

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: William Mays, Joseph Fawbush, and Terry Roop

Absent: Mark Caruso and Joseph Hunnicutt

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Norton City Sheriff Carlos Noaks.

At this time, Councilman Caruso took his seat on Council. 25614

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the November 20, 2012 meeting as presented. 25615

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 25616

Mr. Ramey advised Council that there is a special presentation of service pins to be awarded tonight to some of our employees. Those employees present and who received service pins are: 10 Years - Virginia Miller, Greg Mays, and Leisa Brummette, 15 Years - Sherry Smith and Joe Baird, 20 Years - Kimberly Bledsoe, 25 Years - Dottie Abshire, and 30 Years - Carlos Noaks. He further advised that David Rose (20 year pin) and Mark Swindall (10 year pin) will receive service pins but were unable to attend tonight's meeting. 25617

Following the award of Joe Baird's service pin, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council. 25618

These employees represent a total of 165 years of combined service to the City. Each individual came forward, received their pin from Mayor Mays, and had a group picture made with City Council. A standing ovation and round of applause was given by those present for these employees.

At the conclusion of this ceremony, Virginia Miller spoke briefly to Council and thanked them for the opportunity to work for the City and expressed appreciation to Council for adopting the schedule of state mandated holidays for their employees. 25619

Councilman Roop and Mayor Mays each thanked these employees for their years of service, continuity, and for attending tonight's meeting.

A round of applause followed for these employees.

Mr. Ramey advised that we have a combined capacity in both reservoirs of 76.3 million gallons as of November 27, 2012. After being forced to keep reservoir levels

down due to the Upper Dam Project, he advised that we can now start to refill the reservoirs with DCR stipulations, which he discussed with Council.

He further advised that the project was substantially completed; however there is a punch list of items to be done. The installation of safety fencing began today and City crews are in the process of removing 25 feet of brush from around the spillway.

The High Knob Road paving began last week and it is hoped that this will be completed by Noon on Wednesday, December 5th. A PowerPoint presentation was shown on both the paving and on the Upper Dam Project.

The City Manager then advised he would be willing to answer any questions from Council.

Councilman Roop and Councilman Caruso both expressed their appreciation for this paving job.

US Forest Service District Ranger Jorge Hersel presented Council with a brief PowerPoint presentation regarding the rebuilding of the High Knob Tower Project.

Mr. Hersel advised that this tower was built in the 1930's and was destroyed by fire in 2007. A fund raising effort has raised over \$500,000 for this project. A construction contract process for awarding a contract has been sent to the Virginia Department of Transportation for review. He anticipates construction beginning in early spring and completion by the fall of 2013.

Approximately 500 cubic yards of fill will be needed to create the handicap accessible ramp to the tower. He then asked Council if the fill from the Upper Dam Project could be used for this purpose if the contractor deems it economical to be harvested. The City Manager had advised Mr. Hersel that the City would do all it could to help get this project completed and he hoped to meet with the contractor. He stated the main concern was soil and erosion control. Mr. Ramey advised Council that, if they wish, he will work with Mr. Hersel and the contractor on their request for 500 cubic yards or more of fill dirt from the dam project.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to work with US Forestry Service and Mr. Hersel on this project.

Mr. Ramey advised will he keep Council updated on this project.

Mr. Hersel thanked Council for opportunity of speaking with them tonight and Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Hersel for his work on this project.

Mr. Ramey advised Council that he had received information from the Department of Motor Vehicles on an Animal Friendly License Plate Program. For each of these tags sold, \$15.00 will go toward a sterilization program of Council's choosing. Of the three options presented, one would have to be chosen. The only organization within the City is the PAWS Group and he has contacted them. They did express an interest in participating. These funds will be awarded annually based on sales.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to accept Option #2, which is to make the funds available to any private, nonprofit sterilization program for dogs and cats in their locality, which in our

area will be the PAWS Group, and to work with PAWS to develop a plan for the use of these funds.

In their packets, Council received information from the City Manager seeking authorization to apply for a Rural Development Grant to purchase a public safety vehicle. This vehicle would replace an older vehicle being used by the City of Norton's Sheriff Office.

2562

He advised this grant would be in the amount of up to \$25,000 with the City paying \$7,000 to \$8,000 for the equipment to be used on it such as light bars, radios, etc.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to submit a grant to Rural Development for a replacement public safety vehicle to be used in the Sheriff's Office.

A request for a refund of 2011 personal property taxes in the amount of \$247.90 to be issued to Arthur Fleming of 282 Colony Court was submitted to Council from the Commissioner of Revenue and Treasurer's Office. The amount stipulated by the Virginia Personal Property Tax Act was not applied to this tax; therefore, this refund is due.

2562

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize a refund in the amount of \$247.90 to Arthur Fleming for 2011 personal property taxes.

In their packets, Council had copies of two checks for approval. The first of these is to Summers Taylor in the amount of \$182,024.34 and the second is to Thomas Construction in the amount of \$393,875.71.

2562

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve checks to Summers Taylor and Thomas Construction in the amounts specified above.

The second meeting date in December for Council is December 18th. That date being close to the holidays, Mayor Mays advised this was a busy time for Council and asked if they had any comments to make regarding the meeting date.

2562

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to cancel the December 18, 2012 meeting due to the Christmas holidays.

The Mayor advised that the organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 8th at 5:30 p.m. followed by the regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council went into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Code Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The topic of the evaluation of the City Manager is to be considered tonight as well as an appointment.

2562

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting.
Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

256

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 Hunnicutt, 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 Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

256

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority for a four year term which will expire on December 31, 2016.

Councilman Caruso nominated Joseph Fawbush to be reappointed to this Authority.

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

25630

Mayor Mays declared Joseph Fawbush reappointed to the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority for a four year term which will expire on December 31, 2016.

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

The annual Statements of Economic Interest have been mailed and are due back to the City Clerk by January 15, 2013.

At the last meeting, he advised he would bring information back to Council regarding the request from the J. I. Burton Wrestling Team for funding for them. The form was just returned to him prior to tonight's meeting. He will forward a copy via e-mail to all Council members.

The next City Council meeting will be held on January 8th with the organizational meeting held prior to the regularly scheduled meeting. The press has been notified.

The Coalfield Regional Legislative Reception is scheduled for January 17, 2013 at the Omni in Richmond. Council members are asked to notify him if they plan to attend so he can reserve rooms.

25631

He had given Council members a copy of an article from a UVA-Wise publication regarding the work done this summer by a group and professor from the college on the River Walk Project. An article of this type will be good to use toward funding efforts.

A calendar was passed for Council's view which was on trains and done by Ron Flanary. The picture on the cover was of a train in Norton. Council members then requested a copy of the calendar if possible. The City Manager advised he would work on this.

The Christmas holiday schedule begins with the offices being closed Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, December 24th, 25th, and 26th. He then extended best wishes for the holiday season to Council members and their families on behalf of all City staff and advised Council that they are very much appreciated for all they have done.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

256

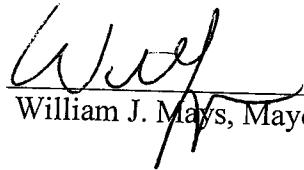
In comments from Council, Councilman Roop extended appreciation and thanks to City employees and the Green Thumb Garden Club for the decorations throughout the City.

Councilman Fawbush thanked Council members for the work done this past year advising it had been a difficult year and Council members followed their best judgment on votes. The City will survive and appreciation was extended to City leadership and Council members.

Mayor Mays congratulated the newly elected Council members, Councilman Caruso and Councilman Roop.

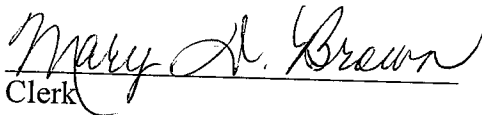
There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk

[

o

[

o

[