

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, Robert Fultz, William Mays., Joseph Fawbush, and Delores Belcher

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 Police Chief James C. Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 3, 2015 meeting as presented. 25444

At this time, Mayor Mays recognized four visitors from the Forward Wise County Class. Those in attendance were Christine Blair, the City's Social Services Director, who introduced Kristen Hincer, Stephanie Sprinkle, and Sonya Farmer. 25445

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 25446

Council had received a request by the Norton City Schools to consider a budget amendment.

Dr. Keith Perrigan, Superintendent of the Norton City School System, spoke briefly to Council advising that they had found a disparity in the distribution of state sales tax revenue and will be receiving an additional \$123,000 for this budget year and hopefully receive it again in 2016. Since this is more than one percent of their budget, they will have to hold a public hearing on this. He stated they plan to purchase a new bus and visitors bleachers with these funds. He advised he will be back at Council's April 2^{1st} meeting, after they conduct their public hearing, asking for Council to approve this budget amendment. 25447

Following a brief discussion, Council asked Mr. Ramey to advertise a public hearing on this at the April 2^{1st} meeting.

Councilman Caruso commended Dr. Perrigan and the School Board for their research in finding this disparity.

Dr. Perrigan also advised the School Board would like to hold a budget workshop with Council and after brief deliberations, Mayor Mays suggested March 31st at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Perrigan asked that any agenda items should be sent to Mr. Ramey and if Council requires any information from them, please advise him. He then extended thanks to Mr. Ramey for all the assistance he had been to him.

Mrs. Carol Caruso, Chairman of the City of Norton Tourism Committee, gave Council an update of their activities for 2014 and the first three months of 2015. She expressed the Committee's appreciation to the City Manager for his work with their group.

She then presented a PowerPoint presentation showing a month by month list of activities in which they had participated. She then showed Council a list of their priority projects. One of these was the purchase of a Woodbooger statute which is being done at this time. Councilman Fawbush is handling a campaign for donations by the public (both business and private) for this purchase. This statute will be placed near the rock sign going toward Flag Rock.

2544P

Michele Knox, Parks and Recreation Director for the City, advised there have been several groups of college students who have come in to work on the trails in the Flag Rock Recreational Area during their spring breaks.

Mrs. Caruso stated she would be happy to answer any questions from Council.

Councilman Fawbush advised this Committee has been very active, has worked hard, and he would like to commend them for all of their efforts.

Mr. Ramey advised they are doing a great job.

Council also commended Mr. Ramey, Michele Knox, and Rebecca Coffey for their work in assisting this committee.

In their packets, Council had A Resolution Declaring April Marks Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Social Services Director Christine Blair spoke briefly to Council regarding this topic and gave them some statistics on child abuse and neglect.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays. NO – None. ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Declaring April Marks Child Abuse Prevention Month. (Insert)

Ms. Blair also invited Council Members to a brief ceremony and reception to be held on April 3, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the courtyard in front of City Hall for this occasion. This event is sponsored by the City of Norton Department of Social Services, Lonesome Pine Office on Youth, and Commonwealth Catholic Charities. Pinwheels will be placed around the cannon.

2544

Ms. Blair was advised by Mayor Mays that Council appreciates the job she and her department are doing for the City and its citizens.

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

We are current in the time of year known as “Pothole Season”. City personnel is getting asphalt when they can and trying to fill the holes as quickly as possible; however, he asks that the citizens be patient with us and repairs will be made as soon as they can. Citizens are asked to call City Hall and there will be a list to on which these potholes will be listed for repairs.

The second Capital Improvement Workshop will be held this Saturday, March 21st, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and Council photos will be taken prior to the meeting.

He has placed the latest Sales Tax Report on each member’s desk.

He has placed a copy of a Heart of Appalachia brochure in which the City tourism Committee placed an ad.

Upcoming events include an Easter Egg Hunt at the 11th Street Park on March 29, 2015 at 4:00 p.m., Pinwheel Event, as discussed by Christine Blair earlier in the meeting,

2545C

will be held on April 3, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in front of Council Chambers, and the Chamber of Commerce Gala is set for April 12th at UVA-Wise. If any member of Council wishes to attend, please advise him and he will get tickets for them.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

25451

In comments from Council:

Councilman Caruso thanked the School Board for investigating and finding the additional funding that was due them.

The Tourism Committee is moving forward and this will be an enhancement to our economy.

25452

The latest Sales Tax Report is up and he hopes it continues to do so.

Thanked the City staff for the work done in the bad weather event.

Councilman Fultz again extended his thanks to City staff for the work done during the recent flooding for keeping our citizens safe.

25453

He commended Dr. Perrigan and the School Board for the money found and being able to take two projects off there CIP list.

He commended the Tourism Committee for the job they are doing. Tourism needs to be capitalized on.

Commended Ms. Blair, Social Services Director and her staff for their efforts every day.

Councilwoman Belcher advised she had attended the last Tourism Committee meeting and stated they were dedicated people working together for the City.

25454

She expressed thanks to the Social Services Department for the great job they do every day.

Councilman Fawbush advised he had received \$800 to go toward the purchased Woodbooger statue with another \$800 to be picked up. He advised these donations were coming from the local businesses/groups. He further stated he has been told there should be another statue located in the downtown area. If possible, he will try to get funds for it.

25455


They are working on setting the date for the second Woodbooger Event held at Flag Rock and they are working with the School System so as to not overlap with any school activities.

Mayor Mays extended thanks to all City departments and citizens for their understanding and patience during the recent storms.

25456


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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk