

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, William Mays, and Terry Roop

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt and Joseph Fawbush

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

The invocation was given by Rev. Ken Taylor and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Buzz Witt.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the October 18, 2011 meeting as presented.

25209

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

25210

The City Manager gave Council a brief update on the Upper Norton Dam Reservoir Project. There will be one more progress meeting in November. Both the contractor and engineer agree on the winter shutdown targeted for December 1<sup>st</sup> and the start up date is projected to be in April with a completion date of mid-spring of 2012. Following the shutdown, the City will be in a position to start filling up to full capacity in the upper reservoir.

Mr. David Dawson will be at a December meeting to give a wrap-up for the year on this project to Council.

25211

Councilman Caruso asked if this area will be able to be utilized after the shut down as the dam is the hub for hiking. The City Manager advised it could be open for fishing; however the contractor is not going to demobilize and will be leaving some equipment at the site. He advised he would check with the contractor regarding this. Mr. Caruso further asked since this project was running way behind on deadline, would there be any additional cost to the City. The City Manager advised that there shouldn't be any cost beyond that which has been budgeted.

Mr. Ward gave a brief update on the Fox Run Slide Project. He advised that the power lines had been moved the week of October 10, 2011 and the Notice to Proceed to Contractors was issued on October 20<sup>th</sup>. This should be a 45 day project with a cost of approximately \$50,000. The contractor will be on-site Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. Fox Run Road will be closed due to the drilling rig. The Saw Mill Hollow Road access to Fox Run Road will be opened to allow residents access to their property.

25212

The City Manager advised he would be glad to answer any questions.

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council.

25213

Following a brief discussion, Councilman Roop advised he would like to see the Saw Mill Hollow Road opened on a permanent basis.

25214

Dr. Scott Hamilton, President of Mountain Empire Community College, presented Council with a brief update on happenings at the college. He advised that enrollment was down 2.5% from last year with the biggest decline being in dual enrollment. He then advised on the progress of construction projects being done on the campus.

25215

Mayor Mays thanked Dr. Hamilton for his update.

Mr. Buzz Witt, the City's representative on the Spearhead Trails Authority, gave Council a brief update on the Authority and the Tourism Committee.

He advised that the Authority had received a total of \$200,000 from the Tobacco Commission and \$70,000 from the Governor's Committee. They had received 78 applications for the position of Director. Hopefully, they will have someone in office in January 2012 and by this time next year, three sets of trails will be open.

The Tourism Committee has had no re-organization meeting. They have prepared a set of by-laws that will be brought for City approval. He also discussed briefly the Heart of Appalachia and advised a new brochure is forthcoming. A Heartwood passport book was given to the members of Council members and others present.

25216

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Witt for tonight's update and the work on the Tourism Committee.

Council had a request for one water and one sewer tap for Maxxim Rebuild Company, LLC, located at 5401 Industrial Park Road, which is located in the County.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve one water and one sewer tap for Maxxim Rebuild Company, LLC at 5401 Industrial Park Road.

25217

A presentation was given to Council and those present of the new web page for the City by the Assistant City Manager, Mr. Ramey. He advised that the City staff had been working on this project for approximately ten months. Mr. Ramey advised that the City has always strived to maintain a very professional and fresh web page and had about four updates on the previous site. The primary goals were to have a "Wow" factor and to provide tools that can be used. The web page will have seasonal pictures and slideshows of these pictures. In the middle of the page, City news and events are spotlighted. Also, this web page can be accessed via Facebook and Twitter.

25218

He then discussed with Council the lower level areas, the sidebar items and advised there were over 250 pages of information on this website. He discussed several new features for the citizens' use that had not been previously available.

At his conclusion, Mr. Ramey encouraged council members to work with this website and advised he would be willing to answer any questions Council may have.

Mayor Mays and Councilman Roop advised Mr. Ramey that this web page is very impressive and they appreciated his work on this project.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, 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 discussion or 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. 25219

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting. 25220

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. 25221

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

Mayor Mays advised there were no announcements to come from the closed meeting. 25222

There were no comments from the City Manager. 25223

The City Attorney advised that he had another deed for the sewer project and asked that Council authorize the Mayor to accept and sign this deed.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Fawbush, ABSTAIN – Hunnicutt, Council authorized the Mayor to accept and execute the deed for easement presented to him tonight by the City Attorney. 25224

The City Attorney further invited Council members to join him tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. for a judicial sale of one piece of property located in the Ramsey section of Norton.

In comments from Council members, Councilman Roop advised he was sorry to have missed the last meeting due to illness; however, he was glad to see in the minutes where Council had approved the extra \$150.00 per employee to be added to their Christmas bonuses.


He was sorry to see the resignation letter for Randy Mullins, former Police Chief for the City. He had done a good job for the City and he appreciated his efforts. 25225

He also commented on the state reducing road maintenance funds in the amount of \$190,000 to the City and he hoped we continue to have good representation in Richmond.

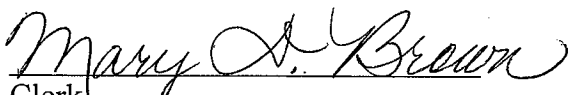
His final comment was to commend Michele Knox, Parks and Recreation Director for the City, for the Pre-Halloween activity in the City Park on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
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William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk