

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, Robert Fultz, Jr., William Mays, Joseph Fawbush, and Dee Belcher

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

The invocation was given by the Reverend Gary Hill and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the April 19, 2016 meeting as presented. 25891

There was no response to the Mayor’s call for visitors. 25892

Ms. Glenda Collins, Chairperson of the City’s Children’s Services Act (CSA) (formally known as the Comprehensive Services Act), handed out a packet on CSA and spoke briefly to Council to request additional funding in the amount of \$25,000 for the fiscal year 2016. Ms. Collins advised the supplemental appropriation was due to an increase in their caseload. 25893

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 appropriate up to an additional \$25,000 to CSA for fiscal year 2016.

Ms. Kitty Barker, Executive Director of the Heart of Appalachia gave Council an update on the activities and plans for the Virginia Coalfield Regional Tourism Authority. Ms. Barker explained their objective this year was to get visitors across the threshold to spend dollars and to create a sustainable funding plan to operate the Authority. They have created a new marketing and investment plan that will do all the marketing for your locality for \$2,500 per year. They are working on expanding venues for outdoor events and recreation and more individuals are working with the Heart of Appalachia. 25894

Prior to the presentation of the Lonesome Pine Regional Library, Lann Malesky, 1113 Virginia Avenue, NW, and the City’s representative on the Library Board, spoke to Council on behalf of funding for the library for fiscal 2016-2017. Mr. Malesky shared stories of library users with Council and the various services that are available that are valuable to City residents. He advised the library provides a wide range of services for the Citizens of Norton and he urges Council to consider the library’s needs when deliberating the budget.

Lynn Smith, President of Friends of the Wise County Library, advised Council she had asked several people to come and speak on behalf of the library. The following spoke to 25895

Council in support of funding the library: Dickie Smith, Adam Smith, Lynn Sutter, Beth Thacker, Bill Maxwell, Teresa Robinette, and Ginnie Stokes.

Ms. Smith then continued speaking with Council advising they have initiated fundraising to keep existing summer programs. She advised they wanted to add additional programs but are unable to do so due to declining funding.

Amy Bond, Director of the Lonesome Pine Regional Library, was present to give Council and update on the library system. Ms. Bond stated public libraries are regulated under the Code of Virginia. The Wise County Library was established in 1957 by two local governing bodies, the City of Norton and Wise County. Dickenson County, Scott County, and Lee County later joined the Wise County Library to form the state's largest multi-jurisdictional Lonesome Pine Regional Library. She advised as a state regulated agency the library is supported by the government. The City of Norton cut library funding 10% each year for the past two years. She asked Council to hold funding at the current level as the library has already cut positions and hours to a minimum. Ms. Bond stated the library is needed, well used, and appreciated by many. She thanked Council for their ongoing support and handed out a new brochure and a copy of their contract to Council.

In their packets, Council had received a request from the Commissioner of the Revenue for a refund to Charles Edward Hylton for 2012 – 2015 erroneously assessed real estate taxes. She advised that the land card contained incorrect information. The total refund request is \$273.08.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a refund to Charles Edward Hylton in the amount of \$273.08 for erroneously assessed real estate taxes due to incorrect information on the land card.

25896

Council had been presented in their packets with A Resolution Proclaiming May 2016 as Foster Care Month in the City of Norton.

Mr. Ramey advised Council that the purpose of the resolution is to bring foster care to the attention of others and to encourage people to continue to be foster care parents.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Proclaiming May 2016 as Foster Care Month in the City of Norton. (Insert)

25897

Mr. Ramey advised Council that City Administration remains pleased with the turnout of participants for the 2016 Norton Business Challenge. He stated the last class included information on business insurance, legal and accounting information to consider when starting a business. Next week the class will be on tourism and the classes are going well.

25898

Councilman Fultz stated that some of the participants are already in a business and want to expand. The number of participants is impressive and it will be exciting to see what develops from the Business Challenge.

Councilman Fawbush stated he appreciated the volunteers that are working to make the Business Challenge successful.

In their packets, Council had one check to be confirmed. The check was to the Norton Industrial Development Authority dated April 25, 2016, in the amount of \$200,000 for reimbursement due to low cash flow. 25899

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to confirm the check to the Norton Industrial Development Authority as stated above.

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. 25900

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. 25901

Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk 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 Fultz, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert) 25902

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for a four (4) year term to expire on May 10, 2020.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Byron Cantrell and William Sturgill to be reappointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority. 25903

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

Mayor Mays declared Byron Cantrell and William Sturgill reappointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for a four (4) year term which will expire on May 10, 2020.

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

Mr. Ramey advised Council that the City may have to revise the Fishing Ordinance that was recently updated so that the City's fishing hours will correspond with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF).

City Administration has accepted a proposal to demolish the pool building. Demolition should begin shortly.

The Southwest Virginia Economic Forum has been placed at Council's desks and is scheduled for May 12th at UVA-Wise and he encourages Council to attend if available.

The Business Appreciation Luncheon is co-sponsored by the Norton Industrial Development Authority and is scheduled for May 19th at 11:30 at UVA-Wise. 25904

Mr. Ramey reminded Council if anyone wishes to attend the VML Regional Supper on June 15th in Big Stone Gap or the 2016 VML Conference on October 9th – 11th at Virginia Beach, please advise him so reservations can be made.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

25905

In comments from Council:

Councilman Fultz stated he appreciated those who came and spoke on behalf of the library.

He advised that he threw out the first baseball for Norton Little League Opening Day and that the field was officially renamed the J.T. Caruso Memorial Field.

25906

Councilman Caruso echoed Councilman Fultz's comments about the library and stated the City will do the best it can in funding the library.

25907

Councilman Fawbush echoed Councilman Fultz's and Councilman Caruso's comments regarding the library.

Councilman Fawbush asked City Manager the status of the school budget.

Mr. Ramey advised the City needs to advertise a public hearing but City Council needs a definitive number from the School Board.

25908

After a brief discussion it was the consensus of Council to advertise a public hearing on the budget amount presented by the Norton City School Board.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to advertise a public hearing on the proposed Norton City School Budget of \$9,114,956.

Councilwoman Belcher had no comments.

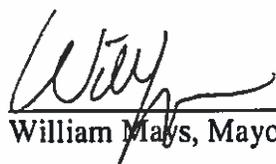
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Mayor Mays had no comments.

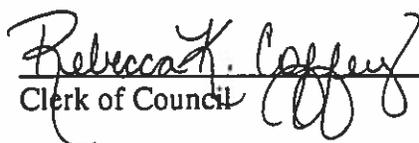
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There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk of Council