

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt and Terry Roop

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., 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 Police Chief James C. Lane.

At this time, Mayor Mays advised he would change two items on the agenda. To be considered first will be Item 8-A rather than Item 7-A. This is due to the participants having to travel and the inclement weather expected tonight. 25705

Mr. Tyler Giles of the Forward Wise County Class was present at tonight's meeting and was recognized by Mayor Mays. Mr. Giles is the City's representative on the Mountain Empire Business Incubator. 25706

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 19, 2013 meeting as presented. 25707

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 25708

A public hearing had been advertised to be held on financial encumbrances for the General Operating Fund in the amount of \$487,780 for the year ending June 30, 2012 in the amount of \$487,780.

Mr. Ramey advised that the public hearing has been duly advertised.

Councilman Fawbush asked if the hearing had been advertised twice as required by Code and the City Manager advised that it had been. Publication dates were February 22nd and March 1st. 25709

There being no further questions or comments from Council, Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the list of financial encumbrances as provided in their packets for the General Operating Fund in the amount of \$487,780.

Council had been presented A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, Approving the Execution and Delivery of a Support Agreement or Agreements with the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority for the Issuance by Such Authority

of its Jail Facility Revenue Bond or Bonds and Jail Facility Grant Revenue Anticipation Notes.

Stephen Clear, Superintendent of the Regional Jail Authority, was present tonight with a presentation on the expansion of their facilities. This construction of this expansion totals 34 million dollars with the State paying 17 million dollars. With other costs occurring, the total project cost is approximately \$37,800. The Authority is asking Council to adopt the above titled resolution in order to receive funding from the Virginia Resources Authority. This resolution was adopted when the City joined the Regional Jail Authority; however VRA requires a more recent resolution.

Also present, among others, was Dan Siegel of Davenport and Company, who is assisting the Authority with their financing, advised Council on the financial effect this would have on the City. With the City's population being consistent at the Duffield facility, the estimated new debt service for the City would be approximately \$5,000 annually. This fee would not go into effect until 2015.

Both Mr. Clear and Mr. Siegel answered questions from Councilman Caruso. Mr. Siegel also advised that, by the adoption of the resolution, the Support Agreement is agreed to and will be signed at the closing.

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

Mr. Ramey and the City Attorney also answered questions from Councilman Caruso, who felt this should have been brought to the attention of Council from the beginning rather than left to the Regional Jail Authority Board, on which the City has three representatives.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Mays– NO – None, ABSENT – Roop, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Approving the Execution and Delivery of a Support Agreement or Agreements with the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority for the Issuance by Such Authority of Its Jail Facility Revenue Bond or Bonds and Jail Facility Grant Revenue Anticipation Notes. (Insert)

Mayor Mays now went back to Item 7-A which is consideration of a request from the Wise County Public Service Authority. This request is that they wish to move their Guest River Sewer Master Meter upstream from its current location.

Mr. Gordon Scott, representing the Wise County PSA, spoke briefly to Council and, via a PowerPoint presentation, showed the location where this meter currently is and the location where they would like to move it.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Administration to work with the City Attorney and the Wise County PSA and bring back a draft amendment to the Guest River Sewer Agreement for Council's consideration at the next meeting.

Dr. Jeff Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, spoke to Council regarding a couple of items that came up in the City's audit. He advised that he takes credit for the issues that had to do with the financial books of the School Board. He further advised

that they have changed the process of closing out the books at month's end and are current and will stay that way. They are also in the process of developing a manual for cross training. A Financial Committee, with the two newly elected board members, has been formed. Realizing this has been embarrassing to both the School Board and City Council, he is very confident this year's finances will be completed on time.

Dr. Comer then answered questions from Council members.

2571

Following a brief discussion, Dr. Comer stated that City Council's support is commendable and they have been nothing but supportive. He also advised that the basketball team is in Charlottesville for the state tournament. After getting fully reimbursed from the Virginia High School League and the school, they will bring the difference back to Council for reimbursement.

Councilman Caruso stated he has full faith and support in the new School Board.

In their packets, Council had a request for a budget amendment in the amount of \$39,694 for grant funds received from the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services Grant for Emergency Medical Dispatch Software.

2571

At this time, Mr. Ramey recognized Samantha Stanley and Wendy Boyd, both members of the new Forward Wise County Class and Mayor Mays welcomed them to the meeting.

2571

Mr. Ramey advised that the City is grateful for the 100% grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services for this software on which our dispatchers have to be trained to use.

Mayor Mays advised he had served on the Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council for many years and the City has received quite a lot of funding from them. He would like to commend this EMS Council for the job they do for the 13 counties and 3 cities they serve. He further advised that the City's current representative, Todd Lagow, is a very capable member to serve on this Council.

2571

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the budget as requested in the amount of \$39,694 for grant funds received from the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services Grant for emergency medical dispatch software.

Council had been supplied, in their packets, copies of three draft applications for water and/or sewer connections. Mr. Ramey advised Council that they had previously discussed putting time limits on all County taps and this draft application has this information incorporated in it. He also furnished them with a draft application for inside the City taps with the time limit on it, as well as the current City/County application with the time limit requested change on it.

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Mr. Ramey explained the various applications with Council.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to use the application #2 for inside the City connections and application #3 for outside of the City connections with the notation added at the bottom, "Void After 12 Months If Not Connected" or as noted by City Council.

Council had a request for the approval of a transfer and two checks to be approved. The transfer was to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$270,000. The first check was to Summers Taylor, Incorporated in the amount of \$267,388.61 and the second was to the Norton Industrial Development Authority in the amount of \$122,004.25.

25720

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

Mayor Mays advised he would like to table Item No. 8-F Closed Meeting as listed on the agenda.

25720

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

The Virginia Department of Health Phase II Water Project continues to move forward. Citizens have been notified by using social media, newspaper, and flyers that there will be limited access to Hamner Avenue and Bernice Drive between Feb. 26th and March 22nd between the hours of 8:00 am – 3:00 pm and 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm. There are contingency plans in place in the event of emergencies and they are trying to work around school and work schedules.

25721

The Norton City Schools may request a work session with City Council at the next meeting of March 19th to review the upcoming renovation project at J. I. Burton High School. He will advise Council as soon as he is advised of this.

His last comment, "GO RAIDERS" relates to the J. I. Burton High School Basketball Team participating in state finals this week.

The City Attorney concurred with the City Manager's last comment on the Raider basketball team.

25722

In comments from Council members:

There were no comments from Councilman Fawbush, Councilman Hunnicutt, or Mayor Mays.

Councilman Caruso asked Mr. Ramey if he knew what amount of money was being requested by the Appalachian Children's Theatre and the Advocacy Center this year. Mr. Ramey advised he did not. There are still outstanding replies from four organizations/agencies seeking funding from the City that have not come in. The City Manager stated the goal is to have a separate binder showing what each organization is requesting from the City and to get this to Council prior to the budget work session, which is generally held following the first meeting in April.

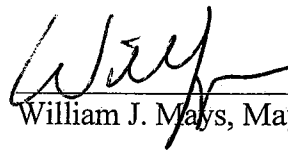
25723

Councilman Caruso expressed his thanks to City crews in advance for the work they will be doing on the impending snow tonight.

Mayor Mays advised that they had done a good job all year. He also thanked everyone who was in attendance at tonight's meeting.

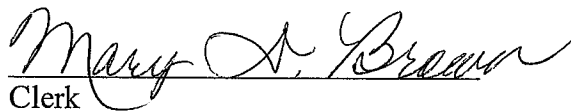
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk