

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 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 the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Ron McCall, Chairman of the Norton City School Board.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the April 19, 2011 meeting as presented.

25046

During the Mayor's call for visitors, William C. "Buzz" Witt, 239 Henry Street, spoke to Council as their appointed member of the SRRA Board, Vice Chairman of the Spear Head Trailblazers, and as a trails enthusiast and resident of the City.

25047

During Mr. Witt's presentation, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council.

25048

He advised that the activities that will take place in early June have been named Spearhead Rendezvous 2011. The City's activities will begin on June 4th at 8:30 a.m. There will be a free 2 day hike (19.2 miles). Other hikes will be led by Angela Robinette and Gordon Sandt. On Sunday, June 5th, Debbie Hale will lead a trail ride for horses.

Mr. Sandt was present and displayed a wooden sign he had built to be used on the trails. Additional signage needs to be made. Mr. Witt then advised Council that help was needed in the following areas: approval is needed, hopefully tonight, to begin placing signage on the biking and hiking trails that have been laid out. Should the City require, liability waivers will be signed by those working. A waiver or permission is needed for a pick-up truck or an ATV to access these trails to haul equipment and signs if at all possible to meet the June 4th deadline. Further, they understand that the workers will be approved and overseen by appropriate City personnel. Secondly, they are asking the City to provide some resources for the signage (pressure treated lumber) at trail heads and crossing points and to act on this request tonight. Mr. Witt then advised that the Norton Trails Team is a volunteer group of very active and dedicated hikers and mountain bikers. He feels that Norton has a tremendous potential as a Trail Head City. With the City's help with the signage and trails to be completed by June 4th, he feels this will ensure a successful trails day for the City.

25049

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to support the trail development group present tonight with permission to proceed with the placement of signage on our trail network, to proceed with the development of hiking and mountain biking trails, to work with the City Administration in all aspects of this to gain access to

the trails to place signs and equipment as necessary to create a trail system second to none in the City and to provide them with the materials requested. Councilman Roop advised that he agreed with Councilman Caruso and appreciates the volunteers for the work they are doing.

Mr. Ward advised he still does not know to whom the Special Use Permit should be issued. The City Attorney advised it should be made out in the name of the insured on their liability policy. Mr. Witt advised he would get that information to the City Manager in the morning.

Ms. Angela Robinette, representing the Burton After-Prom Party, asked Council for their consideration of a donation of funds to be used toward the expenses incurred at the above activity.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to donate \$1,000 to the Burton After-Prom Party with said funds to come from Contingency.

25050

A public hearing was held on the proposed 2011-2012 budget for the Norton City Schools.

Mr. Ron McCall, Chairman of the Norton City School Board, discussed the revised budget to Council advising that they had modified the budget and taken the step increase out due to the lack of funds. He advised that next year was going to be an even worse year and they may have to look at cutting personnel and programs. He then advised he was willing to answer any questions from council members.

Councilman Roop stated he had several points he would like to make advising that he is an elected member of Council and also an employee of the Norton City Schools. He advised he is very disappointed that teachers are not getting a step increase; however City employees had no raise last year and Council determined that if all City employees could not receive a raise none should. The City of Norton had cut their budget by quarter of a million dollars by doing such things as closing the pool, etc. He stated he wished the School Board had squeezed a little harder to get \$50,000 out of a seven and one half million dollar budget to give their employees a raise. He further commented that the roof at Burton would not last an additional two or three years. (Insert – Councilman Roop’s Disclosure Form)

25051

Councilman Caruso stated he agreed with Mr. Roop’s Comments.

Mr. McCall stated the School Board is very concerned about all the expenses which was the message he sent at the last meeting. He stated someone should initiate a dialogue with Wise County on consolidation.

Dr. Comer advised they would need in the range of \$80,000 to give the raises this year.

There being no further comments, Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

There were no public comments and Mayor Mays closed the public hearing.

25052

Mr. Ward advised the School Board’s budget would be on the next agenda for consideration.

Dr. Jeff Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, spoke briefly to Council requesting an appropriation of \$118,119 to the Norton City Schools in additional state revenue as a result of the increased ADM.

The City Manager advised this would require a public hearing and he will advertise one since this is more than one percent of the School Board's 2010-2011 Budget.

25053

Mr. Ward asked Council for guidance on how to proceed with the City's 2011-2012 budget.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to eliminate a two percent cola raise for City employees and to also eliminate an increase in the Transient Tax. The increase of the Meals Tax by 1% was included in this budget.

Councilman Caruso asked that the Parks and Recreation Department present an update to Council regarding what summer programs they will have. The City Manager advised he would follow up on this.

25054

Council had been presented with A Resolution of the City of Norton, Virginia Opposing a Request Rate Increase by Old Dominion Power Company.

Mr. Ward advised that Council, at its previous meeting, had asked that he prepare such a resolution to be sent to our legislators, Lenowisco, and regional jurisdictions that will be affected by this increase.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, 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 City of Norton, Virginia Opposing a Request Rate Increase by Old Dominion Power Company with copies to be sent as specified above and also to Governor McDonald. (Insert)

25055

In their packets, Council had been presented with A Resolution Authorizing the Submittal of an Application to the Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund in the amount of \$29,900 for the purpose of a Structural Adequacy Analysis for the Lower Norton Dam.

25056

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the Submittal of an Application to the Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund in the amount of \$29,900 for the purpose of a Structural Adequacy Analysis for the lower Norton dam. (Insert)

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 Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

25057

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

25058

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.

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)

25059

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for two four year terms which will expire on May 10, 2015.

Councilman Hunnicutt nominated Barbara Caruso and Robert Leonard to be reappointed to this Authority.

25060

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Mays declared Barbara Caruso and Robert Leonard reappointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for four year terms which will expire on May 10, 2015.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the Industrial Appreciation Luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 5th at 1:30 p.m. at the University of Virginia's College at Wise. Council members have been invited.

25061

He also advised that Congressman Griffith will conduct a round table setting at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers on May 17, 2011.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised a new Wise County Circuit Court Judge has been appointed to fill the vacant seat and he feels that the delays will be smoothed out.

25062

Mayor Mays advised the City Attorney that he appreciates the efforts he has put forth on behalf of the City.

In comments from Council members, Councilman Roop commended the City Attorney for the aggressive job he has done on behalf of the City. He further stated he was very proud of our men and women in the military.

25063

Councilman Caruso again brought up the item discussed earlier in the meeting regarding the legality of the volunteers doing work on the trails systems. Following a brief discussion, the City Attorney advised that the right body already has insurance in place. The permit should be issued with the condition that the certificate has proper insurance coverage named on it. Mr. Bradshaw advised that he prefers this for everyone's protection.

25066

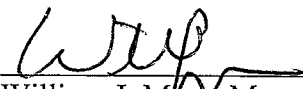
Councilman Caruso further stated that he thinks our future economic development rests with the tree line and the mountain. The mountain, according to Councilman Caruso, will be a partner with our NIDA and will add on to the economic development package that NIDA and Mr. Ramey have been working on for years. If we don't develop the mountain into what Damascus has done for that area, it will be a serious serious error for the City.

Mayor Mays advised that he echoed the comments Councilman Roop had made regarding our military.

2506!

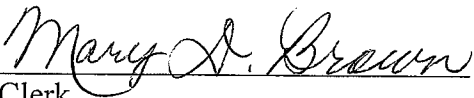
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk