

AGENDA

Norton City Council

April 19, 2022

6:00 P.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Invocation – Rev. Gary Hill
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Minutes
 1. Meeting of April 5, 2022
5. Audience for Visitors
6. New Business
 - A. Request for a Special Use Permit to Use City Right-of-Way.
 - B. Update on the Dilapidated Home Demolition Program.
 - C. Update on the Request by the Sports Car Club of America to Hold an Event Within the City of Norton.
 - D. Resolution Declaring the Month of May as Adult Abuse Prevention Month in the City of Norton.
 - E. Confirmation of a Check/Transfer in Excess of \$100,000.
 - F. Closed Meeting for Personnel as Per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia as Amended.

1. Appointment to the Norton Planning Commission to Fill the Unexpired Term of Robert Isaac.

To 7/31/2022

2. Appointment to the Spearhead Trailblazers for a Three-Year Term; Currently Beth Walker Whose Term Expires 5/1/22.

To 5/1/2025

3. Appointment to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for a Four-Year Term; Currently Ethel Daniels Whose Term Expires 5/10/22.

To 5/10/2026

4. Appointment Nominations to the 2022 Virginia Municipal League Policy Committees.

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, April 5, 2022, 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 Sarah Davis

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager and Interim City Clerk

The invocation was given by Rev. Freddie Powers, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Norton Police Department First Sergeant Greg Mays.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by the following vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Caruso, Davis, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – None, ABSTAIN – None, council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 15, 2022, council meeting as presented.

Prior to the Mayor's Call of Visitors, Mayor Fawbush welcomed Forward Wise County Leadership Development Program participants to the council meeting.

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

The city manager provided council with a brief background concerning the next request and said Sports Car Club of America Rally & Solo & Experimental Programs Senior Director Heyward Wagner was in attendance to request council authorization for the car club to conduct a hill climb event August 27 and 28, 2022, along Route 619 in the City of Norton.

Mr. Ramey said Mr. Wagner contacted him in January 2022 about conducting a hill climb event in Norton, with the Blue Ridge Region of the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) hosting the event. The proposed two-day event would consist of drivers competing against the clock, starting at the bridge crossing Robinette Branch and traveling 1.6 miles with an elevation change of 1,600 feet to the straight away prior to the Upper Reservoir curve. He said city administration had participated in multiple virtual meetings to review the event concept and determine if the event is something that could be done in Norton. Noting the uniqueness and complexity of the proposed event, the city manager said city administration thought it would be beneficial to request input from other agencies such as the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) as well as the city's insurance carrier. The city manager explained that he thought tonight's meeting was an appropriate time for the Sports Car Club of America senior director to discuss the hill climb event proposal and address questions from council.

At this time, Mr. Ramey introduced Mr. Wagner and asked him to introduce his team members and discuss the proposed Norton hill climb event.

Mr. Wagner introduced Rob Leslie, regional executive for the Blue Ridge Region of the Sports Car Club of America, and Blue Ridge Region SCCA member Jim Mason and provided a visual presentation about the history of the 78-year-old national sports car club of approximately 50,000 members and the sport of hill climbing. He discussed the Appalachian Hill Climb Series (a series being organized by a conglomeration of three SCCA regions) and associated partners Backroads of Appalachia, Summit Racing and Grassroots Motorsports and also showed a video about a hill climb event held in Pineville, Kentucky.

The senior director explained that the key elements of the hill climb event are the road, community support, available parking, insurance, mountain control, and emergency response. He asked council for permission for the SCCA and the Blue Ridge Region of the SCCA to

proceed with marketing and development of the August 27 and 28 hill climb event along Route 619 in Norton. He said the mission of the event is to bring everyone together and promote excitement and engagement in the fun of motor sports.

Mr. Leslie spoke briefly about the Blue Ridge Region of SCCA and the Appalachian Hill Climb Series. He noted that Route 619 is a perfect road for hill climbing and he is excited to bring the event to Norton.

Mr. Leslie and Mr. Wagner asked if council had any questions.

Mr. Wagner answered questions from council concerning event planning and logistics.

The city manager advised one of the next steps would be a workshop for city administration and SCCA representatives to visit some of the event sites to determine best options for planning the event.

Chris Sturgill from Coeburn, Virginia, and a member of Backroads of Appalachia, spoke about community preparation for the influx of people coming to the event and the role that Backroads of Appalachia plays.

Mr. Sturgill said Backroads of Appalachia has scheduled a Mini Cooper event April 16 in Norton. He explained that a group of Mini Cooper owners from all over the Southeastern United States would drive their Mini Coopers to Norton to eat at the Woodbooger restaurant and drive to High Knob.

Mr. Wagner asked for council approval for SCCA to proceed with plans for promoting and planning a hill climb for August 27 and 28 along Route 619 in Norton. He advised that the next steps are VDOT permit approval and establishment of an emergency management plan for the event. He said a name for the event has not yet been determined, but the SCCA is asking for city input in determining a name for the event.

The consensus of council was to authorize the Sports Car Club of America to proceed with further planning of the event.

Council members thanked Mr. Wagner, Mr. Leslie, and Mr. Sturgill for their presentation about the proposed hill climb event and for answering their questions.

Authorization to refund erroneously assessed personal property taxes was also on the agenda. Mr. Ramey said Norton Commissioner of Revenue Judy Miller determined that 2021 personal property taxes for Norton Community Physician Services Pulmonology were erroneously assessed because the business closed in 2020, so a refund in the amount of \$59.20 is due to the business. The Commissioner of Revenue also determined that a refund is due to Norton Community Physician Services Oncology for erroneously assessed 2021 personal property taxes in the amount of \$41 because the business closed in 2020.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous vote, YES – Mays, Fultz, Caruso, Davis, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – None, ABSTAIN – None, council authorized refunds to Norton Community Physician Services Pulmonology for erroneously assessed 2021 personal property taxes in the amount of \$59.20 and to Norton Community Physician Services Oncology for erroneously assessed 2021 personal property taxes in the amount of \$41.

Mr. Ramey requested council consideration of a Resolution Authorizing Signature Authority for Virginia Department of Transportation Grant Applications, Agreements, and Funding of Local Share of Costs as May be Applicable.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Caruso, Davis, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to adopt Resolution Authorizing Signature Authority for Virginia

Department of Transportation Grant Applications, Agreements, and Finding of Local Share of Costs as May be Applicable. (Insert)

A Resolution Proclaiming the Week of April 10-16, 2022, as Local Public Safety – 911 Telecommunicators Week in the City of Norton was presented for adoption.

The city manager said each year the city recognizes dispatchers for their service. This resolution honors and recognizes city public safety telecommunications personnel and the vital contributions they make to the safety of the citizens of Norton. Mr. Ramey advised that City of Norton E-911 Center dispatchers answered 6,114 emergency 911 calls and 31,203 non-emergency calls in 2021.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to adopt a Resolution Proclaiming the Week of April 10-16, 2022, as Local Public Safety – 911 Telecommunicators Week in the City of Norton. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Caruso, Davis, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – None, 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.

Mayor Fawbush declared council in closed meeting.

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

Mayor Fawbush declared council back in open meeting.

Mr. Ramey polled each member of council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering yes. The city manager then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting.

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

In comments from the city manager:

Mr. Ramey told council that bids for the Southside Waterline Replacement Project were opened Tuesday, March 29, and the city received four bids ranging from \$444,520 to \$1,105,990. He advised that the low bid was close to the engineer's estimate and was from Little B Enterprises, Inc., in Castlewood, VA. He said the city has previously worked with this contractor and he anticipated the bid will be awarded soon.

The city manager said city 2022 Real Estate Tax Tickets (First Half) were being mailed this week.

Mr. Ramey said the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, now known as Virginia Energy, is hosting an Arbor Day event as part of Project Intersection from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, April 28, and council members were invited to attend. He said there would be a short welcome ceremony including elected officials followed by tree planting by school-age students. The city manager asked council members to inform him if they plan to attend.

He reminded council to hold the date for 2 p.m., June 11, 2022, for the 1951 Norton Little League All-Star Commemorative Marker Unveiling Ceremony.

The following comments were made by council members:

Councilwoman Davis said she was excited to hear the presentation on the proposed hill climb event in Norton and she announced that she and Becky Lagow will conduct the first Cloudsplitter Committee meeting at 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 6, 2022, in council chambers.

Councilman Mays said he was super excited about the hill climb presentation and commended Chris Sturgill of Backroads of Appalachia for his role in bringing all the entities together for the hill climb event.

Councilman Fultz noted that it has been nice to see the robust turn out of people shopping at Rural King.

He commended Mr. Sturgill for his effort in promoting the area and city administration for facilitating the possibility of conducting the race in Norton. He said it was exciting to hear the presentation and explore this possibility.

Councilman Caruso echoed council comments concerning the hill climb event, and said he agreed with Councilwoman Davis about the size of the first hill climb event needing to be large rather than small.

The mayor said he is very excited SCCA has chosen Norton as a location for a hill climb race.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:

Fred Ramey, Jr., Interim Clerk of Council

City of Norton

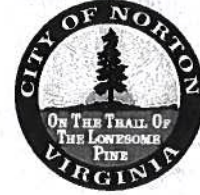


Inter-Office Memo

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager *FR*
CC:
Date: April 15, 2022
Re: Request for a Special Use Permit to Use City Right-of-Way

At this meeting, Jason Dales a resident and property owner, will approach City Council with a request to use City Right-of-Way located at the rear of his property.

Thank You.



Inter-Office Memo

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager *FL*
CC:
Date: April 15, 2022
Re: Update on the Dilapidated Home Demolition Program

Last year, City Council adopted two housing demolition programs to encourage and assist with the demolition of dilapidated housing programs. At this meeting I plan to provide a brief update on both programs.

Thank You.



Inter-Office Memo

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager *FR*
CC:
Date: April 15, 2022
Re: SCCA Request to Hold Hillclimb Event

At our last meeting, representatives of the Sports Car Club of America outlined a hillclimb event that they would like to hold in the City of Norton on August 27th & 28th, using Rt. 619. At this meeting, I will provide City Council with an update on the ongoing planning efforts.

Thank You.

Resolution

WHEREAS, abuse and neglect of the elderly and disabled adult population is one of the most under-recognized and under-reported social problems in the country; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norton's vulnerable, disabled and elder adult population deserve to live in safety and with dignity; and

WHEREAS, there were 25 completed investigations of the abuse or neglect of vulnerable adults in 2021; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that roughly only 1 in 24 cases of adult/elder abuse is reported; and

WHEREAS, mistreatment can take many forms: physical abuse, physical neglect, sexual abuse, neglect by a caregiver, self-neglect, exploitation and financial exploitation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norton recognizes that it is up to each citizen, to ensure that proper social structures exist in order that all citizens, including those adults who are vulnerable, can retain proper connections to reduce and prevent abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, protecting those adults who are vulnerable and/or disabled is regarded as a high priority and taken as a community responsibility to report the abuse, neglect and/or exploitation of those adults in order to reduce further abuse in our community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Norton City Council declares the month of May 2022 as Adult Abuse Prevention Month.

ADOPTED this 19th day of April 2022.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:

Fred Ramey, Clerk of Council

100701

INV. DATE	INVOICE#	G/L ACCT	GROSS AMOUNT	DISC. AMOUNT	NET AMOUNT
3/17/2022	269876 03	40-020-14100-5806	58,737.76	.00	58,737.76
3/17/2022	269879 03	40-020-14100-5806	69,065.02	.00	69,065.02

3/25/2022 1570 160524 127,802.78 .00 127,802.78

167174

**CITY OF NORTON
GENERAL OPERATING FUND
NORTON, VA 24273**

FIRST BANK & TRUST COMPANY
160524160510
10

127 THOUSAND 802 DOLLARS 78 CENTS

PAY TO THE ORDER OF:

POWELL VALLEY
NATIONAL BANK
P.O. BOX 100
JONESVILLE VA 24263

DATE
3/25/2022

AMOUNT
\$127802.78

[Signature]
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

