

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 20, 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 City Manager Fred Ramey, Jr., and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by First Sergeant Greg Mays.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the September 6, 2016, meeting as presented. 26025

There was no response to the Mayor’s Call for Visitors. 26026

At this time, Mayor Mays requested that Item 6-A-Supplemental Appropriation Request from Norton City Schools in the amount of \$255,570 to carry-over 2015-16 state funds be tabled due to the absence of the School Superintendent, who had a schedule conflict that developed after the agenda had been prepared.

Mr. Ramey advised Dr. Perrigan, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, will be present at the next meeting to request the carry-over 2015-16 state funds in the amount of \$255,570. Mr. Ramey said Dr. Perrigan wanted to invite Council members to attend a proposed summit concerning regional school funding of coal counties from the federal and state governments scheduled at 6:00 p.m., on October 13, 2016, at the Slemp Building at UVA-Wise. He advised all local elected officials and school board members in the Coalfield region will be invited to attend the proposed conference. 26027

Mr. Ramey then provided Council members with copies of recent articles from the Coalfield Progress that detailed what schools across the region will be facing this budget year due to a regional decline in enrollment of 538 students.

The City Manager advised Michele Knox, the City’s Parks and Recreation Director was present to update Council on the department’s 2016 summer camps.

Ms. Knox presented a PowerPoint presentation about some of the activities area youth participated in this summer. She stated the City offered an excellent kid’s summer program with seven different camps throughout the summer, in addition to the “Fantastic Fridays” water slides. The camps had a total enrollment of 157 kids and lunch was provided for each camper at Norton Elementary and Middle School (NEMS). Ms. Knox advised the “Outdoor Adventure Camp” was a new program added this year, and Mark and Carol Caruso of Pathfinders Outdoor Adventures, along with Mark Leonard, taught the class. The camp had 12 kids and they learned archery, team building, fishing, repelling, and other skills. Ms. Knox stated she was very pleased with the new class and plans to offer it next year earlier in the summer. 26028

Councilman Caruso said Ms. Knox did a great job on the summer camps and thanked her for working and supporting each camp.

Mr. Ramey stated the Wise County and City of Norton Health Department was pleased with the success of this year's programs, which may assist the City in receiving another grant for 2017. He also noted there was an activity every week this summer except during the weeks of the Best Friend Festival and July 4th.

26029

Ms. Knox said the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) grant allowed the recreational department to purchase field activity kits that will enable them to work with kids during next year's summer camps.

Councilwoman Belcher and Mayor Mays thanked Ms. Knox for her work on this year's camps.

Council had one transfer to confirm. The transfer was to the Norton City Schools dated August 29, 2016, in the amount of \$100,000 to cover August 2016 payroll expenditures.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to confirm the transfer to the Norton City Schools as stated above.

26030

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, 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) of the Code of Virginia, as amended

26031

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

26032

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 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)

26033

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Black Diamond Resource Conservation & Development Council for a two-year term to expire on July 1, 2018.

Councilman Caruso nominated Adam Wells to be appointed to the Black Diamond Resource Conservation & Development Council.

26034

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

Mayor Mays declared Adam Wells appointed to the Black Diamond Resource Conservation & Development Council for a two-year term to expire on July 1, 2018.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Tourism Committee for a four-year term to expire on September 30, 2020.

Councilman Caruso nominated Chris Jones and Mike Craft to be reappointed to the Tourism Committee.

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

26035

Mayor Mays declared Chris Jones and Mike Craft reappointed to the Tourism Committee for four-year terms which will expire on September 30, 2020.

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

Mr. Ramey placed at each member's desk the latest Retail Sales Tax Report.

Mr. Ramey gave Council members an email and packet he received from Mountain States Health Alliance (MSHA) advising that the Southwest Virginia Health Authority will conduct a "Listening Session" at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 27th at the UVA-Wise Slemp Student Center. He advised that the executives from MSHA and Wellmont will be in attendance to discuss the proposed merger and a public hearing on the merger will be held in October in Abingdon. The email notes that the application to the Commonwealth of Virginia to merge the two healthcare authorities states that all hospitals operated by MSHA and Wellmont will remain operational as healthcare facilities for five years after the proposed merger.

26036

The 2016 International Walk to School Day has been tentatively set for Friday, October 7th. The walk will use the same route as in previous years and Mr. Ramey invited Council to attend.

The additional reserved hotel rooms for the Virginia Municipal League Conference scheduled for October 9th-11th will be released next Thursday. If anyone plans to attend, please advise City Administration prior to Thursday, September 22nd.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) has approved the City reservoir for the DGIF Catfish Program, and information on stocking the reservoir will be provided at a later date.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

26037

In comments from Council:

Noting that she lives and works in the City and she hears a large number of sirens, Councilwoman Belcher commended the City's Fire and Police Departments for the work they perform and the dangers they face daily.

26038

Councilman Fultz stated he is looking forward to the Woodbooger Festival in October. He said the John I. Burton Hall of Fame football game is on Friday, September 23rd and the dinner and induction ceremony are on Saturday, September 24th at Hotel Norton. He noted the Hall of Fame is gratifying because it honors our past and will recognize the present day in the future.

26039

Councilman Caruso stated the City is having an event every month and he believes this will aid tourism in the area and add to quality of life.

26040

He advised the Naturalist Rally is this weekend on High Knob.

He stated the Hellbender 10K is October 1st.

Councilman Fawbush stated the Woodbooger Committee has a meeting scheduled on September 21st to finalize the festival, and he is delighted with the number of volunteers for the event. The Woodbooger Festival is October 14th and 15th and he has received a great deal assistance from Mike Wampler, Wise County Tourism Director. Food vendors, artisans, Pathfinders Outdoor Adventures, and others will be set up at the festival and he is looking forward to the event.

26041

Mayor Mays congratulated the City Manager on the receipt of the Virginia Municipal League Innovations Award for the Safe Route to Schools Project, and asked that Mr. Ramey and Councilman Caruso represent the City well at the conference.

26042

He stated he received the best compliment from a Wise County citizen that is eager to walk the River Walk when completed.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk of Council