

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 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

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager 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 May 6, 2014 meeting as presented.

26140

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Todd Lagow, the City's Emergency Service Coordinator, spoke briefly to Council and advised that he had obtained a grant to purchase Automatic External Defibrillators for the City's police cars. This 80% grant in the amount of approximately \$14,000, was received through the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund. The City's 20% of the cost was paid through the Police Department's Investigative Restitution Funds. There is now one of these devices for each police vehicle, one for the Police Department, and one to be placed in City Hall.

26141

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Mays extended his thanks to Mr. Lagow as did other Council members.

Mr. Ramey advised that no General Fund dollars were used on the purchase of these AEDs.

Dr. Jeff Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, presented Council with their 2014-2015 budget.

Prior to his presentation, he acknowledged Burton seniors, Amber Robinson and Dakota Noble, both upcoming Bonner Scholars at Emory and Henry College, who spoke of their experience and years at J. I. Burton High School. Both were given a round of applause following their comments.

26142

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

26143

Dr. Comer presented each member of Council with a handout of his budget and advised that it is built on an ADM of 825 students. He further advised that the budget contains a step raise for employees, the General Assembly should include additional dollars, local level funding with an additional \$25,000 to repair/replace hot water supply at Burton High School and \$16,825 for an interpreter for a new deaf student. (Insert – Councilman Roop's Disclosure Statement)

26144

Council thanked Dr. Comer for his presentation tonight.

The City Manager gave Council an update on the Safe Routes to School Project advising approximately fifty loads of the over four hundred have been delivered and 100 blocks a day are being laid. Cutting has begun on Tiers 3, 4, and 5. They have run into a problem at the top of the high wall at Tipple Hill wherein tree roots are embedded in the rocks which causes the rock to break away and fall. They are working on a solution for this. The City is receiving very favorable comments on this project. Approximately 100 blocks a day are being laid.

26145

Following a brief discussion during which Mr. Ramey answered questions from Council members, Mayor Mays thanked him for this update.

Mr. Ramey advised that Council, at their last meeting, asked Winfred Collins, the City's Building Official, to bring this ordinance back for adoption since Council voted to handle this policy in-house for the purpose of enforcing our own stormwater program.

Mr. Collins spoke to Council regarding this ordinance and advised the changes made at the last meeting have been made. He stated he was seeking authority to advertise a public hearing on the Combined Stormwater Management and Sediment Control Ordinance.

Following a lengthy discussion on this ordinance during which Councilman Caruso asked that the section stating any appeals should go to the Circuit Court rather than City Council be changed. He felt it was Council's responsibility to hear any appeals that may come up. Mr. Bradshaw advised that an Appeals Procedure would have to be established.

26146

Mr. Collins advised this ordinance has been approved at the local review and by Richmond, and we need to adopt it by July 1st. The only training still required is plan review, which DEQ has just made available, and the Combined Administrator Exam, which is being developed and will be completed by mid-June.

It was the consensus of Council to remodify the section to authorize the City Council to hear any appeals and authorized a public hearing to be scheduled for the next Council meeting.

Council had been presented in their packets with A Resolution Adopting the Lenowisco Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Ramey advised that this plan had been formulated by the Lenowisco Planning District and was initially adopted by Council on September 6, 2005. Part of this plan is to keep it updated and Lenowisco has been working on this. In Council's packet is the updated plan which has received conditional approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

26147

The City Manager stated he would be happy to answer any questions from Council.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, 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 Adopting the Lenowisco Hazard Mitigation Plan. (Insert)

The next item to come before Council was the consideration of decommissioning the City's swimming pool which was built in 1975.

Mr. Ramey gave a brief ten year history regarding the building and maintenance of the pool through the years. He advised that Council, after the 2010 season, decided to close the pool. Also in 2010, a Preliminary Architectural Feasibility Study was done on a new pool complex. The estimated replacement costs on three different options ranged from 1.3 million dollars to 2.2 million dollars. Since that time, some replacement water activities have been added during the summer at the various parks for the children during the summer. He advised them of the current liability and stated if the City waited until school was out, some of the fencing could be taken down, the liner removed, the bottom and sides taken down, and do some compaction. There would be no projected cost unless there would need to be some paving damage and the re-installation of some fencing. The fill would come from the Safe Routes to School Project site.

26148

He further advised that Mrs. Wohlford, Principal of Norton Elementary and Middle School, had approached him regarding using this site for an intermediate playground for which they have been working on funding. Mrs. Wohlford would like to come and talk with City Council on this topic.

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 Administration to proceed with the demolition of the pool and fill in with the material from the Safe Routes to School Project.

In their packets, Council had two checks and one transfer for approval. The checks were to Thomas Construction Company in the amount of \$135,380.03 and Consolidated Pipe & Supply in the amount of \$106,162.50. The transfer was to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$175,000.

26149

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the two checks and one transfer as stated 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) of the Code of Virginia as amended and the 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.

26150

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

26151

Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering yes. The Clerk 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 vote: Yes – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

26152

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ramey advised that after checking with the Clerk, no authorization was given to advertise a public hearing for the 2014-2015 City of Norton Schools Budget.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to advertise and schedule a public hearing for the next meeting for the 2014-2015 City of Norton Schools Budget.

The new City of Norton School Superintendent, Keith Perrigen, contacted him by phone and had intended on attending tonight's meeting. Due to the death of one his students at his current school, he was unable to attend, but will be in attendance at a future meeting. Mr. Ramey advised he had invited him to the pre-audit meeting held with the City's auditors.

The annual July 4th fireworks will be held on Saturday, July 5th with a rain date of July 6th. There will be a lot of media advertising on this change of date.

He handed to each Council member a copy of the latest Sales Tax Receipt Report.

He reminded Council of the upcoming Business Appreciation Event on May 28th at UVA-Wise. This event is co-sponsored by the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that the legislative summary from the Virginia Municipal League published Acts of Assembly contains some information regarding a change in the Freedom of Information Act. This act has been amended wherein, under very limited circumstances, Council members may participate in a meeting by telephone. He and the City Manager will work on this and will bring a procedure back to City Council.

In comments from Council:


Councilman Caruso stated he would like for Council to develop and adopt a Woodbooger Resolution for summer activities. He would also like to see Flag Rock made into a horse friendly area.

Councilman Fawbush stated that Council has a lot of work to do in the next six weeks in the development of the budget.

Councilman Roop advised he will not be in attendance at the meeting of June 3, 2014.

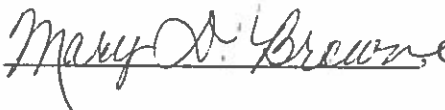
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned to a work session on the City of Norton's budget.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Mary D. Brown, Clerk