

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 21, 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 Jim Collie and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the June 7, 2016 meeting as presented. 25954

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 25955

At this time, Mayor Mays congratulated Councilman Caruso and his wife Carol Caruso on the arrival yesterday of their grandson James Wendell Barnette. 25956

A public hearing was held on Amendments to the 2015-2016 General Operating Fund Budget in the Amount of \$896,581.95.

Mr. Ramey advised Council the budget amendments have been advertised and are classified as unappropriated reserves in the amount of \$192,734.23 and additional revenues in the amount of \$703,847.72 for a total of \$896,581.95. The school energy lease is included in the unappropriated reserves in the amount of \$85,305 and a decision on the classification of the lease has not been received from the Attorney General's Office. Mr. Ramey advised Council that the unappropriated reserves could be amended to remove the school energy lease which will bring the unappropriated reserves to \$107,429.23 for a total budget amendment for the 2015-2016 General Fund to \$811,276.95. This change could be addressed at the next Council meeting should a decision on the energy lease be received by City Administration by that time. 25957

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

There being no public input, Mayor Mays closed the public hearing.

There were no comments from Council.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to modify the Amendments to the 2015-2016 General Operating Fund Budget in the amount of \$107,429.23 for unappropriated reserves and additional revenues in the amount of \$703,847.72 for a total amount of \$811,276.95.

A public hearing was held to solicit input on the proposed 2016-2017 Fiscal Budget for the City of Norton.

Mr. Ramey gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the proposed budget breaking it down by its various funds. 25958

The General Operating Fund totals \$9,655,863 which is an increase of 1.87% or \$177,676.

The Enterprise Fund totals \$3,115,453 which is an increase of \$263,209 and includes a proposed water rate increase of \$0.25 cents per 1,000 gallons of water.

The Social Services Fund totals \$1,306,950 which is an increase of \$100,104 of which \$17,012 is local appropriations. This increase is largely due to an increase in federal and state funding.

There were no comments or questions from Council prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

There being no public input, Mayor Mays closed the public hearing.

There were no comments from Council.

Mayor Mays advised Council would meet June 28th to adopt the budget.

Dr. Perrigan, Superintendent of Norton City Schools, thanked Council for allowing him to present the school's 2016-2017 Fiscal Budget request again for Council's reconsideration of local appropriations to Norton City Schools.

Via a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Perrigan advised Council that the school system had received a \$14,000 grant from United Way to fund a Pre-K teacher position and that the City's Police Department had received a \$50,000 grant to hire a school resource officer. The school system anticipates a \$20,000 savings in salaries and the pre-k and school resource officer grants will reduce the amount previously requested by Norton City Schools by \$39,000. He is asking Council to reconsider their approved local appropriation and fund the school system an additional \$87,000 above the Required Local Effort (RLE) for the FY 2016-2017 budget.

25959

Following a lengthy discussion, there was no motion on the school's request.

In their packets, Council had a copy of an email from Joni Terry of the Virginia Municipal League (VML). Ms. Terry advised the General Assembly had passed legislation requiring localities to designate and identify a local Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer. In addition, the locality must provide information on the website on FOIA and provide a link on their homepage.

Mr. Ramey advised he would recommend appointing himself as the City's FOIA Officer and that the City already has a link on the website and information on FOIA. FOIA has developed a template that meets the requirements of the FOIA Council and he hopes to have an update on the current link and revise the City's current model to meet these guidelines.

25960

Mr. Bradshaw advised Council that Mr. Ramey needs to be formally appointed as the City's FOIA officer.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to appoint the City Manager as the FOIA officer for the City of Norton.

Councilman Fawbush stated per VML the Disclosure Statements will be changed back to once per year instead of the recently bi-annual requirement.

Mr. Ramey advised Council that he and Councilman Fawbush attended the regional VML dinner held in Big Stone Gap and were advised effective 2017 disclosure statements will be due once per year as in the past.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, 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, and discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publically held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. 25961

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting. 25962

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. 25963

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

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations of a parent representative to the newly required appointment to the City's Community Policy and Management Board for a four (4) year term to expire on July 1, 2020.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Donna Owens to be appointed to the City's Community Policy and management Board for a four (4) year term to expire on July 1, 2020. 25964

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

Mayor Mays declared Donna Owens appointed to the Norton Community Policy and Management Board for a four (4) year term to expire on July 1, 2020.

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

Mr. Ramey advised Council that the Norton Industrial Development Authority (NIDA) had executed a lease with Verizon for a portion of the former AT&T building. Verizon will employ 36 at this location.

The monthly Retail Sales Report has been placed at Council's desk for your review. He reminded Council there will be an additional Council meeting on Tuesday, June 28th.

The 30th Annual Best Friend Festival was successful and he would like to thank Rick Colley of the Chamber of Commerce, the volunteers, planners and supporters of the festival.

The Household Hazardous Waste Pick-up is scheduled for June 25th. 25965

He wanted to remind citizens the July 4th fireworks are scheduled for Saturday, July 2nd.

Citizens are asked to share their design ideas on the proposed Norton Riverwalk Trail on Thursday, July 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the Norton Community Center.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

25966

In comments from Council:

Councilman Caruso stated he and Carol are proud grandparents and welcome their first grandchild James.

He is pleased with the five new downtown businesses.

The Farmers' Market Building façade remodel is looking good and he is anxious to see a new business locating in the front of the facility.

The Best Friend Festival city-wide yard sale brought large numbers of people downtown and customers for downtown businesses. He thinks the City should consider having yard sales downtown more often.

25967

Chris Jones, Tourism Chairman, is working on a "Music on the Mountain" event on July 23 at the High Knob Recreation Lake. Several local bands have signed to play and the cost is free.

Councilman Fultz thanked the NIDA for working with the County IDA to get Verizon moved to downtown Norton.

He commended the Chamber of Commerce, the City, and businesses for working together and presenting a great Best Friend Festival. He really enjoys these types of family and community events.

25968

Councilwoman Belcher commended Mr. Ramey for the job he does operating the City. She will be attending a Chief Local Elected Official (CLEO) meeting tomorrow in Richlands and will update Council at the next meeting. She will also be attending a Planning District One meeting tomorrow.

25969

Councilman Fawbush stated the Best Friend Festival went well and he commends City staff and public works for their work on the festival.

He congratulated the town of St. Paul on their new restaurant, hotel and brewery.

He received a call from the person over the Chillin' and Grillin' event in Wise and he wants to use the Woodbooger to promote their event.

25970

He placed drafts of possible plaques for the Woodbooger statue at Council's desk for their review. Hopefully, the plaques will be finished within the next 30 days.

Councilman Caruso stated a new kiosk has been placed at the High Knob Tower by Teddy Huff's Boy Scout Troop 301. He advised this was his son Noah Huff's Eagle Scout project and it is beautiful. The City should consider looking for projects for the boy scouts.

25971

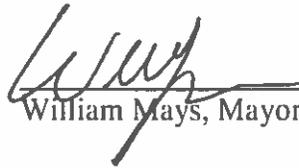
Mayor Mays reminded Council of the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 28th.

25972

He requested Council look at their calendars for the months of July and August so that a schedule of meetings for these two months could be determined on Tuesday.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council