

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 in the Municipal Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor William Mays presiding.

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

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Councilman Mark Caruso.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the August 16, 2011 meeting as presented. 25138

During the Mayor's call for visitors Mr. Jim "Hoppy" Hopkins, 231 - 11<sup>th</sup> Street, N. W., spoke to Council asking for a street light in front of his house. 25139

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt and City Attorney Bradshaw took their seats. 25140

Mr. Ward advised that he had checked on this street light for Mr. Hopkins. The street lights on this street are at the same intervals as other City streets; however, he will have the Highway Safety Commission look at this request and make a recommendation to the Administration. 25141

Mr. Hopkins thanked Council for their time.

Ms. Delores Bolling, Hillcrest Drive, spoke to Council regarding her water bill. She stated it was for only 21 days and asked why for only a short amount of time.

The City Manager advised that meters are not always read thirty days apart for various reasons. 25142

Ms. Bolling stated she wants credit for water used in flushing out her lines following a recent water leak in her area, wants employees cross-trained, and wants better scheduling on reading water meters.

Mr. Lann Malesky, 1113 Virginia Avenue, NW, spoke to Council regarding the recent trimming of trees on his street. He offered suggestions for the City to advise residents by a written notice that would advise how the work being done might impact citizens, and spell out the work that will be expected from the contractor, and to minimize damage. 25143

The City Manager advised that City employees went door to door to advise residents on this street of the tree work to be done. If residents were not home, a hanger was left on their doors.

Mr. Malesky advised he had divots in his yard and, in his opinion, there was a lack of respect to property.

Council was given an update on the Upper Norton Dam Reservoir Project and Discussion of Water Reserves.

In a report given to Council in their packets, the City had a total volume of 68 million gallons of water as of August 29, 2011 and the City Administration continues to ask citizens to conserve water. Mr. Ward advised Council that we had received five inches of rain over the week-end. He then turned the floor over to Mr. David Dawson of Thompson and Litton for his update on this project.

Mr. Dawson advised, via a PowerPoint presentation, that this project had begun on May 16<sup>th</sup> and will be completed this fall. The pool elevation is lowered and the contractor is working on the initial grading. Over the next 30 days, they will be working on the installation of the chute working from the bottom up.

Mr. Dawson then advised Council he will be happy to answer any questions from Council.

After Mr. Dawson answered questions from members of Council and following a brief discussion, Mr. Ward advised that there would be another update next month.

The City Administration was seeking authorization from Council for the execution of a grant agreement with the Virginia Resources Authority for an Engineering Analysis and Report for the Lower Norton Dam.

Mr. Ward advised that several meetings ago, Council authorized the City Administration to file for a grant on the lower dam. The City has been advised that they have been awarded a \$12,000 grant for this project. The total cost of the analysis is \$59,000 and the remaining balance will come from City funds.

Mr. David Dawson of Thompson and Litton advised Council that the lower dam, which is a concrete/arch dam, was constructed in 1927 and has had a regular certification to operate since its inception. In 2008, changes were made in the Virginia Code and all dams must meet requirements as stipulated by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Last year, for the renewal of this certificate, the City got a conditional certificate with five constraints listed. He further advised this Conditional Certificate is good thru November of this year.

Mr. Dawson then discussed these constraints with Council and advised he would be willing to answer any questions from Council members.

When asked by Councilman Caruso if the City could receive a reprieve for one year, the City Manager advised he did not know if we would be able to do so. Even if we were able to, he advised we would lose the \$12,000 grant.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Ward advised that his recommendation would be to proceed on this project and Mayor Mays agreed.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to execute the grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Authority for an engineering analysis and report for the lower Norton Dam.

Mr. Dave Wilson, of Mattern and Craig, presented Council members with the low bids on the three outstanding sewer rehab projects. The projects are the Benges Branch Phase II and the Guest River Interceptor Phase III and the East Park Avenue Phase IV.

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The low bids are as follows: Benges Branch Phase II – Little B Contractors \$494,134.10; Guest River Interceptor Phase III – Boring Contractors - \$1,294,200; and East Park Avenue Phase IV – Thomas Construction - \$1,871,506.13.

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Following a brief discussion with Mr. Wilson answering questions from Council members, a motion was made by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous roll call vote for the City Manager to tentatively award contracts contingent upon completion of fulfillment of the letter of condition required by Rural Development.

In their packets, Council had a request from the Wise County PSA to relinquish New Peoples Bank as a City sewer customer.

Mr. Ward showed Council members a map showing the location of the sewer transmission line that George Barnette had deeded to the Wise County PSA and they, in turn, are asking the City give them this customer since they are one of their water customers.

25141

Following a discussion, it was the consensus of Council to table this item.

The City Manager advised Council that the Lenowisco Health District had contacted him and would like to hold a Rabies Clinic at J. I. Burton High School on October 1<sup>st</sup> and is seeking the City's sponsorship at no cost to the City.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council agreed to sponsor a Rabies Clinic at the J. I. Burton High School on October 1, 2011 as proposed by the Lenowisco Health District.

Council had a copy of a check dated August 24<sup>th</sup> payable to Summers-Taylor, Incorporated in the amount of \$142,386.05 covering payment application #2 on the Upper Dam Spillway Improvements Project.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check to Summers-Taylor, Incorporated in the amount of \$142,386.05 as described above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) and discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia as amended.

25150

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

25151

Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with the following vote to be recorded: YES – Caruso, Mays, Fawbush, Roop,

NO – None, ABSTAIN – Hunnicutt. Councilman Hunnicutt advised that he abstained from the first portion of the closed meeting which covered the discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose due to a conflict of interest.

The Clerk then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting.

25152

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt (for the portion of the closed meeting he attended which dealt with personnel) Mays, Fawbush, Roop, NO – None, ABSTAIN - None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Advisory Board for a two year term which will expire on September 15, 2011.

Councilman Caruso nominated Michele Knox to be reappointed to this Board.

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

25153

Mayor Mays declared Michele Knox reappointed to the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Advisory Board for a two year term which will expire on September 15, 2013.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Planning District One Disability Services Board for a three year term which will expire on September 30, 2011.

Councilman Caruso nominated Michele Knox to be reappointed to this Board.

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

25154

Mayor Mays declared Michele Knox reappointed to the Planning District One Disability Services Board for a three year term which will expire on September 30, 2014.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that:

Two items that were not included on tonight's agenda will be on the agenda for the September 20, 2011 meeting. These items are:

The update on the Fox Run Slide (City only recently got core drilling completed and the Lane Group will be at the next meeting to discuss this with Council.)

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The Sweeper Truck Budget Amendment – Due to Mr. Shupe's involvement with the re-location of the 911 Dispatch Center, he was unable to get the needed information together for submission to Council.

In comments from Council members, Mr. Caruso advised that he had noticed that the City Sales Tax Revenue has gone up four of the last months as compared to last year. He further advised that Mr. Ramey had taken him on a tour of the new 911 Dispatch Center located in the Hotel Norton. He stated it was a first class facility and he recommended Council members to tour it. He also wished to commend Mr. Ward, Mr. Ramey, Mr. Shupe, and all others involved in this project.

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Mr. Fawbush also advised that he had toured the 911 Dispatch Center. He advised that there is only a five year life on all the new equipment installed there. When thinking of this, regionalism comes to his mind.

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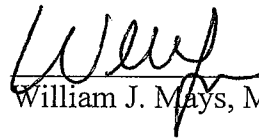
Councilman Roop advised that he also had toured the new dispatch center and is proud that the City was able to do this project in these economic times. He stated it was very impressive.

25158

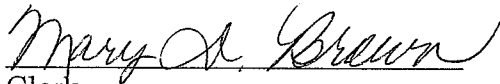
He also commended Winfred Collins, the City's Building Official, for staying on the issuance of letters on dilapidated properties. Copies of several letters were in Council's informational packet.

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