

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, December 7, 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 and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager

The invocation was given by Rev. John Ellington. Prior to the invocation, Rev. Ellington asked that we remember Patrolman Jason Stine for the recent loss of his mother and also noted that today is the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilman Mark Caruso. 24885

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2010 meeting as presented. 24886

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Ms. Angie Sproles of the Appalachian Community Action Board, formerly RADA, spoke briefly to Council. She presented a handout and gave Council an update of their activities. After discussing several of the programs that they administer, she advised Council she would be happy to answer any questions they may have. 24887

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council. 24888

Mayor Mays thanked Ms. Sproles for her presentation. 24889

Rev. John Ellington, representing the Thanksgiving Meal Committee, spoke to Council and thanked the City for their assistance in permitting the alley behind the First Baptist Church to be only one way on Thanksgiving Day in order that they could load meals to be delivered. He further advised that they served over 650 meals this year. 24890

In Council's packets was a report from Tommy Roberts, Superintendent of the Norton Water Department, advising that as of December 1, 2010, we had a total combined reservoir capacity of 73 million gallons of water. 24891

Mr. Ward advised that the City Administration feels that the City has turned the corner and has quit purchasing water from Big Stone Gap and the Wise County Public Service Authority. Subsequently, this item will be eliminated from Council's agendas for now.

At its previous meeting, Council asked the City Manager to bring back as an agenda item to request for additional funding for the High Knob Tower Project.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to appropriate \$1,500 as an additional donation to the High Knob Tower Project with said funds to come 24892

from Contingency. With the second of this motion, Councilman Roop extended a challenge to the other localities in Wise County to match this amount for the High Knob Tower Project and asked Jeff Lester of the Coalfield Progress to publish this challenge in the paper.

Chancellor David Prior of the University of Virginia's College at Wise spoke briefly to Council and gave them an update of happenings at the college. He advised that enrollment is strong; however they are having fewer elective classes and having a larger number of students in classes.

The Convocation Center will be opened in August and a new library is being planned.

Following his presentation, Chancellor Prior advised he would be happy to answer questions from Council.

Mayor Mays, as well as other Council members, expressed their congratulations on all that has been done at the college.

Ms. Donna Stanley, representing Mountain Empire Community College, spoke briefly to Council, presented them with a handout, and gave them an update on the activities at their college. She expressed thanks to Council for their continued support and for the appointment of Mr. Robert Isaac as the City's representative on that Board.

Following her presentation during which she advised that MECC had experienced a 7% growth in enrollment, she advised Council that she would be happy to answer any questions they may have.

Mayor Mays thanked her for attending tonight's meeting and advised that he was looking forward to meeting the college's new president, Dr. Scott Hamilton.

In their packets, Council had a request for authorization to execute an Addendum to the Josephine Sewer Project Agreement of June 29, 2009.

Mr. Ward advised that this project is almost complete and there will be 90 households on line. It is now time to start the billing process. The City and Wise County PSA have discussed this and the PSA is asking that the City bill the sewer fees on the water bills of the participants and send a check once a month to the PSA. Attorneys for both the City and PSA have prepared this addendum. The City will collect these sewage fees and charge a 3% service charge for this service. Both the PSA or the City can pull out of the contract at any time. He advised that Mr. Bradshaw is attending a meeting in Richmond; however, he had given his approval of this agreement.

Mr. Ward advised that Mr. Lester of the Coalfield had shown him an error on the agreement; so this needs to be corrected.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council approved the authorization to execute an addendum to the Josephine Sewer Project Agreement of June 29, 2009 as discussed above. (Insert)

Mr. Ward advised that the City is in receipt of a letter from the Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water that advises that the City has been awarded funding for two water projects. The first project is for water line improvements in the amount of \$905,022 of which \$633,515 is loan money and \$271,507 is principle forgiveness or

grant money. The deadline to accept or reject this award is December 22nd. The area for which these funds would be used is the Hamner Hill area.

The second award is for construction of a water tank as part of the Big Stone Gap – Norton Interconnect Project in the amount of \$580,500, of which \$406,350 is loan money and \$174,150 is principle forgiveness or grant money. The deadline to accept or reject this award is December 17th.

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The City Manager advised Council that the debt service at 3% for 30 years would be \$32,051 per year on the first offer (Hamner Hill Project) and for the second offer (Big Stone Gap – Norton Interconnect Project) the debt service at 3% for 30 years would be \$20,558 per year. He further advised that both are good projects which need to be done.

Following a lengthy discussion during which both projects were discussed, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to try to get an extension on the deadlines of these two projects to January 2011 and to advise Council when he has received a response to this request.

Council had received, in their packets, a request to authorize the Mayor to execute a Service Agreement with the Appalachian Juvenile Commission.

Mr. Ward advised that this agreement is modeled after and closely resembles the Service Agreement by and among the member jurisdictions of the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority. Each member jurisdiction of the Commission will be asked to approve the agreement.

2489

Mr. Ward advised that the City Attorney had no problems with this agreement and he asked that Council authorize the Mayor to execute this document on behalf of the City.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the Mayor too execute a Service Agreement with the Appalachian Juvenile Commission. (Insert)

Council had been presented with copies of one check and two transfers for approval. The check was payable to Estes Brothers Construction for payment request #4 of the Josephine Sewer Extension Project and was in the amount of \$204,971.21 and dated November 23, 2010. The first transfer was to the Norton City Schools dated October 29, 2010 in the amount of \$115,000 to cover October payroll and fringes. The second transfer was to the Norton City Schools and dated November 29, 2010 in the amount of \$341,500 to cover November payroll and fringes.

2489

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the check to Estes Brothers Construction and two transfers to the Norton City Schools as defined above. (Insert – Councilman Roop’s Disclosure Form)

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

2489

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting.

24900

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.

24901

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

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Virginia's Heritage Music Trail: The Crooked Road for three year terms to expire on November 30, 2013.

Councilman Caruso nominated for reappointment Mrs. Nancy Jones as the Board of Director's Member and Mr. Fred Ramey as the Government Representative to this Board.

24902

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Mays declared Mrs. Nancy Jones reappointed as the Board of Director's Member and Mr. Fred Ramey reappointed as the Government Representative to the Virginia's Heritage Music Trail: The Crooked Road.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held this Sunday, December 12th after being postponed from last week-end due to the weather.

24903

He also extended thanks to the Garden Club for decorating around the cannon in front of City Hall for the holiday season.

In comments from Mayor Mays, he advised that the next City Council meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2010. He would like to cancel this meeting and schedule the next meeting for January 4, 2011 at 5:30 for the organizational meeting and the regular meeting to follow at 6:00. If a meeting should need to be scheduled, the City Manager can call one. This was agreed to by all Council members.

24904

In comments from Councilman Caruso, he advised that June 4th is National Trails Day and the Southwest Virginia Regional Recreation Authority, along with the Spear Head Trail Blazers, is planning an all-day trails act or event day across the seven counties and City of Norton area. Each location will support a trail event on that day. He will be working with the City Administration, Tourism Committee, Trails Development Committee, and the Parks and Recreation Department to see if the City can do an event. Also, the grand opening of the seventeen million dollar Heartwood Center will have its grand opening that week-end.

24905

The Southwest Virginia Recreation Authority plans to have a booth at the Legislative Reception this year to bring recognition to their mission.

The Lost Creek and Reservoir Trails are clear and need some restoration work done. The volunteers did a wonderful job. Also, the City crews need to move some kiosks from Legion Park to the trails.

He would like to commend the City Administration for their hard work and dedication over the past year. He stated the City is the best run municipality in the county, if not, Southwest Virginia. All departments do an outstanding job and he thanks all of them, not only from himself but from the citizens of Norton.

Councilman Roop stated he agreed with Councilman Caruso regarding the City Administration and employees. He also asked that we remember the observance of Pearl Harbor today and also keep the servicemen and women in our thoughts and prayers during this holiday season.

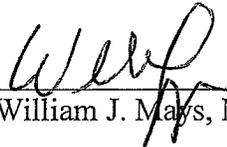
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Mayor Mays advised that he attended the City's Christmas Luncheon last Thursday and it was a very well attended. Mayor Mays stated that the City has a wonderful group of employees in all departments.

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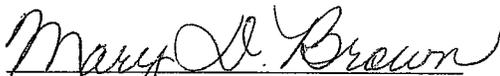
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk