

The rescheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, November 13, 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 Life Scout Chaplain Dominic Sluss of Boy Scout Troop 301 and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Mark Caruso.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Mays, Fawbush, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to adopt the minutes of the October 16, 2018, meeting as presented.

262885

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

262886

Mr. Ramey informed council that Eagle Scout Candidate Anthony Hamilton of Boy Scout Troop 301 was in the audience to present members with his Eagle Scout Project.

Eagle Scout Candidate Anthony Hamilton advised that he is requesting council's permission to construct an informational kiosk at the trailhead at the Upper Norton Reservoir as part of his Eagle Scout Project. He said he would plan, develop, and provide leadership skills to fellow scouts, and the project would be supervised by Scoutmaster Teddy Huff. Mr. Hamilton said all labor will be donated and he is accepting monetary donations for the materials.

262887

After a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to approve the request to build an informational kiosk at the trailhead located at the Upper Norton Reservoir.

Mayor Mays then signed documentation authorizing Eagle Scout Candidate Anthony Hamilton to construct an informational kiosk for his Eagle Scout Project and a photo was taken with council members.

At this time, Mayor Mays asked Scoutmaster Teddy Huff to come forward to receive a Community Leadership Award. Mayor Mays presented a plaque to Scoutmaster Teddy Huff for his dedicated service to empower scouts to be successful troop leaders, future leaders of the community, and for the troop's projects that have enriched the area and the City of Norton.

262888

Following the presentation, a photo was taken with council members and Boy Scout Troop 301. Both the mayor and council members thanked Scoutmaster Teddy Huff for the work he is doing, and applause was given to Scoutmaster Huff.

The next agenda item was a request to schedule a public hearing to consider an ordinance to recodify Chapter 6 – Elections of the Norton City Code.

262889

The city manager advised council the city code needs to be updated to reflect previous actions taken by council to combine the former east and west precincts into one voting precinct and to move the polling place for city elections from City Council Chambers at 618 Virginia Avenue, N.W., to the Norton Community Center at 201 Park Avenue, N.E. Mr. Ramey said public hearings were held regarding each of these actions but the city code was never updated. The city attorney has drafted an ordinance for your review that will rectify the previous oversights and allow for Chapter 6 – Elections of the City Code to be updated to reflect councils’ previously approved actions.

Mr. Bradshaw stated the draft ordinance confirms city code to reality and should have been done when the previous actions were taken.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to authorize the city manager to advertise a public hearing to consider an ordinance recodifying Chapter 6 – Elections of the Norton City Code.

In packets for council consideration was a request from the Commissioner of Revenue to authorize a refund of erroneously assessed 2018 Personal Property Taxes in the amount of \$118.07 to VW Credit Leasing, LTD.

Mr. Ramey said the Commissioner of Revenue has concluded that a vehicle assessed for 2018 personal property taxes for VW Credit Leasing, LTD., is garaged in Wise County, so a refund in the amount of \$118.07 to VW Credit Leasing, LTD., is warranted under these circumstances. 262890

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council authorized a refund for erroneously assessed 2018 personal property taxes to VW Credit Leasing, LTD., in the amount of \$118.07.

Council had one check to confirm. The check was to U. S. Bank Operations Center dated September 10, 2018, in the amount of \$101,670.01, to pay 2013 Water Refinancing Bonds. 262891

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to confirm the check to U. S. Bank Operations Center, as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, 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. 262892

Mayor Mays declared council in closed meeting.

The city attorney was excused at this time. 262893

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to go back into open meeting. 262894

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. 262895

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, 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 Southwest Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VSAP) Board for a three-year term to expire December 1, 2021.

Councilman Caruso nominated James Lane to be reappointed to the VSAP Board for a three-year term to expire December 1, 2021.

262896

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

Mayor Mays declared James Lane reappointed to the Southwest Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP) Board for a three-year term to expire December 1, 2021.

In comments from the city manager:

Mr. Ramey thanked Girl Scout Troop 1066 for placing American flags at the Tipple Hill Intersection and Veterans Park downtown in honor of Veterans Day.

He said city administration held a bid opening today in Council Chambers for Phases I and II of the Clear Creek and Josephine Waterline Replacement Projects and that the bids are being reviewed by the city's engineer The Lane Group, Inc.

Mr. Ramey said Thrower, Blanton, and Associates are currently auditing the city's records and hope to be completed by the end of December.

262897

He placed at each member's desk the October traffic counts for High Knob and the latest monthly financials. Mr. Ramey noted the traffic counter for Flag Rock Recreation area has been sent for repairs.

Mr. Ramey said upcoming activities in the city include the Dairy Queen Turkey Trot 5K planned Thanksgiving Day, the city's Tree Lighting Ceremony planned from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 1st, in Veterans Park located at 746 Park Avenue, N.W., and the city's Christmas parade is scheduled at 6:00 p.m., Saturday, December 2nd.

The following comments were made by council members:

Councilman Fultz inquired if council will be meeting on Tuesday, January 1, 2019.

Mr. Ramey said council should consider having a short Reorganizational Meeting sometime in the beginning of January. He suggested members look at their calendars and make a formal decision to reschedule the January 1st meeting at the next council meeting on December 4.

262898

Councilman Fultz said he received a card from a mother of one of the participants in the Cloudsplitter Ultra 100 Trail Race. He said she visited with him and volunteers at one of the aid stations and then he read her card for council members. Councilman Fultz said they were pleased to spend time in our beautiful city and appreciated the warm welcome of city administration and volunteers.

Councilwoman Belcher commended the Electoral Board and poll workers of the recent election for their efficient and professional running of the voting polls. She noted the next election the city should provide meals for those working the voting polls. Councilwoman

262899

Belcher said Mike Brown, chairman of the Electoral Board, said they provided their own meals for this election because there was no funding available in the budget.

Mr. Ramey said historically, the city has always provided meals and he would check on this request.

Councilwoman Belcher said it was good to speak with citizens at the polls and she thanked the city's emergency services for their commitment to serve the community.

Councilman Fawbush echoed Councilman Fultz's comments about visitors in the city and said everyone needs to offer tourists assistance by answering questions they may have about our area because we are all stewards of our community.

He informed council members that Jahmal Potter's book, *Where is the Woodbooger?* is published and is available online at Amazon.com. He said News 5 WCYB Television Station (WCYB-TV) will be interviewing Mr. Potter about his children's book at noon on Friday, November 16th. Councilman Fawbush said the Woodbooger will attend the interview with Mr. Potter and he will be wearing a t-shirt promoting Flag Rock Recreation Area.

262900


Councilman Fawbush congratulated Mayor Mays and Councilwoman Belcher on their reelection to council.

Mayor Mays thanked the citizens of Norton for having confidence in him to re-elect him to city council and noted it has been a pleasure serving on council. He said the city has been blessed with good administrative leadership and we are blessed to live in the City of Norton.

262901

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council