

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 4, 2013 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

The invocation was given by Rev. Ken Taylor followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief James C. Lane.

At this time, Mayor Mays amended the agenda to include Item 7-D-5 under Closed Meeting to include an appointment to the Ninth District Development Financing Incorporated for the unexpired term of Joyce Payne who has retired. 2582

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the May 21, 2013 minutes as presented. 2582

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 2582

Council had been presented with an Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2013 Thru June 30, 2014.

Mr. Ramey advised this is the fourth revision of the budget and the only changes since the last version were the modifications of the funding to two agencies as was approved by Council at their last meeting. 2582

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council. 2582

Mr. Ramey then gave a brief overview, via a PowerPoint presentation, of this budget which contains no increase in the real estate tax rate and establishes a Vehicle License Tax of \$20.00 per vehicle. As required by the General Assembly, a 1% raise will be given to employees to be used to offset a required VRS payment of 1%, an increase in local contribution to Social Services in the amount of \$21,802 from reserves, a total increase in school funding of \$157,615, a 6.7% increase in health insurance premiums, steps to meet Federal Healthcare Reform Act, and employee benefits remain intact. There is no COLA for City employees other than those required for State supported employees, no capital projects, increased funding for school debt service, decreased funding for General Fund Debt, and maintained reduced funding for paving. This budget totals \$9,456,412. 2582

In the Enterprise Fund, there is a proposed increase of the water rate of \$.25 cents per 1,000 gallons of water. There is also an increase of the rate on Big Stone Gap purchases of water from \$2.50 to \$3.50, an increase of Sewer Transmission Fee from \$1.50 to \$2.00. The budget also incorporates reduced PSA purchases, increase in C-N-W contribution, and an increase in debt service.

Mr. Ramey advised he would be willing to answer questions from Council.

Mayor Mays commended Mr. Ramey and Mr. Shupe on the extra hours each of them have put in on development of this budget. Councilman Fawbush agreed.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

Councilman Roop advised this was a very tough budget year and he applauds the City Administration on this budget. He advised that citizens need to realize that in order to maintain the present level of services, they have to pay for them. He expressed his wishes that the economy will improve.

The Mayor advised this ordinance will be on the June 18th agenda for adoption.

In their packets, Council had a copy of a draft Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Enacting a Motor Vehicle License Fee.

The City Manager advised that the City Administration and the City Attorney had worked on this draft ordinance for Council's consideration and a public hearing will be held at tonight's meeting. Mr. Ramey advised this ordinance is similar to the Decal Ordinance that the City previously had; however it does not require a local decal. There will be a \$20.00 license fee on all vehicles and this charge will be included on the annual Personal Property Tax Notices due October 15th of each year and will cover the following calendar year.

There were no comments from Council prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

Councilman Fawbush expressed that it needs to be made clear to our citizens that they do not have to bring in a registration card and purchase a decal.

The City Attorney advised that the press could possibly emphasize that in their articles covering this.

Councilman Roop stated this is a more fair tax and all car owners will be billed.

Mayor Mays advised this ordinance will be adopted at the next Council meeting with the one modification of allowing new residents and those buying vehicles up to 30 days to pay this Motor Vehicle License Fee.

A request was made to Council by the Planning District One Behavioral Health Services, which is a community services board, to become its own fiscal agent. At the present time, Wise County serves as the fiscal agent.

Mr. Ramey advised that Donna Stanley of Planning District One is here to answer any questions Council may have. He further advised that in order for them to become their own fiscal agent, the counties of Lee, Wise, Scott, and the City of Norton must adopt a resolution.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote YES – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, Council moved to adopt A Resolution For a Change in Fiscal Agent for Planning District One Behavioral Health Services. (Insert)

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The City Manager advised Council had held a public hearing at its last meeting on the Norton City Schools Budget for fiscal year of July 1, 2013 Thru June 30, 2014. Tonight Council can take action on this budget.

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After a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt the 2013-2014 budget for the Norton City Schools. (Insert – Councilman Roop’s Disclosure)

A request for a budget amendment in the amount of \$15,340 to cover emergency repairs on the 12th Street Bridge in the Ramsey section of the City. Mr. Ramey said a recent inspection by the City’s engineer advised there was damage that occurred since last year. Mr. Ramey advised this work was proceeding and that it should be a quick repair.

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Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, ABSENT DURING VOTE – Hunnicutt, Council moved to amend the current year’s budget using reserve funds in the amount of \$15,340 for emergency repairs to the 12th Street Bridge in the Ramsey section of the City.

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 2.2-3711 (A) (1) and Section (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended, for the discussion or consideration of real property for a public purpose, or the disposition of public held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

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Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

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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 Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

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

On May 30th, the Mayor and members of the City staff, and City Attorney participated in the City’s portion of a refunding bond issuance that lowered the aggregate interest rate of the combined 2002 bond and 2003 bonds from 4.68% down to an all-in cost of 3.50% and saved more than \$225,000 in debt service, including more than \$100,000 in up-front cash flow savings through fiscal year 2015. This debt service savings equates to a present value savings of 11.38% or more than 3.75 times the industry standard of 3.00%

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present value savings. The City also maintained the ability to refinance the 2013 refunding bond again in the future.

The Southwest Regional Jail Authority also completed a refinancing that saved the regional members \$11.3 million in total savings.

The 27th Annual Best Friend Festival begins on Saturday, June 8th with the Kids Fishing Day at the Norton Reservoir. He placed a complete schedule of events on each Council member's desk.

The City Attorney advised that Council, at their last meeting, had nominated Joe Buchanan to be reappointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals. He had sent the appropriate information to the Wise County Circuit Court Judge and this appointment has been made.

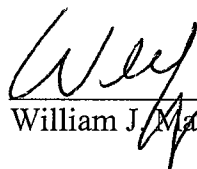
Mayor Mays advised that he had observed that Mr. Bradshaw had been busy on tax sales. Mr. Bradshaw advised they are working through them. The Mayor advised that Council appreciates his efforts.

In comments from Council, Mr. Roop advised that he commends Mr. Ramey for the letters of acknowledgment sent to various employees for achievements. He further advised he had been made aware that in the June 2013 issue of Southern Living, the Best Friend Festival had been included in their activities for the month section. He felt that this is a great recognition for a small City and the workers on this festival deserve recognition for their hard work.

Mayor Mays advised that he hoped everyone had a good time at the Best Friend Festival.

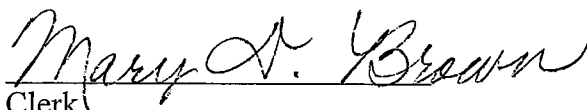
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk