

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Joseph Fawbush presiding.

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

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager

The invocation was given by Pastor Ken Taylor, and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Public Works Director Steve McElroy.

The December 3, 2019, council minutes were approved as presented and adopted by the following vote: MOTION - Councilman Caruso, SECOND - Councilwoman Belcher, YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Caruso, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None.

There was no response to the Mayor's Call for Visitors. Council had a request from Norton City Schools for a supplemental appropriation Security Grant match.

Mr. Ramey said he received a request from Norton City Schools' Superintendent Dr. Gina Wohlford requesting a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$33,821.75, which is the required 25 percent match for the security grant the school system was recently awarded. Mr. Ramey said School Board Chairman Cody McElroy informed the city during the FY20 Budget process that the school was applying for the security grant and would need the required local match if the school was awarded the grant. Mr. Ramey told council that members agreed to provide the match if the school system received the security grant.

After a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to amend the budget and appropriate \$33,871.75 from unappropriated reserves to provide the 25 percent match for the Security Grant awarded to Norton City Schools.

Council had been presented in their packets with a Resolution Defining Signature and Access Requirements for Various City Accounts, Investments, and Certificate Storage.

Mr. Ramey said as council is aware the city recently hired Cecil Abe Rutherford as the new director of Norton Social Services, so the city is required to update the bank signature card to reflect the name of the new director for the department of social services bank account and on any other related accounts.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Caruso, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to adopt a Resolution Defining Signature and Access Requirements for Various City Accounts, Investments, and Certificate Storage. (Insert)

In packets for council consideration was a transfer to Norton City Schools, dated November 19, 2019, in the amount of \$200,000 to cover November 22, 2019, payroll expenditures.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to confirm the transfer to Norton City Schools, as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Caruso, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to go into closed meeting for Personnel as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1), and for the Discussion or Consideration of the Acquisition of Real Property for a Public Purpose, or of the Disposition of Publicly 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.

Mayor Fawbush declared council in closed meeting.

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

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.

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

At this time, Mayor Fawbush said council had been presented with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Norton Industrial Development Authority (NIDA) and the City of Norton (city), and he asked the city manager to explain the purpose of the MOU.

Before the city manager began his presentation he asked employees from the city's public works department who were in attendance to introduce themselves and state their length of service with the city. Those in attendance included: Mike Martin - 10 years; Sammy Mullins - 15 years; Kenneth Wampler - 3 years; Steve McElroy - 14 years; Jerry Miller - 20 years; Jeff Rose - 14 years; Tim Couch - 22 years; and Paul Wheatley - 3 years.

Mr. Ramey, via a PowerPoint presentation, showed pictures of various issues at the city shop and said in 2004, as part of the city's Capital Improvement Program, city administration determined the city shop needed replacement. He said for the past 15 years the city has searched for grant funding and other means to build a new facility or move the city shop but the right opportunity had not presented itself until recently.

Councilman Caruso, on behalf of council, said for 15 years city council and city administration have understood the need to replace the city shop. He said council understood the structural issues the shop has and that the current layout does not provide an atmosphere to supplement the department's needs. Councilman Caruso stated that an existing facility has become available that meets the needs of the public works department at an affordable cost. Councilman Caruso then made a motion for the City of Norton to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the city and the Norton Industrial Development Authority for the purpose of the NIDA to purchase the property known as the "Coca Cola Property" located at 8131 Kent Junction Road, Norton, Virginia, and to authorize the city manager and mayor to execute any documents needed for the purchase of the property stated above. After the motion was seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the city and the Norton Industrial Development Authority to acquire the property at 8131 Kent Junction Road,

Norton, Virginia, and to authorize the city manager and mayor to execute any documents on behalf of the city for the property.

In comments from the city manager:

Mr. Ramey told council he would like to cancel or reschedule the January 21, 2020, meeting. He said the Legislative Reception is planned that week in Richmond and he would also like for council to consider scheduling a work session the week before on Wednesday, January 15th, to hear a formal presentation from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on their STARS Program. Mr. Ramey said he placed a copy of VDOT's advertisement for a public input session on members' desks and that he would like council to consider his recommendation. It was the consensus of council to follow Mr. Ramey's recommendation.

Mr. Ramey reminded council that the required Conflict of Interest Act training must be completed by December 31, 2019.

Mr. Ramey said he provided council with a copy of the proposed 2020 State Holiday Schedule that the city will be following.

Mr. Ramey said Nortonian Margaret Riner will be celebrating her 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday on December 19<sup>th</sup> and the city would like to wish her a Happy Birthday.

Mr. Ramey told council he provided copies of the October Financials, the latest Retail Sales Tax Report, and the latest traffic counts for High Knob and Flag Rock Recreation Area for members to review.

Mr. Ramey advised council the only upcoming event is the Regional Legislative Reception scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2020, at the Library of Virginia in Richmond.

Mr. Ramey, on behalf of all city staff, wished city council and their families a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The following comments were made by council members:

Councilman Caruso advised that he had placed copies of the Virginia Emergency Readiness flyer at everyone's desk so that members and staff are prepared for emergencies as winter is approaching. He said the Ready Virginia app for alerts is also available.

Councilman Caruso also said he placed copies of a Militia Support Resolution at members' and staff desks for council to review. He said he would like to present the resolution at the January 7, 2020, meeting and he asked that the resolution be placed on the agenda.

Councilman Caruso thanked council members for their unanimous support of the Second Amendment Sanctuary City Resolution presented at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. He said counties throughout the Commonwealth are adopting the resolution and that council needs to continue supporting the points outlined in the resolution.

Councilman Caruso said there is a Second Amendment meeting scheduled at 7:00 p.m., Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, in Duffield but he is not sure which building the meeting will be held in that evening. He stated that Delegate Todd Pillion and Delegate Terry Kilgore will attend the meeting in Duffield.

Councilman Caruso said he spoke with Wise County/City of Norton Commonwealth Attorney Chuck Slemph and Wise County Sheriff Ronnie Oakes and they wanted everyone to

know that they will not support or enforce any unconstitutional laws. He also spoke with Virginia Congressman Morgan Griffith and he expressed his support for the Second Amendment and the right for citizens to keep and bear arms.

Councilman Caruso said 2020 U.S. Census Partnership Specialist Carol Caruso has provided each member, the clerk and city manager with a copy of the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee Training Manual. He suggested a meeting be scheduled the last week of January and include Mayor Fawbush, City Manager Fred Ramey, Census Specialist Carol Caruso, and himself to discuss designating committee members.

Mayor Fawbush said businesses have opened, several are breaking ground, the city is moving forward, the Public Work's Department, Park and Recreation, the Water Plant, and the school system are all doing well. He then congratulated council for a job well done in 2019.

Mayor Fawbush wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

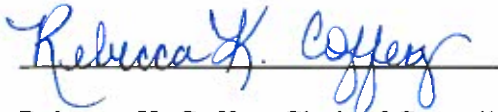
There being no further business to come before council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rebecca K. Coffey, Clerk of Council