

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

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

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt

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

The invocation was given by Father Tim Drake followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief Randy Mullins.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, the minutes of the August 18, 2009 meeting were adopted as presented.

24366

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Tommy Roberts, Superintendent of the Norton Water Plant, spoke briefly to Council inviting them to a tour of the water plant following the September 15th council meeting.

24367

During Mr. Roberts invitation to Council, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council.

24368

Following a brief discussion during which Mayor Mays advised he will be out of town on this date and advised that he will reschedule his tour, Council thanked Mr. Roberts for the invitation to tour the Water Plant.

24369

Council had been presented with A Resolution Supporting an Elk Restoration Project for Southwest Virginia.

Mr. Ward advised that the City had been approached by Mr. Charles Yates, Ninth District Representative of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to see if there was any interest in an Elk Restoration Project in Southwest Virginia. At Council's request, he has prepared a resolution for Council's consideration.

Councilman Caruso stated he was glad to see this item on the agenda.

24370

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Supporting an Elk Restoration Project for Southwest Virginia. (Insert)

At this time, Mayor Mays turned the meeting over to Vice Mayor Fawbush.

Vice Mayor Fawbush took over the meeting regarding A Resolution of the Governing Body of the City of Norton.

Mr. Ward advised that the City has been awarded a grant from Rural Development for the purchase of Police Department vehicles. This grant is for \$75,000 with the City

paying \$25,000 and Rural Development paying \$50,000. By adopting this resolution, the City Administration will be allowed to go forward on this grant.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, NO – None – ABSENT – None, ABSTAIN – Mays, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Governing Body of the City of Norton. (Insert)

243

The meeting was turned back over to Mayor Mays by the Vice Mayor.

24372

In their packets, Council had a Code of Conduct for a USDA Rural Development Grant.

Mr. Ward briefly discussed this item with Council.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt the Code of Conduct for a USDA Rural Development Grant. (Insert)

24373

Mr. Ward advised Council that the current reading of our water reserves as of August 26th was 101.2 million gallons out of a total capacity of 124 million gallons. At this time last year, we had a total combined capacity of 79.8 million gallons. Although he feels like the City is in a good situation at this time, citizens are being asked to conserve water. He further advised that the City's accountability is better and crews are finding and fixing more leaks. He advised this was a tribute to Tommy Roberts, Water Plant Superintendent, and the Public Works Department.

24374

Mayor Mays advised this is good information and thanked the City Manager for keeping Council informed.

Councilman Hunnicutt advised there is a good ad on the City's Access Channel regarding water.

In their packets, Council had been given a copy of a check to the Norton Industrial Development Authority in the amount of \$122,004.25 covering the quarterly installment payment to the Powell Valley National Bank on the Norton Commons Shopping Center. He further advised that this original loan was in the amount of 3.9 million dollars and the principal has been paid down to 2.8 million dollars.

24375

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$122,004.25 covering the quarterly installment payment to the Powell Valley National Bank on the Norton Commons Shopping Center.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia as amended and the investment of Public Funds for Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (6) of the Code of Virginia, as amended, and Consideration Of the Acquisition of Real Property for a Public Purpose as Per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

24376

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

During the closed meeting, Councilman Hunnicutt excused himself from the meeting. 24377

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting. 24378
Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk then 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 Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert) 24379

Mayor Mays opened the floor for an appointment to the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Advisory Board for a two year term which will expire on September 15, 2011.

Councilman Caruso nominated Michele Knox to be reappointed to this Board.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease. 24380

Mayor Mays declared Michele Knox reappointed to the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Advisory Board for a two year term which will expire on September 15, 2011.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that:

City offices will be closed on Monday, September 7th for the Labor Day holiday.

He and Mr. Ramey had met with Lenowisco and State officials regarding the Josephine Sewer Project, which has a September 30th deadline. The City Administration is feeling optimistic on this project and will bring an update in the form of an agenda item to Council at the next meeting. 24381

He has been meeting with a financial advisor, Mr. David Rose, on the 7.5 million dollar bond anticipation note which comes due in December. This covers the Norton Elementary School Project. The City had planned to roll this debt over into a literary loan; however no literary loans are available. Mr. Rose is also looking for funds that can be used for the City Shop Project and will be in attendance at the October 6th meeting to discuss these items with Council.

In comments from City Council, Councilman Roop commended both Mr. Ward and Mr. Ramey for the good job they are doing. This was agreed to by the other members of Council. 24382

Councilman Fawbush advised that, due to the lack of communication from the School Board on the Norton Elementary School Project, he had visited the building this week. He advised that this is a first class project.

Mayor Mays advised he had visited this project a couple of months ago.

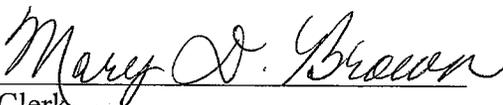
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk