Council members with a handout.

Mrs. Cantrell spoke to Council advising that the Woolly Adelgid has infested trees throughout the City, including City owned properties. A City-owned area specifically mentioned was the area around the City's reservoirs.

Both Ms. Withen and Mrs. Cantrell advised of chemical treatment plans to save the Hemlock trees and stated that their organization had purchased these chemicals and will sell them to individuals or municipalities at a cost saving price. They also advised that they are willing to help in any way they can to help the City with this problem.

Following a lengthy discussion, Mayor Mays asked Mr. Ward to have Michele Knox and Tommy Roberts work with the City Administration on this problem. Mrs. Cantrell advised Council that they would provide help in doing an inventory of infested trees within the City.

Mayor Mays and Councilman Caruso thanked both Ms. Withen and Mrs. Cantrell for their presentation tonight.

Mr. Ward had presented Council with a draft Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Sections 4-61 thru 4-72 of the Norton City Code as Pertains to Regulations Requiring Cats Within the Confines of the City of Norton, Virginia to Be Hereby Licensed and Prescribing a Fee Schedule for Both Cats and Dogs.

The City Manager advised that he had been directed by Council at the last meeting to bring a draft ordinance to them.

Mr. Ward advised that Mayor Mays was in receipt of a letter from Roy Davidson of 1256 Spruce Street, regarding Council's consideration of enacting this proposed ordinance. Mr. Davidson is a cat owner and writes of his opposition to this ordinance being enacted.

Councilman Roop had done some research on this topic as well as talked with two veterinarians and discussed his findings with Council.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Ward was advised to make the changes in this draft ordinance as discussed on the costs of tags, a break in the cost of tags for a three year period, and the number of animals in a kennel to “up to 20 and more than 20”, and bring this back to Council at the next meeting. Should Council members have any additional comments, they should be given to the City Manager by the 11th or 12th of this month.

Councilman Caruso stated that both Mr. Ward and Councilman Roop had done a good job on their research on this topic.

Council had been presented with A Resolution Defining Signature and Access Requirements for Various City Accounts, Investments, and Certificate Storage.

Mr. Ward advised that the Treasurer has a new deputy, Ms. Kristy L. Wells, and in order for her to be able to sign checks, this resolution needs to be adopted.

24168

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Terry Roop, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES: Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Defining Signature and Access Requirements for Various City Accounts, Investments, and Certificate Storage. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

24169

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting.

24170

Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering yes. The Clerk then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays – NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

24171

Mayor Mays opened the floor for appointments to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for two year terms which will expire on January 31, 2011.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Randy Castle, Bruce Rose, Gary Call, and Linville Reed to be reappointed to this Commission.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Terry Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

24172

Mayor Mays declared Randy Castle, Bruce Rose, Gary Call, and Linville Reed reappointed to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for two year terms which will expire on January 31, 2011.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward asked Council’s input on a date for the Capital Improvement Meeting.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to hold this meeting on Monday, March 9, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers.

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There were no comments from the City Attorney.

24174

In comments from Council members, Councilman Caruso stated that he would like to see the flag at Flag Rock replaced when needed. The flag, as it is now, is disrespectful.

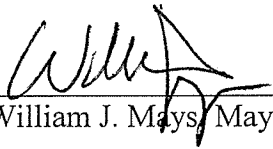
He also asked that an update be done on the dilapidated property in the City and this update brought to Council. The City Attorney advised some of these properties with liens will be taken care of in the Delinquent Tax Sale.

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Mayor Mays asked that Mr. Collins present an update and inventory to Council on these properties.

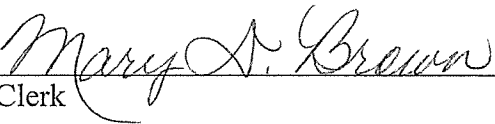
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk