

City Council Meeting Packet



November 13, 2018

AGENDA

Norton City Council

November 13, 2018

6:00 P.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Invocation – Boy Scout Troop 301
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Minutes
 1. Meeting of October 16, 2018
5. Audience for Visitors
6. New Business
 - A. Consideration of an Eagle Scout Project from Boy Scout Troop 301.
 - B. Request to Schedule a Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance Recodifying Chapter 6 (Elections) of the City Code.
 - C. A Request to Refund Erroneously Assessed Personal Property Taxes.
 - D. Confirmation of a Check/Transfer in Excess of \$100,000.
 - E. Closed Meeting for Personnel as Per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia as Amended.

1. Appointment to the Norton Social Services Advisory Board, Currently Tim Ray Adams Whose Term Expires 11/15/18.

To 11/15/22

2. Appointment to the Southwest VSAP Board, Currently Chief James Lane Whose Term Expires 12/1/18.

To 12/1/21

3. Evaluation of the City Manager.

7. Comments by the City Manager, City Attorney, and City Council.

8. Adjournment.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, October 16, 2018, 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 Delores Belcher

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

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

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Mays, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, ABSTAIN – Fawbush, council moved to adopt the minutes of the September 27, 2018, meeting as presented.

There was no response to the Mayor's Call for Visitors.

The city manager noted Section 8-38 of the State Code requires the fire chief present council with a list of working officers each fiscal year.

Chief Lagow was present and said there were no recommended changes to the list of officers appointed last year and he asked for council's support in approving this group of volunteers for FY 2018-2019.

After a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to approve the list of working officers for the Norton Fire Department for the fiscal year 2018-2019 as presented by Fire Chief Todd Lagow.

In packets for council consideration was a Resolution Approving the Planning District One (PD1) Community Services Board Performance Contract for FY 2019 and FY 2020.

Mr. Ramey said PD1's contract is a two-year agreement and requires council's approval. He noted PD1 Financial Officer Donna Stanley was in attendance and could answer any questions members may have regarding PD1's biennial Performance Contract.

Council members had no questions regarding the information provided in their packet, therefore upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to adopt the Resolution Approving the Planning District One Behavioral Health Services Board Performance Contract for FY 2019 and FY 2020. (Insert)

The city manager said the city was approached in 2014 about rock climbing opportunities in the Flag Rock Recreation Area. He said at that time, city administration's largest concern with permitting rock climbing in the Flag Rock Recreation Areas was potential liability. He said in 2015, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was executed between the city and the Southwest Virginia Climbing Coalition (SVCC) which included SVCC's goal for rock climbing in the area. Mr. Ramey said since the execution of the MOU, SVCC has changed its name to the Central Appalachia Climbers Coalition

(CACC) and that he had asked Brad Mathisen, president of CACC, to provide council with an update on the activities of the organization.

Mr. Mathisen, via a PowerPoint presentation, presented photos and activities the coalition has been involved with over the past 3 ½ years. He said CACC has received national recognition due to the coalitions efforts to preserve property in the Grayson Highlands and that the coalition works with The Access Fund to receive national publication and recognition for the work CACC is doing in the region. He said CACC wants to begin publicizing climbing opportunities available within the city and to install signage at the trailheads. Mr. Mathisen stated in the near future he would like to discuss a management plan with council.

Mr. Ramey followed up by informing council that CACC had provided numerous documents for the city attorney to review regarding the liability aspect of rock climbing and that the organization had met each obligation in the MOU. Mr. Ramey said CACC will continue working with The Access Fund and that city administration is comfortable with opening the two rock climbing locations in the Flag Rock Recreation area once the certificate of insurance is received from The Access Fund and is approved by Mr. Bradshaw, signage is installed, and the activity is approved by council.

After a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to authorize city administration to work with the Central Appalachia Climbing Coalition to develop a management plan, to install appropriate signage at the trailheads, and to allow rock climbing at “The Labyrinth” and “The Sanctuary” in the Flag Rock Recreation Area.

Council was presented with a resolution requesting Authorization to Submit a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HISP) Grant Application to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Mr. Ramey presented council with a PowerPoint presentation on a proposed sidewalk improvement project beginning at the corner of 12th Street, N.W., and leading up to the entrance of the former shopping center. He said a number of citizens are using the current sidewalk to access the newly renovated Healthplex owned by Norton Community Hospital and that the city is experiencing some sprawling in the cliff line and the sidewalk is not handicap accessible. Mr. Ramey said the HISP grant is very competitive and the estimated cost of the sidewalk improvement is \$300,000.

After a lengthy discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwomen Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to adopt a Resolution Authorizing City Administration to Submit a Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant Application to the Virginia Department of Transportation. (Insert)

Mr. Ramey informed council that representatives of the Virginia Department of Transportation’s contacted him to advise they have applied internally for a Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) Grant to study Park Avenue from Trent Street, N.E., to the entrance of Norton Community Hospital. He said the local VDOT office was awarded the STARS Grant which will allow VDOT to analyze and recommend safety projects, including cost and specifications, to improve the city’s main thoroughfare. Mr. Ramey said the evaluation of Park Avenue will be completely funded by VDOT’s STARS Grant and the grant will enable the city to use the data to apply for funding should council decide to implement any of the recommended projects.

Council had one check to confirm. The check was to Municipal Emergency Services Depository Account dated August 10, 2018, in the amount of \$337,169.65, to cover the purchase of 24 self-contained breathing apparatus for the Norton Fire Department that were purchased with grant funds.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to confirm the check to Municipal Emergency Services Depository Account, as stated above.

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 to consult with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (8) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Mayor Mays declared council in closed meeting.

The city attorney was excused after the 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.

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 Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Community Policy and Management Board for a four-year term to expire November 15, 2022.

Councilman Caruso nominated Delores Belcher to be reappointed to the Norton Community Policy and Management Board for a four-year term to expire November 15, 2022.

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

Mayor Mays declared Delores Belcher reappointed to the Norton Social Services Advisory Board for a four-year term to expire November 15, 2022.

In comments from the city manager:

Mr. Ramey advised the city has three areas that qualify for the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Program (PSAP) Grant and he would like council's authorization to apply. He said it doesn't appear that the grant requires a resolution by council to apply, but he would like council's authorization because of the upcoming due date.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwomen Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to adopt a Resolution Authorizing City Administration to Submit an Application to the Virginia Department of Transportation's Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Program.

Mr. Ramey said council authorized Norton City Schools to install banners at downtown intersections and the project is completed.

Also, a school resource officer has been assigned to Norton Elementary and Middle School and the position is working well.

The International Walk to School Day in the city was held Friday, October 12th.

Mr. Ramey provided an update on the High Knob Hellbender 10k Race and the Cloudsplitter 100 Ultra Trail Race.

He gave each council member a sample ballot for the November election, September traffic counts for Route 619 and Flag Rock Recreation Area, and the October Retail Sales Tax Report.

Mr. Ramey said the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD) Community Coaching Summit will be held in the city October 29th-30th.

The following comments were made by council members:

Councilman Fultz said he appreciated Brad Mathison's update and suggests a back story be constructed to connect The Labyrinth and the Stonehenge monument.

He said adding gravity trails to the city's trail system is a great idea.

Councilman Fultz commended the city's Trail Coordinator Shayne Fields and the AmeriCorps/National Civilian Conservation Corps Team River 3 for their work on the city's trail system.

He said the runners that participated in the Cloudsplitter that came to his aid station were very appreciative of the volunteers and he appreciates everyone who worked to make the event possible. Also, the Farmers' Market/Expo Center was a great staging location for this event.

Councilman Fultz said ideas are coming to fruition with the awarding of the grant for Project Intersection and the completion of the Destination Center will play a larger role than originally anticipated in growing tourism efforts in the High Knob Area.

The city will hold its annual Halloween Bash from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., Saturday, October 20th, at Norton City Park.

Councilman Caruso echoed Councilman Fultz's comments and said the Farmers' Market is one of the best facilities downtown.

Councilman Caruso said Mr. Ramey did an excellent job on the Cloudsplitter race and noted the race would not have happened without Mr. Ramey's efforts. He suggested next year the Tourism Committee should operate the booth at the Cloudsplitter race and he thanked local sponsors, volunteers, and Boy Scout Troop 301 and Scout Leader Teddy Huff.

He said he liked the back story for The Labyrinth.

Councilman Fultz added he would like to thank Spearhead Trails and the U.S. Forestry Department for their efforts on the Cloudsplitter race.

He also thought the participants in the Cloudsplitter race appreciated the city's involvement in the event.

Councilman Fawbush commended everyone involved in making the Cloudsplitter race a success.

He said he and other council members attended the annual Virginia Municipal League Conference (VML) held September 30th - October 2nd in Hampton, Virginia.

Councilman Fawbush said the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (RIFA) received a \$900,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for Project Intersection.

He said the Woodbooger Festival went well with 246 adults and up to 150 kids attending the event on Saturday. He thanked the John I. Burton Ladies Tennis and Cross County Teams, Ridgeview High School Robotics Team, Boy Scout Troop 301 and Scout Leader Teddy Huff, the AmeriCorps Team River 3 participants, Mountain Empire Cryptic Research Organization, Bilco Productions, and city employees.

He will be tabling October 20th at the Bigfoot Conference at Bays Mountain Park and Planetarium in Kingsport, Tennessee.

Councilman Fawbush said he is looking forward to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD) Community Coaching Summit on October 29th - 30th.

He noted that on October 6th, Flag Rock Recreation Area had campers visiting from Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Councilman Fawbush said he was interviewed by a student from Radford University who is writing a paper on the Woodbooger phenomenon. He said she visited during the Woodbooger event and asked what was the purpose of the Woodbooger Festival. Councilman Fawbush said he told her purpose of the festival is to encourage people to go outdoors and visit High Knob.

Mayor Mays confirmed council members were in consensus for rescheduling the November 6, 2018, meeting due to the election.

It was the consensus of council to reschedule the November 6, 2018, meeting to Tuesday, November 13, 2018.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Inter-Office Memo



To: Mayor and City Council
From: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager 
CC:
Date: November 9, 2018
Re: Request to Install an Information Kiosk

As part of his Eagle Scout Project, Eagle Scout Candidate Anthony Hamilton will be attending our November 13th Council meeting to request permission to install an information kiosk at the trail head at the Upper Reservoir. Mr. Hamilton will be joined by his Scoutmaster Teddy Huff and possibly other members of his troop.

Thank You.

BEING AN ORDINANCE RECODIFYING CHAPTER 6 – ELECTIONS
OF THE CITY CODE

WHEREAS, Chapter 6 of the Code of the City of Norton deals with elections, and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2014 Council approved a change in the polling place for City elections from City Council Chambers at 618 Virginia Avenue, NW to the Norton Community Center at 201 Park Avenue, NE, and

WHEREAS, the City presently has only one (1) voting precinct and election district, and

WHEREAS, Council's decisions to combine the former east and west precincts and to move the polling place was never codified as an ordinance amending Chapter 6, and

WHEREAS, Council wishes to amend Chapter 6 to conform it to the current state of affairs

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED THAT

1. Present Sections 6-1 and 6-2 be, and they are, hereby repealed.
2. Section 6-1 as set forth below is hereby adopted:

 "Sec.6.1-Boundaries. There shall be one (1) election district and voting precinct, whose boundaries shall be the City limits of Norton, Virginia."
3. Present Section 6-3 shall be, and it is, hereby repealed.
4. Section 6-2 as set forth below is hereby adopted:

 "Sec. 6-2. Voting Place. All City elections shall be held in the Norton Community Center located at 201 Park Avenue, NE."
5. Section 6-4 be renumbered as Section 6-3.
6. Section 6-5 be, and it is, hereby repealed.
7. Section 6-4 as set forth below is hereby adopted:

 "Sec. 6-4. Substitute Voting Place. Should the voting place established by this article be not available for any election, it shall be the duty of the electoral board

to establish a substitute voting place as near to the one replaced as my be practical. Such substitute voting place shall be discontinued as such whenever the original voting place may be again available for elections.”

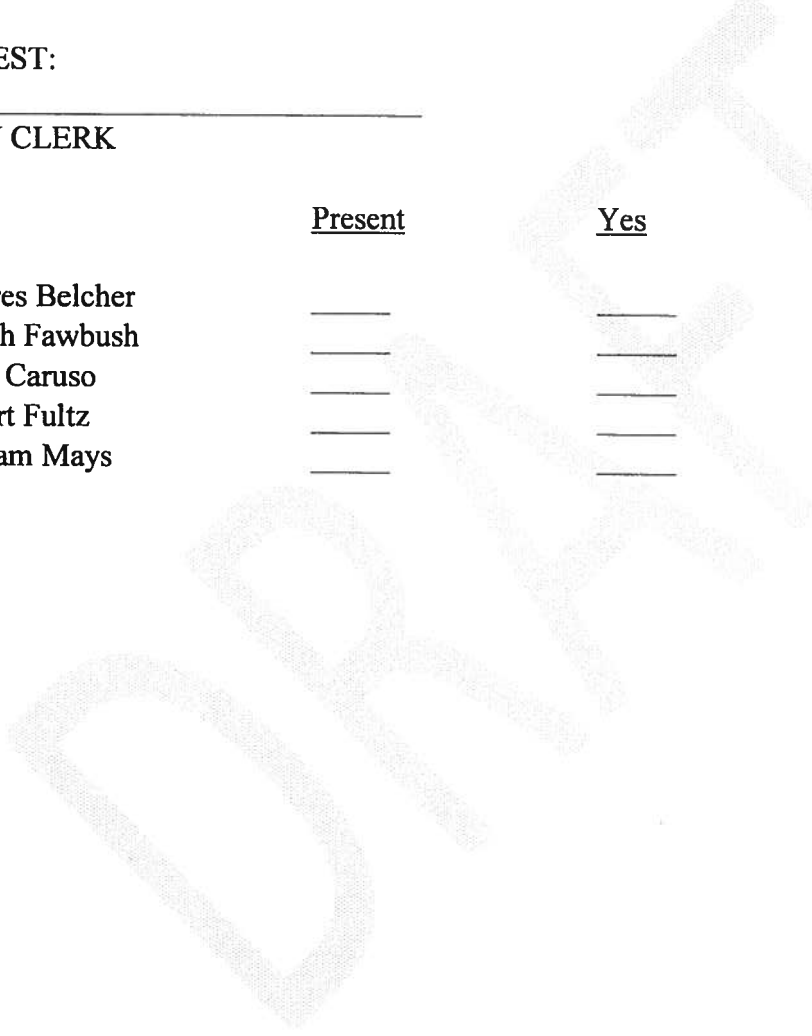
ADOPTED: _____, 2018

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Delores Belcher	_____	_____	_____
Joseph Fawbush	_____	_____	_____
Mark Caruso	_____	_____	_____
Robert Fultz	_____	_____	_____
William Mays	_____	_____	_____





Judy K. Miller
 Commissioner Of The Revenue
 City of Norton

P.O. Box 347
 Norton, Virginia 24273-0347

Phone (276) 679-0031
 Fax (276) 679-3510

Date: October 23, 2018
To: Barbara Muir
 Treasurer, City of Norton
From: Judy K. Miller *JKM*
 Commissioner of the Revenue
Subject: Refund/PP
 Tax year: 2018

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Reasoning</u>	<u>Refund Amt.</u>
VW Credit Leasing LTD	2018	Vehicle Garaged in Wise County	\$118.07

If you need any additional information, please let me know.

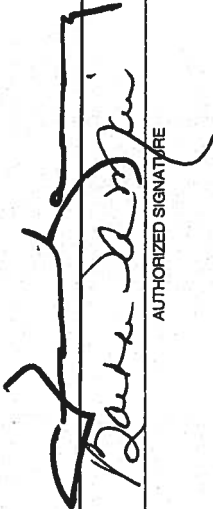
Thanks.

cc: Fred Ramey
 City Manager

147909

INV. DATE	INVOICE#	G/L ADCT.#	GROSS AMOUNT	DISC. AMOUNT	NET AMOUNT
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9/10/2018	6787	147909	101,670.01	.00	101,670.01
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CITY OF NORTON		147909	
GENERAL OPERATING FUND		68-46514	
NORTON, VA 24273		147909 10	
THE FIRST BANK & TRUST NORTON, VA		Security Features Included	
101 THOUSAND 670 DOLLARS 01 CENTS		Details on Back.	
PAY TO THE ORDER OF:		DATE	AMOUNT
U.S. BANK OPERATIONS CNTR		9/10/2018	\$*101670.01
P.O. BOX 86 LOCKBOX		 AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE	
SERVIDES SDS 12-2699			
MINNEAPOLIS MN 554862699			