

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

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

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

The invocation was given by Rev. Ken Taylor and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Councilman Mark Caruso.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the December 6, 2011 meeting as corrected. (In Paragraph #25255, the Mayor was listed as Mayor Raines rather than Mayor Mays.)

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

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Dr. Jeff Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, gave Council a brief update on the plans for a new roof at John I. Burton High School.

He advised that the School Board has contracted with H. D. H. Associates, P. C., of Christiansburg, Virginia for architectural and engineering services. He gave a brief overview of the two options they have suggested and discussed some financing options that may be available for the projected cost of \$500,000 to \$800,000. He further advised that Council would need to adopt a resolution indicating that funding, up to a certain amount, would be allocated to this project. Dr. Comer advised that the architects are willing to come to a future Council meeting and discuss this project and answer any questions.

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Mayor Mays thanked Dr. Comer for his presentation.

Councilman Roop asked Dr. Comer if he knew what the cost of the current roof was when it was installed in 2000. Dr. Comer advised he did not have that information with him tonight; however, he would get that information back to Councilman Roop.

Councilman Roop advised that the roof needs to be fixed and Council needs to find a way to fund it.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to have the architects to come to the January 17, 2012 meeting. (Insert – Councilman Roop's Disclosure Statement)

Included in Council's packets was A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Expressing Its Opposition to On-Going Reductions in Aid to Localities.

Mr. Ward advised that Councilman Roop, at its last meeting, asked the City Manager to prepare this resolution for Council's consideration. Mr. Ward also presented a PowerPoint presentation furnished by the Virginia Municipal League on this topic.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, 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 City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Expressing Its Opposition to On-Going Reductions in Aid to Localities. (Insert)

Mr. Ward presented Council with a copy of the financial audit of the Norton Industrial Development Authority for the year ended June 30, 2011. He advised that this is a clean audit and has an unqualified opinion, which is the best rating that can be achieved. He also publicly thanked and recognized Mr. Robert Leonard, Treasurer of NIDA, for his work on keeping the books for this Authority.

Following a brief discussion regarding Memorandums of Understanding that the City has with NIDA, Mr. Ward advised Council members that he or Mr. Ramey are available to any answer any questions Council may have.

Mayor Mays thanked the City Manager for this presentation.

Council had, in their packets, A Resolution Approving Financing Terms for a new street sweeper.

Mr. Ward advised that Council, at a September meeting, authorized the purchase of a new sweeper truck. This truck will cost \$202,000 and a FEMA reimbursement of \$62,000 is to be applied to this cost. The City will finance \$140,000 with BBT Bank for five years at 2.57%. In order to do this, this resolution needs to be adopted.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – Caruso, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Approving Financing Terms for the purchase of a new street sweeper. (Insert)

Council had been presented with copies of three checks for approval. These checks are to: The Bank of New York dated 12/13/11 in the amount of \$112,500.00 which covers the interest payment on the Norton Elementary School Project; Mattern & Craig in the amount of \$362,707.97 dated December 19, 2011 covering the closing of the three Guest River loans; and Summers-Taylor, Incorporated in the amount of \$279,245.15 covering Pay Application No. 6 on the Upper Reservoir Project.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the three checks as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, 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 and discussion of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

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 Fawbush, 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 Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

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

Financial Disclosure Forms are due January 16, 2012.

The Legislative Reception will be held in Richmond on Thursday, January 26th at the Omni Hotel from 5:30 to 8:00. If any council members are planning on attending, they should get in touch with Mr. Ramey for possible hotel reservations.

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If Council wishes to have a work session with the School Board following the next meeting, he will plan a light agenda. It was the consensus of Council to proceed with a light agenda for the January 17th meeting to be followed by a work session with the City of Norton School Board.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised he has received numerous e-mails regarding some of our tax sales. He will begin work on those promptly.

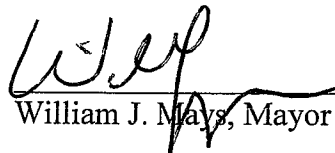
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In comments from Council members, Councilman Caruso advised that he will be unavailable for any day meetings on the 17th of April. Mr. Ward advised him that everything will be held at the regular time and no day meetings are scheduled.

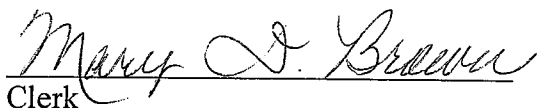
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There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk