

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

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

Absent: Robert Fultz, Jr.

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

The invocation was given by Rev. Roger Sloce and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief James C. Lane.

Due to the Clerk's being on vacation, the adoption of the minutes of the July 21, 2015 was tabled until the next meeting on August 18, 2015.

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

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Councilman Caruso introduced Mr. Bill Kittrell, Regional Fisheries Manager of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Mr. Kittrell advised that he had met with Councilman Caruso and also a member of Trout Unlimited and had visited the reservoir. He expressed his Department's interest in managing and partnering with the City for stocking and handling the City's fishing area. The City would have to eliminate the sale of City fishing licenses.

The DGIF only requires state licenses. He proceeded to give Council several handouts for their information and stated he would be glad to work with the City to develop some regulations, install some signage, and provide some statewide and regional marketing. He then advised Council of the area lakes and reservoirs that they manage in our region.

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Should the City decide to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding or adopt an ordinance or resolution, stocking would not begin until spring of 2016. He further advised that, under their management, night fishing would be allowed which would require a trout license plus a state fishing license.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to prepare a resolution for their consideration and present it at the next meeting. After that, he will begin working with Mr. Kittrell.

Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Kittrell for his presentation and traveling to be at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Ramey advised that Winfred Collins, the City's Building Official, was present to give Council an update on the proposed Zoning Amendment.

Mr. Collins, via a PowerPoint presentation, gave a brief history on the amendment process and advised that the City Attorney determined that the current zoning ordinance was out of date and should be updated before proceeding with any other zoning text or map amendments. At the November 18, 2014 meeting, Council moved to refer the Zoning Ordinance to the Planning Commission for review and updates to bring it into compliance with State Code. On May 14, 2015, the Planning Commission finalized a

draft amendment and draft official map. The third draft of the proposed amendment was approved by the City Attorney and it was then forwarded to Council.

Mr. Collins then gave a brief summary of the changes that were made and advised that a fee schedule and a defined zoning map were included.

The next step is to refer the proposed zoning text amendment including the official zoning map back to the Planning Commission for review and report. At that time, they will have 100 days from the referral date to conduct the first required public hearing and report back to Council. If that deadline is not met, the amendment shall be considered approved by the Planning Commission. Whether there is a report from the Planning Commission or a non-response, the Council is then required to conduct the second required public hearing. Both public hearings can be conducted as a joint public hearing as allowed by Section No. 15.2-2204 in the Virginia Code.

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Mayor Mays advised that Mr. Collins, the City Attorney, and members of the Planning Commission are to be commended for the amount of work put in this document.

It was the consensus of Council to review this document further and for it to be brought back to them at the first meeting in September.

The City Manager advised should Council have any questions, they should contact the City Attorney.

Council had been presented in their packets A Resolution Recognizing the Week of August 2 – August 8, 2015 as Farmers Market Week in the City of Norton.

Mr. Ramey advised that Governor McAuliffe sponsored this resolution and the City is very fortunate to have such an active and successful Farmers Market.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Fultz, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Recognizing the Week of August 2 – August 8, 2015 as Farmers Market Week in the City of Norton. (Insert)

25598

In their packets, Council was in receipt of A Resolution Celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the Social Security Act for consideration.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Fultz, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the Social Security Act.

25599

Council had a copy of a check in the amount of \$112,736.87 payable to Thomas Construction Company.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt a check payable to Thomas Construction Company in the amount of \$112,736.87.

25600

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting as per Section 2.2-3711(A) (2) of the Code of Virginia, as amended, and as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended, discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publically held

25601

real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public.

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

25602

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

25603

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Planning Commission for four year terms which will expire on July 31, 2019.

Councilman Caruso nominated Tim Cassell and Virginia Stokes to be reappointed to this Commission.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

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Mayor Mays declared Tim Cassell and Virginia Stokes reappointed to the City of Norton Planning Commission for four year terms which will expire July 31, 2019.

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

Summer camps, which began after the closing of the swimming pool, were held with seven camps being held at a cost to the City of \$4,000. There was a total of 122 kids in attendance with children from both the City and the County. Also, the water slides were held throughout the summer at the various City parks with the last one being held at the City Park last Friday.

The paving of the Dorchester Road was completed last week; however, it still needs to be striped. The project was made possible through a partnership with Wise County who paid half of the cost. With the City paying their half of the costs, their paving funds for the year were expended.

The Regional Jail Authority Reconciliation Update was less than expected and the City will have a savings of about \$10,000.

25605

The City was notified today that we received an Americorp NCCC Grant for which we had applied. There will be in the City an Americorp team from October 14th until November 11th, who will be working primarily on the second phase of the Mountain Bike Trail System. A lot of details remain to be worked out.

The following project updates were given:

Safe Routes to Schools

The contractor is finishing up the sidewalk and installing the remainder of lights. A portion of concrete has to be torn out in front of Bill Sturgill's office next week and patching work will be done to open the second lane coming into town. People are not being encouraged to walk there; however it is good to see them doing so. Mr. Ramey advised of other things he would like to do in this area, such as benches, trash containers, and banners.

3rd Street Subsidence

The drilling company hired to do the job didn't work out and the contractor is in negotiations with another one. They hope to begin by the end of this week or next.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

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In comments from Council:

Councilwoman Belcher had no comments.

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Councilman Fawbush stated that he had been in attendance at the 75th anniversary of the High Knob Recreation Area and it was well attended.

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Councilman Caruso stated:

He inquired about the Memorandum of Understanding for the Pickem Trail. He was advised that the City Attorney had some suggestions on language changes and it will be brought back to Council.

He would like an update on the Climbers Coalition Memorandum of Understanding. He was advised by the City Manager that they have had several meetings and research is being done on liability issues for areas where they wish to climb.

He inquired about the Block Grant that the High Knob Enhancement Corporation had mentioned on the gateway sign. Mr. Ramey advised it is more related to the City working on its own grant. They may wish to partner with us.

Wanted a new sign installed at the entrance to the Norton Community Center as the one there is in bad shape.

There are 25 empty store fronts between the Dairy Queen and CVS.

25609

He wanted an update on the ATV Ordinance. He was advised by the City Manager that he had meetings with VDOT personnel on this and they are working on it.

He inquired as to the year to date number of tickets given by the Police Department. He was advised this is furnished to Council in the weekly newsletter sent by the City Manager.

He inquired into the zoning regulations on the dilapidated buildings in the down town area. The City Manager advised that Council can ask the Planning Commission and

some City staff to work on this. Mr. Ramey advised it may put a hold on the passage of the new Zoning Ordinance as discussed tonight.


He inquired about pending litigation and was advised by the City Attorney that this would be better discussed during closed meeting.

He advised that Wally Smith has GPS on all the trails and maps. Shayne Fields is also helping with this.

He inquired as to why the City is charging the Norton City Schools for services and advised they were not happy about this. A short discussion ensued on this topic.

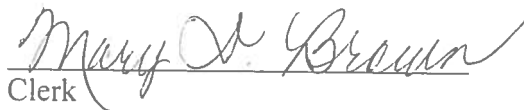
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk