

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Robert Fultz, Jr., William Mays, Joseph Fawbush, and Delores Belcher

Absent: Mark Caruso

Mayor Mays advised that Councilman Caruso was absent due to his being a Camp Commander for a Junior ROTC Camp being held this week.

25534

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Rev. Roger Sloce and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by members of the Norton Kiwanis Club.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the May 19, 2015 minutes as presented.

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During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Adam Wells, Economic Diversification Campaign Coordinator for Appalachian Voices spoke briefly to Council regarding a Power Plus Plan, which is a component of the 2016 federal budget proposed by President Obama. He then discussed the aspects of the plan and gave each Council member a file containing information on same. He would like for Council to review the information and consider adoption of a resolution of support for the proposed plan.

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Mayor Mays said there was a lot of reading regarding this and he would like to review it.

Mr. Ramey advised he could draft a resolution for a future meeting if Council so desired.

Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Wells for his presentation.

Council had been presented with A Resolution Recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kiwanis International and Declaring Saturday, June 20, 2015 as Norton Kiwanis Day in the City of Norton.

Mr. Ramey advised that the Kiwanis organization is one of the largest service organizations in the world and the Norton Cub has faithfully served our community since 1921. For this reason, he knew that Council would want to recognize the local club.

Mayor Mays asked those members of the local Kiwanis Club to stand up and introduce themselves. Mr. Ramey advised that Norton Police Chief Lane is the current president of the club.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kiwanis International and Declaring Saturday, June 20, 2015 as Norton Kiwanis Day in the City of Norton. (Insert)

Ms. Donna Stanley, Financial Officer for the Planning District One Behavioral Health Services, spoke briefly to Council to advise Council about her agency's return on investment.

Planning District One Behavioral Health Services is in partnership with Frontier Health and is the public provider serving Wise, Lee, Scott Counties, and the City of Norton. Their mission is to provide and promote quality, cost effective and community based services that will enable persons affected by mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders to live productive and satisfying lives.

25538

Following her presentation, during which a handout was given to Council members, Mayor Mays thanked her for her presentation and the work they are doing for our citizens.

The City Manager gave an update, via a PowerPoint presentation, to Council regarding the proposed playground at the Norton Elementary and Middle School. The direction given to the City Administration was to evaluate the potential to just remove filters or demolish the pool building, the impact this would have on the Registrar's Office, and to determine the process for a lease to the Norton City Schools.

The City Attorney advised that the state requires the City to advertise the lease availability of this property and receive proposals for uses. Advertisement will be once a week for two weeks. It can be leased for up to 40 years, on a year by year basis, and only used for the same purpose. Council can cancel the lease at any time should they want the property back.

A public hearing will not have to be held to make the award of a lease.

Following his presentation, the City Administration advised they would like to continue to research the situation to identify if there is a possibility of having the building demolished in exchange for the steel framing, determine if the portico area can be left as is, and to obtain an estimate for moving electrical service.

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Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Administration to proceed to advertise the leasing of this property and to report back to Council any proposals received. Mr. Ramey advised he will continue to do research on this project and report back to Council at the next meeting.

Ms. Gina Wohlford, Principal of Norton Elementary and Middle School, was present and thanked Council for their time and effort on this project.

The City Manager presented a brief synopsis to Council on the 2015-2016 City of Norton Fiscal Budget which totals \$9,478,187 in the General Fund, \$2,852,422 in the Water/Sewer Fund, and \$1,260,846 in the Social Services. The only modification to the budget was the transfer of the \$25,000 from the School Board budget to the Contingency line item.

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There being no comments or questions from Council, a motion was made by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, to adopt the City of Norton 2015-2016 Fiscal Budget.

Councilman Fultz applauded the efforts of both Mr. Ramey, Mr. Shupe, as well as his fellow Council members for the work done on this budget and expressed thanks for their patience also.

Council had been presented in their packets a breakdown of the 2014-2015 budget amendments to the City's budget. He is seeking Council's authorization to advertise a public hearing on them. He further advised that the City's auditors require these type budget amendments. The breakdown of these three categories are as follows: Unappropriated Reserves - \$181,433.18, Additional Revenues - \$2,790,475.58, and Loan Proceeds - \$1,258,000.00 totaling of these budget amendments is \$4,229,908.76.

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Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to advertise for a public hearing on the budget amendments to the 2014-2015 budget in the total amount of \$4,229,908.76.

Also included in Council's packets was a copy of the 2015-2016 Norton Industrial Development Authority's fiscal budget. Mr. Ramey advised this budget needs to be approved by Council due to a requirement of the loan agreement for the Norton Commons Shopping Center.

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Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt the 2015-2016 budget of the Norton Industrial Development Authority as presented.

Council had a copy of a check in the amount of \$149,096.57 dated May 21, 2015 made payable to Thomas Construction Company for approval.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$149,096.57 dated May 21, 2015 to Thomas Construction Company.

25543

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, 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) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

25544

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

25545

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 read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting.

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

25546

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Community Corrections Resource Board for a two year term which will expire June 30, 2017.

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

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Mays declared James Lane appointed to the Community Corrections Resource Board for a two year term which will expire June 30, 2017.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for an appointment to the LENOWISCO Board for a four year term which will expire on June 30, 2019.

Councilwoman Belcher nominated Joe Fawbush to be appointed to this Board.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following vote: YES – Fultz, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, ABSTAIN – Fawbush, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Mays declared Joe Fawbush appointed to the LENOWISCO Board for a four year term which will expire on June 30, 2019.

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

He had left each member of Council a schedule of the Best Friend Festival activities at their desks.

He reminded Council of an Invitation to the Business appreciation Luncheon to be held at the Mountain Empire Community College on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.

He had placed at each Councilmember's desk a copy of the Mountains of Music Homecoming Program which includes a City ad on page 61. This is the first time the Crooked Road has done this type of event..

The reassessment process will begin very soon. An ad regarding the process was placed in the newspaper this past Friday and general information about it is available on the City's webpage. Anyone with a question on this is asked to contact the Commissioner of Revenue's Office.

National Trails Day Hike is planned for this Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, beginning at the Upper Reservoir parking Lot. It will be led by the City's Trail Coordinator, Shayne Fields and will start at 9:30 a.m.

The Semi-Annual Statement of Economic Interest is due in June 15<sup>th</sup>.

This past month of May has been the driest May since our Water Plant began recording weather data in 1983 and we recorded only 1.22 inches of rain.

He gave updates on the following projects via PowerPoint presentations:

**Safe Route to School Project:** Crews are working almost continually and have laid over 8,500 blocks. The DMME portion will be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> and the landscaping has begun. They are presently working on Tier 1 from the Community Center hill down to the intersection.

**Phase III Water Project:** They are continuing to install and connect a lot of users as well as paving. They are working on Virginia Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup> Street now. The 10<sup>th</sup> Street section is the last part of this phase. The City has received additional money from a LENOWISCO grant and they hope to go up toward Hilltop Trailer Park and extend that line.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Street Subsidence Project:** At the recommendation of engineers, the down hill lane has been closed to traffic and this closure has been advertised in the paper and

media. A plan was developed and delivered to DMME this week. It will be shown to contractors, bids will be sought, and hopefully work will begin the first week of July. This may cause the closure of the entire street.

Mr. Ramey then answered questions from Council members.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

25550

In comments from Council:

Councilwoman Belcher stated the wall is looking good and progressing. She also stated, from the amount of sirens she has been hearing, the Police and Fire Departments have been kept busy lately.

Councilman Fawbush stated that getting to work was like driving in a maze with some roads being closed due to the water project.

Councilman Fultz stated the dry month of May helped with the work on the Safe Route to School Project.

Mr. Ramey advised that after the work that has been done on some of these lines, we are having a savings of 87,000 gallons a day.

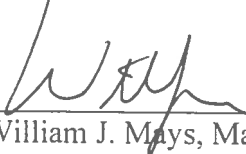
Councilman Fultz stated he has always been impressed by civic organizations such as the Kiwanis Club. He extended his thanks to those members who give of their time and concern for years for the good of the community.

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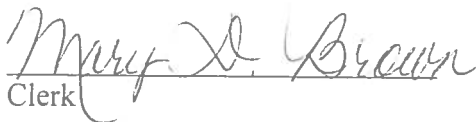
Mayor Mays advised he would like Council to send condolences to the Mike Lintz family for the loss of Mike's wife, Melissa. Councilman Fultz also stated condolences should be sent to the Bobby Bloomer family as well.

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