

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

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

Absent: Dee Belcher

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

The invocation was given by Reverend Roger Sloce and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, and Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Belcher, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the November 15, 2016, meeting as presented.

26114

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

26115

Council had been presented with A Resolution Requesting Authorization for Norton City Schools to Establish a Separate Fund for Food Service. Mr. Ramey explained the Food Service Fund would exist under the school's General Operating Fund and would allow the school system to track expenses and revenues, provide better operational efficiency, increase budgetary reporting, and provide identification of revenues and expenditures for each school. Mr. Ramey presented to each Council member with copies of the 2010 Text Book and Health Insurance Retirement Incentive Fund Resolution and advised that the proposed Food Service Account is in the same format of that resolution. Mr. Ramey said Food Service Funds can be carried over from year to year and expended as the Norton City School Board chooses, as long as the funds are expended for Food Service. Any other expenditure besides Food Service would require approval of Norton City Council.

26116

After a brief discussion, Mayor Mays requested a joint meeting with the School Board in January to discuss the budget.

Ms. Gina Wolford, Interim Norton City Schools Superintendent, stated she would inform School Board Members and advise Mr. Ramey of available dates.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Belcher, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing Norton City Schools to Establish a Separate Food Service Fund. (Insert)

The City Manager explained that at the last meeting Council was asked by a downtown business to adopt ordinances regulating pawnbrokers within the City. In anticipation of the request, Mr. Bradshaw had prepared a draft ordinance for Council's review and City Administration was asked by Council to place the draft ordinance on the agenda for Council's consideration.

26117

The City Attorney stated that the regulations for pawnbroking are outlined in the state code and that he had paralleled these requirements in the draft ordinance. He said the draft ordinance allows Council the opportunity to determine fees and the number of pawnbrokers allowed within the City.

After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Mays asked members to further review the draft ordinance and requested that the item be placed back on the agenda for the January 3 meeting for discussion and consideration.

Mr. Ramey, via a PowerPoint presentation, gave Council an update on the Declaration of Emergency Declaring a Ban on Open Fires within the City. Mr. Ramey said a total 29 counties and 6 towns/cities across the state had enacted burn bans. Since the November 15 council meeting, the City has received rain and City Administration's recommendation to Council is to consider lifting the burn ban.

26118

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Belcher, Council moved to lift the Declaration of Emergency Declaring a Ban on Open Fires within the City.

Council had one check to confirm. The check was to W-L Construction & Paving, Inc., dated November 10, 2016, in the amount of \$195,210 to cover paving throughout the City for fiscal year 2016.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Belcher, Council moved to confirm the check to W-L Construction & Paving, Inc., as stated above.

26119

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Belcher, 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, and discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publically held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

26120

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

26121

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 Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None,

26122

ABSENT – Belcher, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Virginia's Heritage Music Trail: The Crooked Road for a three-year term to expire on November 30, 2019.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Linda Hamilton to be appointed to the Virginia's Heritage Music Trail: The Crooked Road.

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

26123

Mayor Mays declared Linda Hamilton appointed to the Virginia's Heritage Music Trail: The Crooked Road for a three-year term which will expire November 30, 2019.

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

Disclosure Statements were placed at each member's desk and are due January 15, 2017.

The City has 60 million gallons of water storage at the reservoir and has received two inches of rainfall to date for the month of December. City Administration expects the water storage to continue to rise with the anticipated precipitation and will keep Council informed until the reservoir is near capacity.

Mr. Ramey encouraged City Council and citizens to visit the Southwest Virginia Museum and tour the Festival of Trees and vote for the City's Woodbooger-themed Christmas tree as favorite tree.

26124

Prior to the regular Council Meeting on January 3, 2017, there will be an organizational meeting. The regular meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

The Southwest Virginia Legislative Reception is scheduled for January 25-27 at the Omni Hotels and Resorts in Richmond. Please advise City Administration if you plan to attend so accommodations can be made on your behalf.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

26125

In comments from Council:

Councilman Fultz wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

26126

Councilman Caruso advised that most of the organizational changes have been made within the Norton Rescue Squad and that he is optimistic for the squad's future.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Norton and the Norton Rescue Squad (MOU) and the Bylaws are in place and being utilized by management to make changes. Norton Rescue Squad staff is pleased with the changes and the City's assistance with accounting and payroll will be needed for at least the next 12 months.

26127

Councilman Caruso advised Mr. Ramey he plans on attending the Legislative Reception in January.

Councilman Fawbush asked that Mr. Ramey mark his attendance to the Legislative Reception in January as tentative at this time.

26128

Councilman Fawbush advised that he appeared, as a parent, on November 21, 2016, at a Special Called Meeting of the Norton City School Board and expressed concern over the School Board appropriating money from academic accounts to support other programs within the school system. He is hopeful that the School Board will be attentive to his concerns and he noted that he told the board members he appreciates the work they do for Norton City Schools.

He stated the City lost a good former employee with the passing of Sheriff Bruce Rose. He stated it was good to see the many citizens, friends, co-workers, various city departments, and professionals that came out to honor Sheriff Rose.

Councilman Fawbush wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Mays advised that the December 20 meeting would be cancelled if there were no objections from Council.

Council was in consensus to dispense of the December 20 meeting.

26129

Mayor Mays said the City lost an icon in Sheriff Bruce Rose and that Councilman Fultz conducted an excellent service.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rebecca K. Coffey, Clerk of Council