

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt, Terry Roop, and Bill Bradshaw

The invocation was given by Rev. John Ellington and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief James C. Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the June 4, 2013 meeting as presented. 25836

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 25837

Council had before them An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2013 Thru June 30, 2014 Appropriating Funds for All Contemplated Expenses of the City for the Fiscal Year and Placing Levies Upon all Real Estate, Personal Property and Bank Stock, Licenses, Fees, User Charges, and all Other Levies as Previously Imposed or Modified Herein.

Mr. Ramey gave a brief synopsis of the City's 2013-2014 General Fund Budget which totals \$9,456,412 and the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$2,739,817, Social Services in the amount of \$1,095,846, and Norton City Schools in the amount of \$7,968,626. There are no tax increases and there is an establishment of a Vehicles Licenses Tax of \$20.00 per vehicle.

The City Manager stated he would be glad to answer any questions from Council members and thanked them for their work on this very lean budget. 25838

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: Yes – Caruso, Fawbush, Mays – NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Roop, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2013 Thru June 30, 2014 Appropriating Funds for All Contemplated Expenses of the City for the Fiscal Year and Placing Levies Upon All Real Estate, Personal Property and Bank Stock, Licenses, Fees, User Charges, and all Other Levies as Previously Imposed or Modified Herein.
(Insert)

In their packets, Council had An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Enacting a Motor Vehicle License Fee.

The City Manager advised a public hearing was held on June 4th and that this ordinance, which is authorized by Section 46.2-752 of the Code of Virginia, is similar to the former Decal License Ordinance that the City previously had. There will be a \$20.00 per vehicle charge which will be included on the Personal Property Taxes due Octo-

ber 15, 2013 and will be for the following calendar year of January 1, 2014 thru December 31, 2014 and each year thereafter, unless modified by Council. He then advised Council of the exemptions that will be allowed under this ordinance. The only modification to this ordinance, as discussed at the last meeting, is that citizens moving into the City have 30 days to pay this fee, which corresponds with State law.

258

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Roop, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Enacting a Motor Vehicle License Fee. (Insert)

Council had before them A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Adopting a Five Year Capital Improvements Program.

Mr. Ramey advised that there were no specific projects being funded; however since this is a planning document, the City Administration felt this resolution needs to be adopted.

He advised he would answer any questions Council may have.

25840

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

The next agenda item was the consideration of A Resolution Indicating the City's Election of VRS Contribution Rate for Employees. Mr. Ramey advised this is a required housekeeping item that the VRS placed on localities in order for the employees to pay part of their retirement. This is the second year that the City has chosen for employees to pay 1% toward their retirement out of the 5% in five years required by the Virginia Retirement System. This will have the employees paying 2% of their retirement.

25841

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Roop, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Indicating the City's Election of VRS Contribution Rate for Employees. (Insert)

Council had been presented with a copy of the Annual Commonwealth of Virginia Holiday Calendar as published on January 1, 2013.

Mr. Ramey advised that several years ago Council had adopted the State Holiday Schedule for employees and it has worked very smoothly. However in the last few years, the Governor has been giving additional holiday time off with very little notice. This causes an increase in unplanned/unbudgeted financial costs and also affects planning.

25842

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the Annual Commonwealth of Virginia Holiday Calendar as it is published on January 1st of each year.

In their packets, Council had a copy of the proposed 2013-2014 budget for the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

Mr. Ramey advised that, due to requirements from a 1994 loan, the Norton Industrial Development Authority's budget must be approved by City Council. He then gave Council a brief synopsis of this budget and advised he would be happy to answer any questions Council may have.

25843

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the proposed 2013-2014 budget for the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

The City Manager advised that Council's first meeting in July is close to the 4th of July holiday and asked what Council's wishes are for holding this meeting.

Mayor Mays advised that he would like to recommend that Council hold only one meeting in the months of July and August and hold them on the third Tuesdays. Should something arise, a special called meeting can be held.

25844

It was the concurrence of Council members present to hold only one meeting in July and August as recommended by the Mayor.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, 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) (l) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

25845

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

25846

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

25847

The Mayor opened the floor for nominations to the Lonesome Pine Regional Library Board for a four year term which will expire June 30, 2017.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Lann Malesky.

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

25848

Mayor Mays declared Lann Malesky appointed to the Lonesome Pine Regional Library Board for a four year term which will expire June 30, 2017.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Mountain Empire Regional Business Incubator for a four year term which will expire on June 30, 2017.

Councilman Caruso nominated Tyler Giles to be reappointed to this Board.

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

Mayor Mays declared Tyler Giles reappointed to the Mountain Empire Regional Business Incubator for a four year term which will expire on June 30, 2017.

258

Mayor Mays opened the floor for an appointment to the Community Corrections Resources Board for a two year term which will expire on June 30, 2015.

Councilman Fawbush nominated James Lane to be reappointed to this Board.

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

258

Mayor Mays declared James Lane reappointed to the Community Corrections Resources Board for a two year term which will expire on June 30, 2015.

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

He was in receipt of an e-mail from Councilman Roop, who was in Copenhagen, on vacation. He stated he had attended several of the Best Friend Festival activities prior to leaving, and he would like to commend all who participated in the planning and working of this week-long event.

Mr. Ramey shared his comments on the Best Friend Festival also. He stated it was a large success and the Festival Committee and those working the events did an excellent job. He stated there was a very large attendance for the Friday night and Saturday activities.

He advised Council of the activities to be held for the Fourth of July holiday which includes music, parade, and fireworks.

He had presented Council members with a copy of the 2012 Annual Drinking Water Report and advised it was a good report.

He had received today an e-mail from the Virginia Municipal League regarding their annual conference which will be held in Arlington October 13 – October 15, 2013. He asked Council members to check their schedules and if they wish to attend to please advise him before or by the next council meeting.

25851

He advised that HUD has authorized the local housing authority to sign the deed regarding the Safe Routes to School Project. Mayor Mays has signed the City forms required by the Virginia Department of Transportation and the City is ready to enter into the last step to formally request to advertise for bids, authorize an ad and the plans, which are both ready to go. This is an important hurdle on this project.

The bid opening on the Virginia Department of Health Phase I Water Project was held and the low bids were within budget. If bids are approved by the engineer and the funding agency, the City can advertise a budget hearing for the bond issue at the next Council meeting.

The City is in receipt of the Sales Tax Report and for the third time this fiscal year, June sales tax was higher than last year. He stated he hoped this will begin a positive trend.

In comments from Council:

Councilman Caruso reported he was absent from the last meeting due to his attendance at a Junior ROTC Summer Camp with 140 children at Camp Davy Crocket and he was sorry he missed the meeting.

Mayor Mays commended Councilman Caruso for the leadership he gives these children.

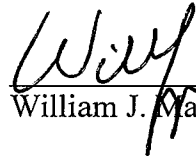
Councilman Fawbush commended the City Staff, the Parks and Recreation Department, Police Department, and all participating in the Best Friend Festival activities. He advised that they had put in many long hours, everything had run smoothly, and he felt it was the best attendance for festival events.

25852

Mayor Mays advised that he appreciated all the hard work that the Best Friend Festival Committee, the volunteers, and City staff had put into this event and he would like to wish everyone a happy Fourth of July. The next Council meeting will be held on July 16, 2013.

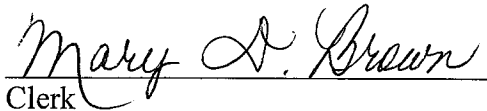
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk

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