

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, William Mays, Joseph Fawbush, and Terry Roop

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by the Assistant City Manager, Fred Ramey.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the May 18, 2010 meeting as presented.

24743

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors.

24744

Council had been presented with An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2010 Thru June 30, 2011 Appropriating Funds for all Contemplated Expenses of the City for the Fiscal Year and Placing Levies Upon all Real Estate, Personal Property and Bank Stock, Licenses, Fees, User Charges, and all Other Levies as Previously Imposed or Modified Herein.

The City Manager advised that Council had their workshop, held a public hearing, and had advertised the budget. By the adoption of this ordinance, Council will be appropriating the funds for the budget effective July 1, 2010 and running through June 30, 2011. He further advised he would be willing to answer any questions Council may have.

Councilman Fawbush advised that Mr. Lann Malesky, Executive Director of the Food Bank of Wise County, spoke to Council at their last meeting regarding the elimination of the \$500.00 appropriation to the Food Bank in this upcoming budget. He had asked that Council reinstate this appropriation. Councilman Fawbush advised that he would like to see this money reinstated for the Food Bank. Mr. Ward advised that he would find the funds to cover this in the budget.

24745

The second question that Councilman Fawbush had was regarding altering the rate on water meter deposits. He asked Council if they wanted to re-evaluate the amount of meter deposits adding that nothing needs to be done tonight, but should be before the new fiscal year begins.

The City Attorney advised that the City Administration should study this item before any changes are made and bring back information to Council.

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council.

24746

Councilman Fawbush asked that the City Administration follow-up on this and get back to Council within the next month.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2010 Thru June 30, 2011 Appropriating Funds for All Contemplated Expenses of the City for the Fiscal Year and Placing Levies Upon all Real Estate, Personal Property and Bank Stock, Licenses, Fees, User Charges, and all Other Levies as Previously Imposed or Modified Herein with the City Manager instructed to find the \$500 appropriation within the budget for the Wise County Food Bank. (Insert)

Mayor Mays commended the City Administration for the work done on this budget as it was a difficult year as far as the budget was concerned.

Council was updated by the City Manager on the School Board Consolidation issue. He advised that the Wise County School Board held a public hearing on May 24<sup>th</sup> and voted 5-3 to consolidate their six high schools into 3 schools on one site; presumably in the Norton-Wise area. He further advised that he understood that the Wise County Board of Supervisors will discuss this matter at their June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Councilman Roop advised he has major concerns on this topic. These concerns are: the future of Norton Elementary and Middle School, what will happen to the eighth grades, what cost will Wise County expect from the City of Norton regarding operation of schools, what cost, if any, would Wise County expect the City to pay toward the cost of the construction of new schools, and most importantly, what type of representation, if any, Wise County would offer the City of Norton on a future school board. He urged Council members and citizens to keep informed on this by means of the televised meetings and newspapers.

Council had a request for a Special Use Permit from the Norton United Methodist Church for crossing over on City right-of-way to their property on Parsons Place to make additional handicap parking spaces

Mr. Ward advised that the City Administration sees no problem with this and hopes that Council will authorize the issuance of this revocable permit.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a Special Use Revocable Permit to the Norton United Methodist Church to cross over on City right-of-way to access their property on Parsons Place in order to make additional handicap parking spaces.

Mr. Tommy Roberts, Superintendent of the City of Norton Water Plant, spoke to Council giving them a presentation on the Fluoridation Project at the Water Plant. Mr. Roberts advised that as of the end of May, the project was completed and presented a PowerPoint presentation. Of the \$29,700 grant received for this project, the project totaled \$29,022 and the City is awaiting reimbursement, which should be received in approximately 30 days.

Mr. Roberts also advised Council that he had attended the 2009 Water for Life Presentations Meeting in Roanoke and was happy to advise that the City of Norton had received the Silver Award of Excellence in Granular Media Filter Water Treatment

Performance which is awarded to recognize any water treatment system within the state that has met certain goals set forth by the Virginia Department of Health, the Environmental Protective Agency, and the Safe Drinking Water Act for achieving goals for filtration and clarification. It also stresses that the City met goals three times better than what is required of them. Mr. Roberts stated that he gives the credit for this award to his staff, City Council, and the City Administration.

Councilman Roop expressed his appreciation to Mr. Roberts and advised he is very impressed with the upkeep of the Water Plant facility.

Mayor Mays congratulated Mr. Roberts and his staff for the excellent job they are doing.

Council had been presented with A Resolution Supporting an Application to the Virginia Department of Transportation Revenue Sharing Program for the Safe Routes to Schools Project.

The City Manager advised that he wishes to submit an application for an allocation of funds through the Virginia Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Revenue Sharing Program for the Safe Routes to Schools Program. The total estimated project cost is \$1,020,000, of which \$500,000 is from the Safe Routes to Schools Program and \$520,000 is from the City of Norton. Of the \$520,000, \$259,999 is requested to fund a Safe Routes to Schools Project from Park Avenue NW to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, which is approximately .73 miles.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Supporting an Application to the Virginia Department of Transportation Revenue Sharing Program for the Safe Routes to Schools Project and to authorize the City Manager to execute any documents pertaining to this. (Insert)

24750

In their packets, Council had received a request from the Commissioner of the Revenue for a refund to Daniel Green for 2008 and 2009 erroneously assessed real estate taxes. She advised that the acreage was incorrect on the deed. The total refund request is \$1,576.00.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a refund to Daniel Green in the amount of \$1,576.00 for erroneously assessed real estate taxes due to the acreage being incorrect on the deed.

24751

Council had copies of two checks in their packets for confirmation. The first of these was to Boring Contractors for a partial pay application #3 on the Guest River Interceptor Project – Phase 1 in the amount of \$142,128.95.

The second check was made payable to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for a draw down request for the Norton Commons Shopping Center in the amount of \$122,004.25.

24752

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to confirm a check payable to Boring Contractors in the amount of \$142,128.95 and a check made payable to the Norton

Industrial Development Authority in the amount of \$122,004.25 for projects as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Code Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

24753

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting. Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

24754

The Clerk then 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 Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

24755

There were no comments from the City Manager and City Attorney.

24756

In comments from City Council, Councilman Roop commented on the fatality at the Hawthorne Intersection and asked if the City could put pressure on VDOT and get a traffic light installed before another life is lost.

Mr. Ramey advised that the study has been submitted to VDOT for consideration and they have been notified via e-mail of the fatality.

24757

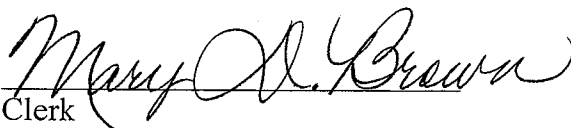
Following a brief discussion, it was for the consensus of Council for the City Manager to either bring a resolution back for Council's adoption or send a letter worded as strong as possible to VDOT with copies to go to our elected representatives.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
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William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk