

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, Joseph Hunnicutt, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Terry Roop

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 Caruso, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 4, 2014 meeting as presented.

26083

During the audience for visitors, Mr. Lann Malesky, 1113 Virginia Avenue, NW, spoke to Council as their representative on the Lonesome Pine Library Board to advise them of the Big Read Event which will be held on April 5th. He advised this event is being held with funds received in the form of a grant in the amount of \$9,500 from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Lonesome Pine Library System and two others in Virginia were selected to receive grants this year. He presented those in attendance with a copy of the book, True Grit, which is the book selected for this year, and some additional items. He thanked Council for their continued support of the Lonesome Pine Library and invited Council members to attend this event at the Hotel Norton.

26084

Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Malesky and advised he is trying to rearrange his work schedule in order that he can represent the City at this event. Both Mayor Mays and Councilman Caruso thanked Mr. Malesky for representing the City on this board.

In their packets was a copy of a Donation Policy that Council had requested last year. Mr. Ramey advised this was being brought to Council for the purpose of discussion and modification if Council so chooses.

Mayor Mays stated this is a policy the City has needed for many years and advised the policy looks good. Councilman Caruso said if there was no legal problem with this document, then it should be put in operation as soon as possible. The City Attorney advised there was no problem with this policy.

26085

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Mays asked that this item be placed on the next agenda for consideration. Mr. Ramey advised that the application could be used also for those agencies currently receiving funding for the City as well as any new agencies that seek funding in the future. It was the concurrence of Council for the City Administration to do so.

Mr. Ramey gave Council an update on the Safe Route to School Project via a PowerPoint presentation. This project will provide a new and safer 10' wide sidewalk

from the downtown area to the Norton Elementary and Middle School, behind the ball field, across 3rd Street, and connect to the 3rd Street sidewalk.

He showed pictures of the grubbing, water and sewer line replacement activities, and advised that the sign located at the top of Tipple Hill will be dismantled and signs given back to the organizations. He then discussed the installation of the wall and gave a projected timeline with an estimated substantial completion date of October of this year. Also discussed was where the funding was coming from for this project and the expenditure of such an amount of money. Several members of Council advised they had been approached about this. Mr. Ramey advised this was a 4.1 million dollar project with three million dollars coming from Department of Mines Minerals and Energy, one million coming from the Virginia Department of Transportation, \$500,000 from a federal grant issued in 2006-2007 for a Safe Route to Schools Project. At that time, the City had set aside \$400,000 to cover the City's share.

26086

Another item that came up was the installation of the wall recently installed on the entrance to the City near J. I. Burton High School. Mr. Ramey stated the City had always wanted to have a gateway sign on that end of town and a deal had been made with the contractor to install a mini version of the sign that will be installed on Tipple Hill.

Mr. Ramey also stated if anyone had any questions about this project or the funding, he will be glad to meet with individuals or groups to discuss this.

Council had been presented with a copy of a Resolution Recognizing April as Autism Awareness Month and April 2, 2014 as World Autism Day in the City of Norton.

Mr. Ramey advised that blue was the color used pertaining to autism and that the local Autism Support Group had purchased blue lights to put at the gateway sign by the high school for the day of April 2nd or for the month of April to support this cause.

2608

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Roop, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Recognizing April as Autism Awareness Month. (Insert)

Also presented to Council was a copy of A Resolution Recognizing National Service Recognition Day. Mr. Ramey advised the City had been approached by the Virginia Service Commission to support and adopt this resolution marking April 1, 2014 as National Service Recognition Day in the City as well as the Commonwealth of Virginia.

26088

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Roop, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Recognizing National Service Recognition Day. (Insert)

In their packets, Council had a copy of a check in the amount of \$346,751.31 to Thomas Construction Company for the Safe Routes to School Project.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to confirm the check made payable to Thomas Construction Company in the amount specified above.

26089

In comments from Mr. Ramey, he advised that:

He had presented to Council the latest sales tax report tonight.

He had been advised today that the City's Pump and Haul Program has been approved by the Health Department. He will now be able to meeting with the local company and assist them with their application.

The Planning Commission has authorized Mr. Collins, Building/Zoning Administrator to advertise a public hearing for April 10th on a zoning text amendment regarding accessory structures. If any modification is approved by the Planning Commission, it will then be formally brought to Council for review and possible action.

26090

He has handed out a very tentative budget timeline with the consideration of the School Board Budget to be held on June 3rd and consideration of the City Budget on June 17th along with the approval of the Capital Improvement Program.

He reminded Council of the upcoming Big Read Event scheduled for April 5th at the Hotel Norton and the need to RSVP the library.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw thanked everyone for their best wishes and empathy during his recent illness.


26091

In comments from Council members, Councilman Caruso inquired about the opening date of Flag Rock. Mr. Ramey advised that the tank will be painted this week and that the City hopes to open Flag Rock by April 1st. He also advised he would not be able to attend the Big Read Event.

26092

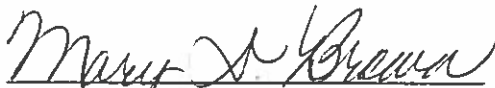
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk