

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Joseph Fawbush presiding.

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

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

The invocation was given by Norton School Board Chairman Cody McElroy and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

At this time, Mayor Fawbush asked council members to amend the agenda to include under Item 7-E a meeting with legal counsel concerning actual litigation per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (7) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. 263057

It was the consensus of council to amend the agenda to include a meeting with legal counsel concerning actual litigation, as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Caruso, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to adopt the minutes of the May 7, 2019, meeting as presented. 263058

There was no response to the Mayor's Call for Visitors. 263059

A public hearing was held to solicit input on the 2019-2020 Norton City Schools Proposed Budget in the amount of \$9,745,607, which includes local funds totaling \$2,501,832. The proposed school budget includes Operational Funds in the amount of \$1,667,946, Debt Service totaling \$811,490, and financing for the Textbook Fund in the amount of \$22,396.

Mayor Fawbush opened the public hearing. 263060

Receiving no public comments on the Proposed FY 2019-20 Norton City School's Budget, Mayor Fawbush closed the public hearing and asked for any council member comments.

Councilman Mays commended Norton City School Board for this year's budget.

Mayor Fawbush said the school's FY20 Budget will be included on the June 4th council agenda for council's consideration to adopt.

The next agenda item was further discussion of the Norton City Schools FY18 surplus funds.

Mr. Ramey said after the city received the final FY 2018-19 audit presentation at the May 7th council meeting there was a discussion about the school's audited surplus funds from FY18 in the amount of \$331,453. He noted council had ideas as to what portion of the surplus funds should be returned the school system, and Mr. Ramey said Norton City Schools Superintendent Dr. Gina Wohlford prepared a letter for council's consideration and it is included in council's packets. Mr. Ramey said the letter indicates Norton City School Board requests a supplemental local appropriation in the amount of \$97,531.42, from FY 2017-2018 unencumbered surplus funds with monies to be placed in the Capital Projects Fund.

Mayor Fawbush stated the school board has three budget items on the agenda that can be grouped together for council's consideration. 263061

Mr. Ramey suggested since Items 7-A, 7-B, and 7-C, if approved, would affect the FY19 School Budget that council consider each item separately then combine the three agenda items and authorize the city manager to advertise one public hearing on the school budget items collectively.

At this time, Councilman Caruso stated he agrees with Councilman May's earlier comments regarding the schools FY20 School Budget. He then thanked the school board, school administration, city administration, and city council for a great budget year. Councilman Caruso said he hopes the Leadership Team meetings will continue and that both groups will continue working together on other items in addition to the budget.

After a brief discussion, council was in consensus to approve the following agenda items for Norton City Schools: Item 7-A, a supplemental appropriation of FY 17-18 unencumbered surplus in the amount of \$97,531.42; Item 7-B, local and state supplemental appropriations and local and state budget amendments for FY19 due to an increase in Average Daily Membership (ADM) for the General Operating Fund local share in the amount of \$54,644, and the General Operating Fund state share in the amount of \$280,667, and the Textbook Fund local share in the amount of \$556, and the Textbook Fund state share in the amount of \$1,380; and Item 7-C, a supplemental appropriation for FY 2017-2018 local carryover encumbered funds in the amount of \$114,294.97.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to authorize the city manager to advertise a public hearing for the supplemental appropriations, stated above, for a combined total amount of \$549,073.39.

The next agenda item was a PowerPoint presentation of the city's proposed 2019-2020 Budget.

Before presenting the recommended FY 2019-2020 Fiscal Budget, Mr. Ramey gave an overview of revenues and expenditures from the previous year's budget and a historical financial analysis. He said the General Operating Fund includes no proposed revenue enhancements and that the city is using surplus funds in the amount of \$300,000 to finance designated capital projects. Mr. Ramey stated the proposed FY20 Budget for the General Operating Fund is \$10,280,800, which is an increase of \$611,340 over last year's budget. He said the proposed budget includes a three percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for state supported positions, a four percent COLA for city employees, step increases for qualifying employees, and an increase in city council pay rate. Mr. Ramey said the proposed FY20 Enterprise Fund totals \$3,262,356, which is an increase of \$54,452, and includes a 35 cent increase to the base rate structure. The local appropriation to the Department of Social Services Operating Fund is \$1,303,217, which is a decrease in local funding of \$53,350.

Councilman Caruso asked if the proposed FY20 Budget included a line item to construct cabins on High Knob.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Ramey informed council they can designate a dollar amount toward cabin development and each year consider the project as a stand-alone item with the audited budget indicating the amount of funds in the designated account, place the item on the next agenda for discussion, or council can approve the resolution at this meeting to add additional funds for a newly designated account and the action noted in the minutes.

Councilman Caruso made a motion to designate a portion of city surplus funds in the amount of \$10,000 to create a designated fund to build cabins in the future on High Knob. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, with council moving to appropriate \$10,000 of city surplus funds to create a designated account to construct cabins on High Knob in the future.

Councilman Caruso thanked council members for the action and said the addition of cabins to High Knob would be a recreational asset for the city.

Mr. Ramey said city administration is requesting authorization to advertise a public hearing on the Proposed Fiscal 2019-2020 Budget.

Council was of consensus to authorize the city manager to advertise a public hearing on the city's proposed 2019-2020 Fiscal Budget.

Councilman Mays thanked the city manager and finance director for their work and for the many hours they work after hours for the city.

Mayor Fawbush concurred with Councilman Mays comment.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to go into closed meeting for Personnel as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, and to meet with legal counsel concerning an actual litigation as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (7) of the Code of Virginia as amended.

263063

Mayor Fawbush declared council in closed meeting.

After discussion with legal counsel in closed session, the city attorney was excused from the meeting.

263064

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

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Mayor Fawbush 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.

263066

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

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for two nominations to the Department of Social Services for a four-year term to expire May 22, 2023.

Councilman Caruso nominated Jane Sandt and Jen Boa to be reappointed to the Department of Social Services for a four-year term to expire May 22, 2023.

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

Mayor Fawbush declared Jane Sandt and Jen Boa to be reappointed to the Department of Social Services for a four-year term to expire May 22, 2023.

In comments from the city manager:

Mr. Ramey said they are continuing to work with the contractor to bring the downtown project within budget.

He said the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has an issue with the design of the PSAP Project, but city administration believes the problem creates an opportunity for the city. Mr. Ramey showed a graphic of the 7th Street area between Market Street and Park Avenue and commented he does not think there is enough traffic to warrant three lanes at the intersection. He said the current project could be changed to remove the right turn lane to add parking spaces. He said the proposed change will also be reviewed with the city's Highway

263068

Safety Committee. He asked for any member of city council to let him know if they had any questions or concerns about the proposed modification.

Mr. Ramey told council that city administration and school administration are interviewing for the city's pre-audit services contract.

He advised he is working with Coca-Cola Consolidated and Dr. Jeremiah Sturgill to schedule a date to install the old refurbished Coca-Cola sign.

Mr. Ramey said the Virginia Municipal League Conference (VML) is scheduled for October 6th through 8th in Roanoke. If you plan to attend, please let him know as soon as possible so rooms can be reserved.

Councilman Caruso advised Mr. Ramey he would be attending the VML Conference.

Mr. Ramey told council he provided members with copies of the following: May Retail Sales Tax Report, a certificate from the Coalfield Progress' "Best of the Best" contest for winner of the "2019 Best Place to Camp," the Summer Activities/Camp Flyers, and an updated Budget Calendar.

The following comments were made by council members:

Councilman Fultz said tonight's council meeting was a good meeting and he thanked city administration and the school board for their budgets. 263069

Councilman Caruso thanked city administration for the budget, Police Chief James Lane for his department's work, and Rebecca Coffey for her work as clerk of council. 263070

Mayor Fawbush thanked city administration, all public safety departments, and Clerk Rebecca Coffey for her work. 263071

There being no further business to come before council, and upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Mayor Fawbush declared the meeting adjourned. 263072

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rebecca K. Coffey, Clerk of Council