

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

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

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

The invocation was given by the City Manager Fred Ramey and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the December 15, 2015 meeting as presented. 25746

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 25747

Mr. Ramey advised that each year City employees are recognized with a service pin when they reach certain milestones in their years of employment. Tonight Council wishes to recognize eleven (11) of the City's employees whose combined service represents over 175 years.

Mayor Mays, on behalf of Council, presented these pins to the nine (9) employees who were present. Those present and receiving service awards were: Steve McElroy 10 years, Jason Boatright 10 years, Bucky Culbertson 10 years, Jeff Rose 10 years, Winfred Collins 10 years, Jeff Shupe 15 years, Carlos Fields 25 years, Mike Lintz 25 years, and Rebecca Coffey 25 years. 25748

Receiving awards but not present were: Danny Hughes 10 years and Marie Muir 25 years.

After the presentation of these awards, applause was given to these employees and a group picture was taken with Council.

Mayor Mays expressed Council's appreciation of the years of service given to the City by these employees.

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Chapter 26.1 (Zoning and Zoning Map) of the Norton City Code.

Mr. Ramey advised Council that the City's Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map have been updated to comply with current state code and that the Planning Commission had held a public hearing and have referred back to Council for public hearing and approval. Also, Mr. Winfred Collins, the City Building Official was present to answer any questions Council may have regarding the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map.

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.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, Amending Chapter 26.1 (Zoning and Zoning Map) of the Norton City Code. Attached to the minutes is a list of the changes made in Chapter 26.1. This ordinance shall become effective after thirty (30) days. (Insert)

25749

A public hearing was held to consider financial encumbrances for the General Operating fund for the year ending June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$372,893.

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

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

25750

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the list of financial encumbrances as provided in their packets for the General Operating Fund in the amount of \$372,893.

Mr. Ramey advised that the completed FY 2014-2015 audit of the school's budget determined the amount that the school system could carry over from the FY 2015 budget to the FY 2016 budget. Dr. Keith Perrigan, Superintendent of the Norton City schools, was present to request a Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$648,098, which includes an audited surplus of local funding from the FY 2015 budget in the amount of \$30,992.

Dr. Perrigan went through the breakdown of the supplemental appropriations with Council for the school's FY 2014-2015 budget. He advised the School Board approved the supplemental appropriation and the audited surplus at their last meeting and is requesting Norton City Council's approval.

Councilman Caruso advised he had gone back and reviewed the school's update from June and he asked Dr. Perrigan if the School Board had a plan for the surplus.

25751

Dr. Perrigan advised he is recommending to the School Board to either replace the floor tile at John I. Burton High School or demolish and rebuild the tennis courts at the high school. Dr. Perrigan also stated the School Board has not yet determined which one of the two projects to select to utilize the surplus funds.

After a lengthy discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to advertise a public hearing to amend Norton City School's current budget in the amount of \$648,098, which includes an audited surplus of local funding from the FY15 Budget in the amount of \$30,992.

In their packets, Council had one check to be confirmed. The check was to the Norton Industrial Development Authority in the amount of \$122,004.25 to cover the Powell Valley National Bank loan payment

25752

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to confirm the one check to the Norton Industrial Development Authority as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, 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) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. 25753

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

The City Attorney left at this time. 25754

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting. 25755

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 Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert) 25756

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Rescue Squad Board of Directors for a one (1) year term.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Mark Caruso and Todd Lagow.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following vote: YES – Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, ABSTAIN – Caruso, Council moved that the nominations cease. 25757

Mayor Mays declared Mark Caruso and Todd Lagow reappointed to the Norton Rescue Squad Board of Directors for a one (1) year term to expire on February 1, 2017.

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

Mr. Ramey advised at the next Council meeting City Administration will be bringing to Council recommended zoning fees for their consideration.

He advised that the City's 911 Center can now offer citizens the opportunity to Text to 911. A press release has been prepared and Police Chief James Lane was present to explain the new 911 service to Council. 25758

Chief Lane outlined the new Text to 911 service and fielded questions from Council.

Mr. Ramey advised Council a new Flag Rock brochure had been placed at Council's desk.

He advised the Water Treatment Plant had received the 2014 Fluoridation Award.

The January holiday schedule had been placed at Council's desk.

A work session for City Council is scheduled for Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

In comments from Council:

Councilman Caruso asked Mr. Ramey to share with Council a letter VCEDA had received from Buchanan County and the NIDA's response to Buchanan County's request to VCEDA.

Mr. Ramey advised Council Buchanan County had submitted a request to the VCEDA Board for a \$21 million dollar loan to purchase the assets of the Appalachian School of Law. This request would use all available VCEDA monies and it would take 30 years to fund this project. The VCEDA director contacted each of the IDA's asking for their position on the Buchanan County request. Each of the seven counties and the NIDA responded with either a letter of concern or opposition. VCEDA then scheduled a meeting in January to allow Buchanan County to amend their request.

25759

Mr. Caruso advised he would like for Council to discuss an ATV ordinance.

He advised the governor had enacted the revocation of recognition of concealed carry permits issued by other states and he would like for the City to adopt a resolution naming the City of Norton as a "Concealed Carry Weapon" (CCW) sanctuary. This resolution would recognize all previously approved CCW states. The resolution would allow the Norton Police Department to operate similar to the "don't ask don't tell" order.

He thinks for the work session Saturday Council needs a vision for the future and concrete ideas. The City needs to go beyond recovery to growth.

Councilman Fultz advised it was his first meeting as an elected Councilman.

He asked if the City had received a stocking date for the reservoir.

Mr. Ramey advised the stocking will be done some time in January.

Councilman Fultz asked for an update on the pool house.

Mr. Ramey advised that Old Dominion Power will pull the three phase power on Thursday. Once the power is moved the fence can be removed. Then a portion of the building will be removed, at which, City Administration is currently exploring this segment of the project.

25760

Councilman Fultz advised he is pleased that DoughMakers Pizza is investing in the City again with the recent purchase of Fishtales.

Councilwoman Belcher had no comments.

25761

Councilman Fawbush stated for the upcoming budget he thinks Council needs to review each line item in the school's budget and be very cautious with school appropriations over the next six months.

He stated Flag Rock is still very busy and he thanked Mr. Ramey and Parks & Recreation for leaving the park open.

25762

He advised two plaques will be ready in February to place on the Woodbooger statue. The Committee is meeting to begin work on October's Woodbooger event.

At this time, Councilman Caruso asked for an update on the downtown banner project.

Mr. Ramey advised that two payments had been received.

Councilman Caruso asked if anyone else was attending the Legislative Reception in Richmond later this month.

25763


Mr. Ramey advised he and Councilman Fawbush will be attending the Legislative Reception in Richmond.

Mayor Mays thanked everyone for their attendance.

25764

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
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William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk of Council