

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 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: 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 Police Chief James C. Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the October 2, 2012 meeting as presented. 25579

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 25580

A public hearing was the next item on the agenda. The City Manager advised this hearing had to be advertised prior to Council's last meeting in case the option selected by them on the issue of the City of Norton Water Improvement Project Phase II required one to be held. This option was not the one Council chose; however, since this public hearing was advertised, Mayor Mays proceeded with the hearing. 25581

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council. 25582

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.  
There being no public comments, Mayor Mays closed the public hearing. 25583  
No action was taken following the public hearing.

Mr. Ramey gave Council an update on the water situation. As of October 11<sup>th</sup>, we had a total capacity of 67.2 million gallons compared to 71.9 million gallons on September 27<sup>th</sup>. We are purchasing an estimated 250,000 gallons per day of water from the Wise County PSA.

An update on the Upper Dam Project was given via a PowerPoint presentation. He advised the contractor was backfilling and the third weir wall was poured. They worked this past week-end and started the installation of the bridge. They are working hard to complete the project. 25584

The City Administration feels fairly confident that Rt. 619 will be paved this season. Drain pipe replacements have been completed and a new one has been installed. This needed to be completed before paving began.

Answering a question from Council, the City Manager advised that he hopes to have a projection for completion on this project in Council's weekly report on Friday.

Fire Chief D. C. Mullins presented to Council a list of the working officers for the upcoming 2012-2013 fiscal year for approval as per Code Section 8-38 of the Norton City Code. He asked Council's favorable consideration of these appointments. Several of these appointees were present and were recognized by Chief Mullins.

25585

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the list of working officers for the Norton Fire Department as presented for the 2012-2013 fiscal year as presented.

The City Manager explained the concept of the River Walk Project to Council and advised it would be a great asset to the community and has lots of potential. This project materialized when work began on the Guest River Interceptor Line, which is the main sewer beginning in Esserville then follows the river to Ramsey, and joins up with the CNW line. This line serves parts of the Town of Wise, Wise County, and picks up all the flow from the City and goes down to our shared sewer plant in Coeburn. With the discussion and future implementation of the Safe Route to Schools Program, which will upgrade the sidewalks from Route 74 up Tipple Hill to the Community Center and on to the Norton Elementary/Middle School, the Little League Field, and also a sidewalk on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, it was proposed that this River Walk Project could become a reality. During Phase I of this project, the proposed walkway will initially run from the Community Center to the site of the old Glenn's Finer Homes location on Kentucky Avenue, which would be a great location to have a trailhead and will require only one river crossing. Phase II will require more river crossings.

Mr. Ramey had a PowerPoint presentation for Council's review and advised the area is quiet and scenic.

25586

Advising he was contacted by the late Tom Galyean of UVA-Wise, who had visions for this project and wanted to partner with the City, UVA-Wise, in turn, applied for and received a \$30,000 grant from Dominion Higher Education Partnership Grant Program to conduct an outdoor classroom and a wildlife inventory at the area. Present tonight representing UVA-Wise was Wally Smith, an Assistant Professor of Biology, who gave Council, via a PowerPoint presentation, an update on this study done by UVA-Wise students, particularly Ms. Jennifer Fulton. Also present from UVA-Wise was Mr. Winston Ely, who briefly spoke to Council.

Mr. Smith then thanked both the City of Norton and Dominion for the opportunity to do this project.

Following comments from Council members on this, Mr. Ramey recognized Greg Edwards of Dominion, who advised that UVA-Wise had applied for and has been selected to receive a second grant from Dominion in the amount of \$20,000. After the award of this grant, those present gave a round of applause to all participants of this project.

Mr. Skip Skinner, Executive Director of Lenowisco, gave Council an update on their activities. He also presented a PowerPoint presentation wherein he advised that the City of Norton, from 2008 through 2012, has received various grants from Lenowisco in the amount of \$305,000, which is a return of \$7.50 of direct funding for every one dollar invested. The City's annual investment to Lenowisco is \$8,123.

The City Manager advised Council that Lenowisco is so important to the area and has been for over forty years. They have promoted good will and the importance of entities working together. Their staff is very knowledgeable and they are a good source of central information.

25587

Mayor Mays advised that Lenowisco is very fortunate in having Mr. Skinner as its Executive Director.

In their packets, Council had A Project Programming Resolution of the City of Norton, Virginia requesting that the Virginia Department of Transportation establish the Safe Routes to School Project as an Urban Highway Project for funding purposes. If this is done, Mr. Ramey advised that any funds the City may have left over from previous Urban Highway Projects can be transferred to this project. With Urban Funds, the City matches two percent, with Revenue Sharing, the City matches fifty percent, and with no funding, the City pays one hundred percent.

25588

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

Council was advised by the City Manager that their next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> or Election Day. In the past, Council has either selected another location for their meeting or cancelled it.

25589

Mayor Mays inquired of the City Manager as to what he anticipates to be on the November 6<sup>th</sup> agenda. Mr. Ramey advised that there would be nothing that would have to be handled that night and everything could be handled at the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was the consensus to Council to cancel the November 6, 2012 council meeting.

Council had been provided a copy of a check in the amount of \$124,488.75 payable to U. S. Bank Operations Center for approval.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check payable to U. S. Bank Operations Center in the amount of \$124,488.75.

25590

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

All saddle valves have been replaced on West Main Avenue and the paving contractor has been authorized to pave the street within the next two weeks.

The City is receiving a grant in the amount of \$50,000 from Lenowisco for the Josephine Pump Station on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. by Delegate Kilgore. Any member of Council who would like to attend, please advise him. If not, the City Administration will have someone there to accept this grant.

25591

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that the City is in the process of acquiring property for the Safe Route to Schools Project. He is waiting on one deed from the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority and has one from Greater Wise that the Mayor needs to sign tonight.

25592

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the unanimous vote, Council authorized the Mayor to sign a deed related to the acquisition of property for the Safe Routes to School Project.

25593

In comments from Council:

Councilman Roop stated that a good job was being done on delinquent taxes and he wished to see more progress done on dilapidated properties such as those located on Park Avenue, N. W. (Hamburger Hill).

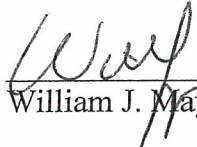
Mr. Ramey advised that he and the Building Official, Mr. Collins, has been discussing this project and are working on bringing this to Council – maybe as a work session. This is a very slow process and there are some options the City can do that will cost money. The City Attorney agreed with the City Manager. Mr. Ramey stated he appreciated Councilman Roop bringing up this topic.

25594

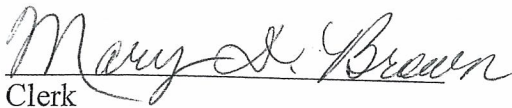
Councilman Caruso asked that someone e-mail him the presentation made tonight by Wally Smith of UVA-Wise. The City Manager advised this would be done.

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