

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, October 2, 2012 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

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Vice Mayor Joseph Fawbush.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the September 18, 2012 meeting as presented.

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During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Mark Salyer, representing the Appalachian Children's Theatre, spoke briefly to Council. He gave a brief summary on projects on which they are working at J. I. Burton High School and expressed to Council their deep appreciation for Council's support. He also asked that Council continue their support for this organization.

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A public hearing was held to solicit public input on amending the 2012-2013 General Operating Fund Budget in the amount of \$150,000 for the appropriation of said funds to Norton City Schools for the roof replacement at J. I. Burton High School.

Mr. Ramey advised that City Council, several meetings ago, authorized the Norton City Schools to proceed with the replacements of several roofs at the J. I. Burton High School. Mr. Ramey was advised to have the Norton Industrial Development Authority (NIDA) drawdown the \$150,000 to cover the cost of these roof replacements. NIDA has submitted the check to the City and the budget needs to be amended, both on the revenue and expenditure sides, in this amount.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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There being no public comment, Mayor Mays closed the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the 2012-2013 General Operating Fund Budget in the amount of \$150,000 to appropriate funds to be transferred to the Norton City Schools for the Capital Roof Replacement Project at J. I. Burton High School. (Insert – Councilman Roop's Disclosure Form)

An update was given to Council on water reserves. As of September 27th, the City had a total of 71.9 million gallons in storage. In our last report of September 12th, there was a total of 64.6 million gallons. The City is purchasing 350,000 gallons per day from the Wise County PSA; however this may cease for a couple of weeks. Total rainfall in September was 5.39 inches.

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Mr. Ramey then gave Council, via a PowerPoint presentation, an update on the Upper Dam Project.

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

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The main spillway has been completed and part of the weir has been done. Additional weir walls may be poured on Thursday. After completion, the bridge will need to be constructed. The project is progressing and should be completed by the end of the month.

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Mr. Mark Leonard, CEO of Norton Community Hospital, and Stacey Ely of the Government Relations Office of Mountain States Health Alliance, were present to discuss with Council the achievement of Mountain States Health Alliance of being named the 2012 National Quality Healthcare Award Recipient by the National Quality Forum.

In their packets, Council had a resolution submitted for adoption honoring this achievement.

Following a brief discussion and 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 Honoring the Achievement by Mountain States Health Alliance in Being Named the 2012 National Quality Healthcare Award Recipient. (Insert).

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Council had been presented with A Supplemental Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia

Mr. Ramey advised that the bond counsel for the 10.5 million dollar general obligation school bonds from the Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA) for the payoff on the Norton Elementary School Project and for specific projects at Burton High School wishes to have this supplemental resolution adopted in the amount of \$10,191,500.

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He further advised that the VPSA has approved our application and the City will be in line for the bond closing the middle of November.

Answering a question from Mayor Mays, the City Attorney advised the resolution is in proper form and changed the amount.

There were no questions or comments from council members.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, 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 Supplemental Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia. (Inserts – One being Councilman Roop's Disclosure Form)

The City Manager gave Council an update on the City of Norton Water Improvement Project Phase II.

This project covers the areas of East Park Avenue and sections of Poplar and Craig Streets. Bids received on this project came in higher and the City has several options to consider before accepting a bid. These options are: 1. Try to delete part of the project which the City Administration is not too fond of. 2. Identified savings as designated by the engineers of quantities which could delete approximately \$48,600 from the contingency budget. There is a difference of approximately \$80,000 in the bid price and the project total. The City could take \$30,000 out of the paving budget next year and add to the amount of \$48,600 and nearly cover the difference. 3. Request the Virginia

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Department of Health to amend the award offer and allow us to increase the total by \$80,000, which will be 70% loan and 30% grant.

Mr. Ramey advised the City Administration recommends Option #2. He further advised that he needed authorization from Council to move forward on what option they feel will be the best for the City.

Following a brief discussion, the City Manager advised this project would increase the flow, pressure, and fire flow to the citizens in these areas.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by an unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to proceed with Option #2, which is the elimination of some of the quantities and take \$30,000 out of the paving budget next year.

Mr. Ramey advised that he will move forward and keep Council advised on this project.

Mayor Mays commended Mr. Ramey and the previous administration for doing the smaller projects and having our system in better shape. Mr. Ramey thanked the Mayor but advised that City Council has long supported these types of projects to improve the accountability of our system.

The City Manager provided Council with an update on the C-N-W Expansion Project and the Josephine Pump Station.

The CNW awarded a bid to English Construction Company for the 12.46 million dollar expansion project of the C-N-W. This expansion will give the City a total allocation of 2.497 million gallons of sewer capacity per day or an increase of 845,000 gallons per day and will give us a lot of growth potential.

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In meeting with Mr. Hollyfield, Executive Director of the C-N-W, he advised that the bids came in a little high; however, they were able to get some additional funding. Mr. Ramey advised the projections made by former City Manager, E. W. Ward, were really close. He had projected that the City would be potentially saving over \$100,000 compared to what we were paying and what we expect to pay in 2014-2015.

Mr. Ramey then answered questions from City Council.

Via a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Ramey gave Council an update on the Josephine Pump Station. He advised that Mr. Hollyfield and his staff are moving forward preparing for the two new pumps he has ordered. Our staff is working side by side with C-N-W personnel in a way to save money. Our concrete crew has poured the pads for the two new pumps. C-N-W personnel will install the pumps and once installed, electricity will need to be brought to them and a structure built over them. The City is working hard to correct the problem with C-N-W in a most cost effective way.

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Mr. Ramey advised the City applied to Lenowisco, through their Water and Sewer Fund, for funding of up to \$50,000 for the purpose of helping offset the cost of the pumps. The City did receive this funding and it can be applied to the total cost of the project to help ease C-N-W's cash flow operation. The City Administration is also looking for other means to help pay for this project. The City Administration has met with the Wise County PSA and advised them they may have an increase in the rates for their flow in the next budget cycle.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Ramey for this update.

Council had been presented with a transfer in the amount of \$375,000 to the Norton City Schools and three checks for approval. These checks are to: Boring Contractors in the amount of \$138,620.01, Thomas Construction Company in the amount of \$524,232.13, and Summers Taylor in the amount of \$114,381.43.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the transfer and three checks as listed above. (Insert – Councilman Roop’s Disclosure Form)

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

The City Hall has experienced numerous roof leaks within the building. In the last budget, the City had budgeted \$50,000 for the City Hall roof. The money was not committed and went back in the fund balance. He has been working with Ball Construction on this project and they hope to be able to do for this amount and he hopes to formally ask Council’s consent to reappropriate the \$50,000 from the fund balance into this year’s budget.

The City is close to moving forward on the West Main Avenue paving project. This has been postponed due to reoccurring leaks in this area. Nearly all saddles have been replaced and hopefully, paving will be done no later than November.

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He is in receipt of new FOIA Handbook Updates for 2012 and passed one out to each member of Council.

At the next meeting of Council on October 16th, the Fire Department will present their list of the working officers; an update will be given on the River Walk Project and our Partnership with UVA-Wise and Dominion.

We have tentatively scheduled a presentation by LENOWISCO Executive Director, Skip Skinner.

City offices will be closed on Monday, October 8, 2012 in observance of Columbus Day.

In comments from Council, Councilman Fawbush advised that the Rabies Vaccination Clinic will be held Saturday, October 6th, at J. I. Burton Parking Lot from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon.

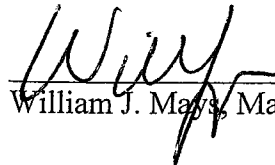
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In comments from Councilman Caruso, one concern he has is cumulative debt service as we add on additional projects. The City needs to keep a close eye on that and make a sure we are careful to refrain from over extending during these tough economical times. He further advised as the City approaches CIP and budget meetings, we need to identify, as we discussed, all funding formulas and discern between mandatory and voluntary expenditures from organizations in the region that we spend money on which was over \$300,000 last year. We need to take a very close look at these expenditures to insure each organization fully justifies their request for funding - assuming they request funding, which he hopes they would this year. They should not assume that the City would include them in the budget and that request being fully justified.

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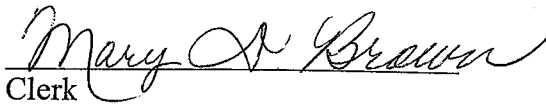
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mass, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk