

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, April 1, 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 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 March 18, 2014 meeting as presented.

26093

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Marsha Hunsucker of J. I. Burton High School, spoke to Council regarding the After Prom Party which will be held at the Norton Cinema on April 26th from midnight to 5:00 a.m. Letters have been sent out to businesses asking for donations to help defray the expenses and the School Board donated \$1,200. There is an additional \$1,235 needed to cover this event.

Council expressed to Ms. Hunsucker that this is a wonderful program to have for the students; however the City is experiencing a very tight budget. Following a brief discussion, Council advised they would donate some funds; however at this time they did not know what the amount would be. Ms. Hunsucker advised that she will come to the next Council meeting to give an update on the donations they have received. She thanked Council for their past support.

26094

Mr. Bob Spera, Manager of the Lonesome Pine Airport and President of the EEA Chapter 1416 of the Lonesome Pine Aircraft Association spoke to Council regarding upcoming events scheduled for the Let Freedom Ring Event to be held Lonesome Pine Airport September 16th to 20th, 2014. He advised that they were excited to celebrate one of the Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation's "Spirit of Freedom" flying museums and for the first time in the Commonwealth of Virginia, they will be joined by the Tuskegee Airman Red Tail Squadron P-51C Mustang Aircraft and their "Rise Above" traveling exhibit. Rides on this P-51C Mustang, which is one of only four still flying, will be made available at a cost of \$2,000 per flight.

26095

Mayor Mays advised that Mr. Spera had come at the right time as the Council is getting ready to work on the upcoming budget. Mr. Spera further advised that the response from corporate and civic groups has been good.

Councilman Caruso stated he was very appreciative that this event is being held.

Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Spera for his presentation tonight and advised the City Administration would get back with him.

Council had been presented with a draft copy of a Donation Application and Policy that Mr. Ramey had been asked to put on the tonight's agenda for consideration. This policy will be used for anyone seeking funding from the City and the application is currently being used.

Councilman Caruso stated there were two things he would like to see added to this policy. They are as follows: In second section, add "Return any unused funds to the City within 60 days after completion of the event or project." and "The City may choose to fund all, none or some of the requested funds. The City may provide the funds prior to the event or project or select to reimburse the requesting organization up to a specified amount when receipts are presented to the City."

The City Manager advised the wording would give the City flexibility and the policy can be modified to contain these two items.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to discuss this and bring back to Council for consideration.

Mr. Ramey presented Council with a draft of the fiscal year 2015 budget calendar. He advised that Council has a work session scheduled after the next meeting and the process needs to get started. He asked if Council had any questions as to the calendar. Councilman Fawbush asked if another meeting could be added if necessary and the City Manager advised that it could be. If the April 15th meeting works, we should have budget information from the State by then. The School Board advised they want to present their budget to Council on the 6th of May.

In their packets, Council had been presented with A Proclamation Making April 13-19, 2014 as National Public Safety 9-1-1 Telecommunicators Week.

Following a brief discussion during which Mr. Ramey advised that City's Dispatch Center had answered 4,077 – 911 calls and 40,559 non-emergency calls in 2013. He further stated that the City was lucky to have very capable employees in these positions.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the Proclamation Declaring the Week of April 14-20, 2014 as National Public Safety 911 Telecommunicators Week in the City of Norton. (Insert)

Council had copies of a transfer in the amount of \$174,659.08 payable to the Norton City Schools and a check payable to the Wise County Treasurer in the amount of \$226,289.73 covering courthouse and law enforcement shared services for fiscal year 2012-2013.

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 – Roop, Hunnicutt (Councilman Hunnicutt stepped out of the meeting for a short time), Council moved to confirm a transfer to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$174,659.08 and a check payable to the Wise County Treasurer in the amount of \$226,289.73.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT –

Roop, Hunnicutt (Councilman Hunnicutt stepped out of the meeting for a short time), Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

26100

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

26101

Mayor Mays declared back in open meeting.

The Clerk polled each member 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 Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt (Councilman Hunnicutt had returned to the meeting during closed session), Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Roop, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

26102

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

The maintenance on the Flag Rock Water Tank is nearly completed and the City is waiting on the paint to cure. The required bacteria tests need to be run before it is placed back in service. Hopefully it should be ready for service by April 10th and the park can be opened for camping at that time.

The tie-in of the new 12" water line will be made tomorrow night (Wednesday, April 2nd) from 9:00 pm until 6:00 am. This will require water to be off in the East Park Avenue, Esserville, and Guest River areas. Three ads have been placed in three editions of the Coalfield Progress and they also ran a small article on it. The information has also been placed and the City's web page, Facebook, and Twitter accounts.

26103

We have been advised that the asphalt plant plans to reopen next week and we will be able to purchase asphalt in order that we can start filling the winter potholes.

The street sweeper has been out and cleaning City streets in recent days.

He has met a couple of times with Mr. Fultz and Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell and the Revocable Permit may be coming back to Council for an update at the next meeting.

The City of Norton sign behind Southwest Insurance will be illuminating blue light beginning Wednesday night and throughout April in recognition of Autism Awareness. These bulbs were purchased by a local support group, Hope Across the Spectrum.

The annual Wise County Chamber of Commerce Gala is scheduled for Saturday, April 12th. If anyone is interested in going to represent the City, please advise him and he will request tickets. The City no longer purchases a table for this event.

The Council is invited to attend the Big Read event scheduled Saturday, April 5th, at the Hotel Norton sponsored by the Lonesome Pine Library.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

26104

In comments from Council, Councilman Caruso welcomed spring and looks forward to a great summer.

Mayor Mays expressed condolences to the Clerk of Council, Mary Brown, on the death of her sister this past week-end.

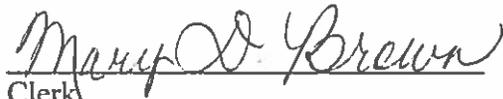
26105

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk