

The regularly scheduled City Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 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 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 November 18, 2014 meeting as presented. 25321

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 25322

At this time, Mayor Mays turned the floor over to the City Manager who recognized Pastor John Ellington, a familiar face at City Council meetings and in the community. Pastor Ellington is retiring at the end of the year and relocating to Mineral, Virginia. He has served the City as pastor of the First Baptist Church since 2003 and has been a member of the Norton Lions Club, Chaplain at the Norton Community Hospital and the first Chaplain of the Norton Police Department, and active in the annual Thanksgiving event feeding those in need. 25323

Mayor Mays read the inscription on the plaque which he and the members of Council presented to Pastor Ellington. Pastor Ellington thanked Council for this recognition and shook hands with Council members following a photo session.

Dr. Scott Hamilton, President of Mountain Empire Community College, was present to give Council an update on the college. He presented them with handouts prior to the meeting.

He advised that the City had an enrollment of 182 out of 2,563 students in the fall enrollment, 70 Burton students participating in the Dual Enrollment Program, and 4 Burton students in the AIMS Higher Student Program. 25324

Enrollment is down nine percent from last year and there has been a drop in dual enrollment. There has been a staff reduction, via enhanced retirement, some forced retirements, and layoffs, due to funding cuts.

During Dr. Hamilton's presentation, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council. 25325

Mayor Mays commended Dr. Hamilton and his staff for the job being done at the college and thanked him for this update. 25326

The City Manager advised that the City Administration is seeking Council's recommendation on which option the City should choose in the required aid to the Commonwealth per House Bill 5010 dated November 10, 2014. He advised of the three options and stated the Administration would prefer to use the third, which is reimbursement by a check. The City's portion to be paid to the Commonwealth is \$15,119.00.

25327

At Council's previous meeting, they had asked that the City Manager prepare a resolution to the Commonwealth regarding this financial burden placed on localities; however, Mr. Ramey advised he had talked with the Virginia Municipal League and they foresee additional financial actions coming. He advised Council he would proceed with the resolution if they so choose or the City could deter until the additional cuts come and include everything in the resolution.

After a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous roll call, Council authorized the City Manager to forward a check in the amount of \$15,119.00 to the Commonwealth of Virginia to cover the City's portion for the required aid to the Commonwealth and to deter the resolution for now.

The next agenda item was an update on the Southwest Regional Jail Authority's consideration of recommending member jurisdictions consider joinder of the City of Bristol, Virginia to the Authority.

Mr. Ramey advised that this is now a moot issue as the City of Bristol, at their Tuesday night meeting, took no action on their resolution and decided not to participate in the Regional Jail System.

25328

Councilman Fawbush advised packets were done early due to the Thanksgiving holiday and that was the reason this item was on the agenda and in the packet.

There was a brief discussion covering this item.

Mr. Ramey proceeded to give Council an update on the Phase III Water Improvement Project. The project has been put to bid and a bid opening was held. Bids came in under budget. Included in Council's packets was a copy of the bid tally sheet. He further advised that the low bidder was a good contractor that the City has previously worked with. This was sent to the Virginia Department of Health for approval and the next step is to get the financing in place. A public hearing will be held for bond issuance at the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

25329

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to advertise a public hearing on the Phase III Water Improvement Project at the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Council had copies of two checks in their packets for approval. The first was to Thomas Construction in the amount of \$181,095.84 and the second was to the Norton Industrial Development Authority in the amount of \$122,004.25.

25330

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

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section 2.2.-3711 (A) (1) and consultation with legal counsel as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. 25331

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

During the closed meeting, Councilman Hunnicutt left the meeting. 25332

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting. 25333

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. The Clerk 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, Roop, Mays, NO – None, Absent – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert) 25334

Mayor Mays opened the floor for an appointment to the Department of Social Services Advisory Board for a four year term which will expire on November 15, 2018.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Tim Ray Adams. 25335

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

Mayor Mays declared Tim Ray Adams appointed to the Department of Social Services Advisory Board for a four year term which will expire on November 15, 2018.

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

He was asked to submit a letter to the Virginia Department of Transportation regarding concerns about the timing of the traffic signals located on US 23 at the Esserville Intersection. He has done so and a copy of that letter has been provided to each member of Council.

The State of Economic Interests and Real Estate Holdings certifications are due back to Mrs. Brown by December 15<sup>th</sup>. 25336

There will be a Santa Fun Run/Walk 5k on December 6<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the Family Preservation Services and the annual Christmas Parade will at 6:00 p.m. on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

He also presented each Councilmember and the City Attorney a wooden Woodbooger Ornament created by City employee, Rebecca Coffey.

Council asked that he give their thanks to Mrs. Coffey for the ornaments.

There were no comments from the City Attorney. 25337

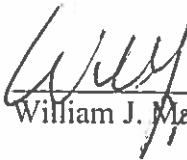
In comments from Council, Councilman Fawbush thanked Mark Leonard of Trout Unlimited for the stocking of the Little Stoney Stream.

Councilman Caruso agreed with this comment.


25338

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