

A special called meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 28, 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

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

At this time, Mayor Mays advised he would like City Council to consider amending the agenda to include under Item 5-A Special Presentations, under Item 6-A1 A Resolution Adopting a Five (5) Year Capital Improvement Plan, and to table Item 6-E.

25973

It was the consensus of Council to amend the agenda to include under Item 5-A Special Presentations, under Item 6-A1 A Resolution Adopting a Five (5) Year Capital Improvement Plan, and to table Item 6-E as specified above.

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 21, 2016 meeting as presented.

25974

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Sam Adams, one of the coaches for the Norton Little League 9 & 10 year old Girls Softball Team, and Tim McNew, President of the Norton Little League, was present to request financial assistance for their upcoming trip to Bridgewater, Virginia. Mr. Adams presented each Council member with a photo of the team and advised the girls recently won the District 13 Championship for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. Mr. McNew advised Council the team was conducting fund raisers for the trip and he had completed the City's Donation Policy & Application. They are asking Council for a donation to help defray the expenses incurred during participation in the State Softball Tournament.

25975

Following a lengthy discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve up to \$2,000 to the Norton Little League for the 9 & 10 year old Girls Softball Team to help defray the expenses incurred during participation in the State Softball Tournament with said funds to come from unappropriated reserves.

Chris Jones, Chairman of the Norton Tourism Committee, was present to give Council an update on the activities of the Committee. He advised the Committee has received a price for the Woodbooger family statues and he asked Council and the City Manager to be thinking about where to locate the figures downtown. He advised he had also spoken with Police Chief James Lane regarding the Police Department and the Tourism Committee doing a joint project promoting downtown highlighting the safe streets and well-lit

25976

sidewalks to encourage people to come downtown. The Committee is also interested in lighting Flag Rock and will be looking into this project.

The primary purpose for Mr. Jones visit tonight was to update Council on The High Knob Music Festival that he and some volunteers are planning on High Knob. The event is planned for Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8 p.m. to Midnight at the High Knob Recreation Lake. Dave Edgar headlines the entertainment and several local artists have signed up to perform. Wise County has partnered with them and gave \$2,000 for advertising and Charlie Thompson gave \$500 for the event.

Council thanked Mr. Jones and the Tourism Committee for their efforts and asked Mr. Jones to get information on the music festival to Mr. Ramey for advertising on the City's social media and Channel 51 (NMAC).

At this time, Mayor Mays advised there were some special presentations to be made and asked the City Manager to elaborate on the acknowledgements.

Mr. Ramey advised two recent graduates from Georgetown University, Madison Ashley and Allison Heymann, have spent their summer in the City volunteering two days per week on trail development at the Flag Rock Recreation Area.

25977

Mr. Shayne Fields, Trails Coordinator, spoke briefly to Council about their volunteerism and introduced Madison Ashley and Allison Heymann to Council.

Mayor Mays, on behalf of Council, presented Ms. Ashley and Ms. Heymann with a plaque recognizing their volunteer service.

After the presentation of these plaques, applause was given to these volunteers and a group picture was taken with Council.

Council had before them An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2016 Thru June 30, 2017 Appropriating Funds for All Contemplated Expenses of the City for the Fiscal Year and Placing Levies Upon all Real Estate, Personal Property and Bank Stock, Licenses, Fees, User Charges, and all Other Levies as Previously Imposed or Modified Herein.

During comments from Council, Councilman Fawbush applauded Mr. Ramey and Mr. Jeff Shupe, Director of Finance, as well as fellow Council members, for their work on the budget. He is optimistic for a brighter future and is proud of the budget presented tonight for Council's adoption.

Mayor Mays commended the City's Department Heads for their work on the budget as well as all City employees.

25978

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2016 Thru June 30, 2017 Appropriating Funds for All Contemplated Expenses of the City for the Fiscal Year and Placing Levies Upon all Real Estate, Personal Property and Bank Stock, Licenses, Fees, User Charges, and all Other Levies as Previously Imposed or Modified Herein.

Mayor Mays thanked Council for their work on the budget. (Insert)

In their packets, Council had been given a copy of A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Adopting a Five Year Capital Improvements Program.

25979

Mr. Ramey advised Council has placed money in the budget to begin funding capital projects and this first year plan includes purchasing trail equipment, leasing a dump truck, sidewalk and vehicle replacement, stonewall and bridge repairs, and new voting equipment. He is pleased with the plan and hopes the City can get back to the level of funding for capital improvement as in years past.

There were no comments from Council.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Adopting a Five Year Capital Improvements Program.  
(Insert)

At this time, Mr. Ramey introduced Dylan Reilly, a graduate student at the University of Maryland, who is working on his Masters in Landscape Architecture and is doing his thesis on the proposed Norton Riverwalk.

Mr. Reilly, via a PowerPoint presentation, gave Council an update on his project and on the upcoming Norton Riverwalk Community Design Event scheduled for Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. He gave Council the background on his project and stated it includes a research and design portion. The input he receives from the community on July 7<sup>th</sup> will be incorporated into a design that he will present to Council in August. He hopes his research will assist the City with grant funding and suggests the project be completed in two phases.

25980

Following a brief discussion of the project, Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Reilly for his work on the proposed Norton Riverwalk project.

Council had been presented in their packets a copy of a Proposed Adopt-A-Spot and Adopt-A-Trail Cleanup Program in the City.

Mr. Ramey gave Council a brief overview of the proposed cleanup program and advised the High Knob Outdoor Club is already interested in adopting an area. He asked Council to review the two forms and he would place back on a future agenda for discussion.

25981

Shayne Fields, from the audience, stated Jane Sandt had asked him if a “No Littering” sign could be installed.

Mr. Ramey advised he had already spoken with Ms. Sandt regarding this request.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Mays asked the City Manager to place the proposed cleanup program and the discussion of a litter fee on the same agenda for Council’s consideration.

Mayor Mays asked Council to review their calendars for July and August so Council meetings could be determined for these two months.

25982

After a brief discussion, Council decided to meet once during the months of July and August on July 12<sup>th</sup> and on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

25983

Council's nominees for the Board of Zoning Appeals have been approved by the Wise County Circuit Court.

The July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks and parade are scheduled for Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The proposed Norton Riverwalk Community Design Meeting is Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Norton Community Center. Citizens will discuss and share their design ideas for the Riverwalk with Dylan Reilly.

Several upcoming camps are scheduled for this summer. The camps include a Basketball Camp, Outdoor Camp, and an Environmental Camp.

In comments from Council:

Councilman Caruso stated he would like to see the lighting of Flag Rock.

He advised Jane Sandt told him she attended the firefly event at the High Knob Recreation Lake and all the fireflies blinked in sync as advertised. This is a great marketing event for tourism.

He was glad to see two City employees at Flag Rock discussing how to replace the bridge to Flag Rock.

25984

Two students from the University of Virginia have spent five days filming our area and will provide multiple television ads, billboard designs, and newspaper and radio ads in addition to preparing a tourism website. These items will be ready for release next summer.

After August, he believes Council needs to prepare a strategic plan to guide them for the next five years.

Councilman Fultz stated he thought a coordinated day on High Knob to view several selected locations with guides is a good idea. He felt there are residents who are not familiar with areas on the Knob and they are hesitant to visit these sites alone but would be willing to visit them with guides. He suggested calling the day "Discover High Knob" and incorporating it with National Trail Days 2017. He suggested selecting 10 sites that people can discover with guides.

25985

Councilwoman Belcher stated she had attended the Chief Local Elected Official (CLEO) meeting and advised Council the board approved a business incubator in Russell County. She advised tour buses were visiting Haysi and other localities and spending dollars in those areas. She suggested that the City may want to look at participating in the tour bus venture.

25986

Councilman Fawbush had no comments.

25987

Mayor Mays stated the area lost a true ambassador for our region. Dr. Ralph Stanley's service is today and his family is in our thoughts and prayers.

25988

He then wished everyone a great summer.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council