

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 5, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: William Mays, Joseph Fawbush, and Terry Roop

Absent: Mark Caruso and Joseph Hunnicutt

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Dr. Jeff Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the May 15, 2012 meeting as presented.

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

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A public hearing was held to solicit public input on a requested budget amendment to the 2011-2012 budget of the Norton City Schools to reflect increased average daily membership in the amount of \$119,836.

Dr. Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, was present and spoke briefly to Council advising that this is the third year they have had an increase in the average daily membership.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

There were no comments from members of Council.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a budget amendment to the 2011-2012 budget of the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$119,836 to reflect an increased average daily membership. (Insert – Councilman Roop's Disclosure Statement)

A public hearing was held on the proposed 2012-2013 budget for the Norton City Schools.

Mr. Ramey advised that this budget totals \$7,461,277 with \$2,010,978 in local funds. This hearing is being held for discussion only as no action can be taken at this time.

Dr. Comer spoke briefly to Council and gave them a brief synopsis of this budget and thanked Council for their continued support of the school system and staff.

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Councilman Roop thanked Dr. Comer and the School Board for this budget and stated it was a tighter and leaner budget and they had done a good job cutting back.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

There being no public comments, Mayor Mays closed the public hearing and advised this item will be on the next agenda for adoption.

Mr. Ramey gave Council an update on the second Service Agreement with the Coeburn-Norton-Wise Regional Sewer Authority.

He advised that the City Attorney and he had attended a meeting last week with some of the participants and there have been two redrafts from the last one seen by Council members. He commended the City Attorney for taking the lead in getting this agreement finalized.

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Mr. Bradshaw gave Council a brief update on this meeting and advised they hope to have this new agreement by the end of the month.

The City Manager asked Council's permission to proceed with advertising a public hearing on this topic ahead of its completion in order to comply with the timeline. It was the consensus of Council to authorize Mr. Ramey to advertise this public hearing for the June 26th meeting.

Mr. Roland Kooch of Davenport and Company was present to discuss with Council the potential refinancing opportunities for the Norton Elementary School Debt.

He advised Council that the interest rates are at historically low levels and it would be feasible to refinance the seven and one-half million dollar literary anticipation loan for the Norton Elementary School Debt. He presented to Council, via a PowerPoint presentation, two options for proceeding and issuing requests for proposals on this. He further advised Council that this will be done at no cost to the City. Mr. Kooch stated he would answer any questions from Council.

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Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to proceed with the requests for proposals.

Mr. Kooch advised Council he would be back in July to update them.

Ms. Diana Blackburn and Jackie Stump were present representing the Friends of Southwest Virginia and gave Council an update on the activities of the Heartwood Center, Round the Mountain, and the Crooked Road.

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Councilman Roop advised that he appreciated everything these groups were doing to enhance the Southwest Virginia area.

Mayor Mays thanked both Ms. Blackburn and Mr. Stump for their presentations.

Mr. J. D. Adams, President of the Norton Youth Football League was present and gave Council a financial update on this program. He advised that in 2011 their budget had been \$17,000 and they have reduced this to \$11,000 this year. They currently have approximately \$3,000 in start-up funds and he expressed the organization's thanks to the City for their annual donation of \$4,000.

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Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Adams for this presentation and Councilman Roop expressed his appreciation to Mr. Adams for his leadership and to all those involved with this organization.

Mr. Ramey advised that he and the City Attorney hope to complete the transfer of the Josephine Sewer System to the Wise County PSA by the end of the fiscal year.

The City Attorney advised that he had talked with the PSA Attorney and Mr. Ramey had spoken with the PSA. This transfer is going to require a public hearing and the City Manager asked Council for permission to go ahead and schedule this public hearing for

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the June 26th called meeting. It was the consensus of Council to have the City Manager proceed with advertising the public hearing for the June 26th meeting at which time, Council will be given all information on the documents required for this transfer.

Council had been presented in their packets information on a Quitclaim Deed to correct an encroachment that is 4.26' across the line x 81.8' in length on a portion of Commonwealth Drive.

Mr. Ramey advised the City has known about this encroachment of right-of-way for several years; however the developer is refinancing the development debt and obtaining additional funds for future development in the shopping center. Therefore, this encroachment needs to be corrected in order for them to proceed.

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Following a brief discussion during which the City Attorney advised this needs to be taken care of now, a motion was made by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote wherein Council authorized the City Manager to advertise a public hearing on the June 26th agenda to consider vacating a portion of Commonwealth Drive. This will have to be adopted by at least four of the five members of Council.

Mr. Ramey presented Council with a brief synopsis via PowerPoint of the City's 2012-2013 budget. This budget reflects a real estate tax rate of eighty cents per \$100 of valuation and there are no other increases. There is a 2% COLA raise plus the 1% raise required by VRS to offset a 1% increase in the employee share of VRS retirement for City employees. In the area of capital improvement projects, he advised this is the lowest number of projects the City has had in 20 years.

Following his presentation, Mr. Ramey advised he would be happy to answer any questions from Council.

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Mayor Mays commended both Mr. Ramey and Mr. Shupe for the work done on this budget. He advised they had worked very hard and it was tough budget year.

Councilman Roop advised he was glad Council was able to give employees a COLA raise. He stated the City has a good team in their employees. He also stated he hoped that improvements can be made in the Capital Improvement Projects in the future.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved for the City Manager to put the 2012-2013 budget on the June 19th agenda for a public hearing and adoption will be considered at the June 26th called meeting.

In their packets, Council had copies of five checks to be confirmed. These checks are as follows: Norton Industrial Development Authority in the amount of \$ 122,004.25 covering a draw down request; Estes Brothers Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$150,059.57 for the Josephine Sewer Extension Pay Application Final; Boring Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$227,840.43 for the Guest River Interceptor Phase III Pay Application No. 4; Little B Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$155,384.71 for the Benges Branch Sewer Replacement – Phase II Pay Application No. 3; and Thomas Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$116,699.75 for the East Park Trunk Line Replacement Pay Application No. 4.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the five checks as listed above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

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Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

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

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Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations of a student representative to the Youth Services Board for a four year term which will expire on May 2, 2016.

Councilman Roop nominated Josey Collins to be appointed to this Board.

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

Mayor Mays declared Josey Collins appointed to the Youth Services Board as a student representative for a four year term which will expire on May 2, 2016.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for an appointment to Kids Central for a three year term which will expire on May 31, 2015.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Mary Hagy to be appointed to this Board.

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

Mayor Mays declared Mary Hagy appointed to the Kids Central Board for a three year term which will expire on May 31, 2015.

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

With Council's permission, he will be advertising the City's 2011-2012 budget amendments totaling \$603,042 covering \$290,700 relating to grants received and \$202,000 for the purchase of the sweeper truck.

He recently attended a Pre-Construction Meeting regarding the closing of a section of Business 23 at West Norton School and gave Council an update on that project.

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The annual VML Conference will be held in Williamsburg September 23-25, 2012 and he needs to know as soon as possible if any council member is planning to attend.

At the next council meeting, a public hearing will be held on the City of Norton Budget, the adoption of the Norton City Schools' Budget, and an amendment to our current budget.

A special called City Council Meeting will be held on June 26th; the Best Friend Festival will be held June 11th – 16th, and a hand-out was given on the Parks & Recreation Camps to be held this summer.

He will be out of town Wednesday, June 13th through Friday, June 15th attending the Virginia Local Government Managers Conference. He will be available by phone and e-mail.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

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In comments from Council:

Councilman Roop stated the new roof on the gazebo in the City Park looks very nice. He further advised the City Manager how much he appreciates the weekly report.

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Councilman Fawbush spoke regarding future revenue enhancements and named a few items that might be considered by the City. He asked that the City Attorney research and check legislation on these for future revenue raising efforts. Following a brief discussion, the City Attorney and Mr. Ramey advised they will research this.

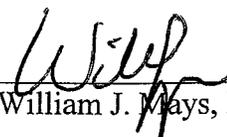
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Mayor Mays advised he had attended the ribbon cutting at the Norton Friends and Farmers Market this evening. He was impressed by what has been done. Everyone should go by and see this and also attend the upcoming Best Friend Festival.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk