

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, July 17, 2018, 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

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

Absent: Robert Fultz, Jr.

The invocation was given by Pastor Freddie Powers and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Mays, Fawbush, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – Fultz, ABSTAIN – None, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the June 19, 2018, meeting as presented.

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

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A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, to consider changes to Chapter 18 – Procurement Code of the Norton City Code.

Mr. Ramey advised the city attorney had completed a comprehensive update to Chapter 18 of the Norton City Code and the proposed copy included in council's packet is in compliance with the Virginia State Code.

Mr. Bradshaw said the Procurement Ordinance was modernized considerably and is up-to-date with the Virginia Public Procurement Act of the Code of Virginia that was effective July 1, 2018.

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Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

The city attorney noted that the updated Procurement Ordinance will repeal the current provisions of Chapter 18 for the city in its entirety and substitute these provisions 30 days after adoption.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, updating Chapter 18 – Procurement Code of the Norton City Code. (Insert)

Council had been presented with A Moral Obligation Resolution in Support of Norton City Schools' Lease Purchase Agreement.

The city manager said First Bank and Trust is requiring a Moral Obligation Resolution from the city indicating council is supportive of Norton City Schools purchasing a new school bus through a lease/purchase agreement. Mr. Ramey said Mr. Bradshaw has reviewed the bank note from First Bank and Trust and prepared a draft Moral Obligation Resolution in Support of Norton City Schools' Lease Purchase Agreement for council's consideration.

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The city attorney said the proposed resolution does not obligate the city to pay for the school bus. However, if the school system should default on the lease/purchase agreement the bank would look to the city to pay for the purchase of the school bus as a moral obligation. He also noted the school system will receive the title for the bus but there will be a lien noted on the title that the bus is collateral for the bank note until the financial obligation is repaid.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote, YES – Caruso, Mays, Fawbush, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – Fultz, ABSTAIN – None, council moved to adopt A Moral Obligation Resolution in Support of a Norton City Schools' Lease/Purchase Agreement to purchase a 2018 Thomas Built 77 passenger school bus. (Insert)

The next agenda item was a presentation by Norton Fire Chief Todd Lagow on a proposed Junior Fire Fighter Program.

Prior to his presentation, Fire Chief Lagow advised that the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant that was applied for in 2016 was awarded. He said the grant was a regional grant application and that the city has received 24 new self-contained breathing apparatuses (SBA). He said the total project cost was approximately \$340,000 and the city's local share was \$7,500. He said the grant funds have been received from FEMA and the Big Stone Gap Fire Department received 28 SBA's as part of the regional application.

Fire Chief Lagow said the Norton Fire Department has been considering an explorer program for several years. He said the program would be sponsored by the Boy Scouts through the Scout Explorer Program and the Norton Junior Fire Department would pay dues to the Boy Scouts. Chief Lagow said the Boy Scouts would also provide insurance and the explorer activities with the department would be limited. He said the explorers would provide logistics, lighting, and other details, excluding firefighting, as part of the program. Chief Lagow said the cost would be \$256 annually for five junior firefighters and that The Lane Group would provide funding for FY19. He noted that participants must be between the ages of 16 to 18, maintain a 2.0 grade point average, live in the service area, and have their parents' permission to join the organization. Chief Lagow said training would be provided by the state and the largest cost would be providing protective equipment for the participants.

The City Manager added that Mr. Bradshaw and the city's insurance company have reviewed the Norton Fire Department Junior Firefighter Policies and Procedures and their suggestions have been incorporated into the handbook. Mr. Ramey noted that for council to move forward with approval of the junior program, Chapter 8 – Fire Prevention and Protection of the City Code will have to be modified to allow the Norton Fire Department to have a Junior Firefighter Program.

Mr. Bradshaw informed council that if they were in favor of the proposed Junior Firefighter Program he could draft a proposed ordinance to consider changes to Chapter 8 – Fire Prevention and Protection and a public hearing could be advertised for the August 7th meeting.

Mayor Mays commended Norton Fire Department for its service and for working with area youth.

It was the consensus of council to authorize the city attorney to prepare a draft ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, amending Chapter 8 – Fire Prevention and Protection of the Norton City Code to include the allowance of a Junior Firefighter Program in the Norton Fire Department, and to authorize the city manager to advertise a public hearing on the proposed amendment.

Next, Fire Chief Todd Lagow informed council the Norton Rescue Squad (NRS) has been approved for a \$250,000 grant to purchase a new ambulance through the 2018 Rescue Squad Assistance Fund Grant Program. He said the squad also received funding to pay 50 percent of the cost to purchase a Lucas Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Device (Lucas CPR Device), which is an automated chest compression machine. Chief Lagow said NRS's local share to purchase a Lucas CPR Device totals \$36,420. He stated the squad will use the \$10,000 in their Capital Fund and do fundraisers to try to raise the additional \$25,000 needed to offset the squad's cost to purchase the chest compression machine.

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The city manager added the Capital Fund referred to by Chief Lagow is the \$10,000 council already contributed to NRS to purchase the Lucas CPR Device from unused NRS funds in the General Operating Fund's FY18 Budget.

Included in council's packets for consideration was a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Between Kids Central, Inc., Head Start (KCI) and the City of Norton Department of Social Services (Norton DSS).

Mr. Ramey said the MOA basically places in writing the agreement already existing between Norton DSS and KCI and it is mainly required because of grant funding. He stated Norton DSS Director Sara Ring was in attendance to answer any questions council may have regarding the MOA.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to authorize the Director of Norton Social Services to execute the Memorandum of Agreement Between Kids Central, Inc., Head Start and the City of Norton Department of Social Services.

Mr. Ramey stated he received an email in October 2017 from Samantha Robinson-Lo'Ren who was a rising senior at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky. Mr. Ramey said Ms. Lo'Ren inquired about a possible summer internship with Norton Parks and Recreation Department's (P&R) Summer Kids' Programs and that she was in attendance to provide council with an update on her internship this summer.

Ms. Lo'Ren informed council she is working towards a double major and will be certified in Mass Media Engineering and Women's and Gender Studies. Ms. Lo'Ren said the internship has allowed her to use both of her majors and she is thankful for the experience. She updated council on various P&R activities she had been involved with during her time with the city, including a theatre camp she instructed.

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Following Ms. Lo'Ren's update, Mayor Mays presented her with an Outstanding Service Award plaque from council and a photo was taken with members.

Council had a copy of a check in their packet for confirmation. The check was to the City of Norton General Operating Fund, dated June 25, 2018, in the amount of

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\$337,015.44, and was for Norton City Water Department's employee payroll and fringe benefits for the remainder FY17

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote, YES – Caruso, Mays, Fawbush, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – Fultz, ABSTAIN – None, council moved to the confirm the check as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, 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.

Mayor Mays declared council in closed meeting.

At this time, Mayor Mays excused the city attorney from the meeting.

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

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 Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Social Services Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Lann Malesky whose term expires on May 22, 2019.

Councilman Caruso nominated Jen Boa to fill the unexpired term on the Norton Social Services Board to expire on May 22, 2019.

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

Mayor Mays declared Jen Boa appointed to fill the unexpired term of Lann Malesky whose term expires on May 22, 2019.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Social Services Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Ann Holbrook whose term expires on May 22, 2019.

Councilman Caruso nominated Jessica Fultz to fill the unexpired term on the Norton Social Services Board to expire on May 22, 2019.

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

Mayor Mays declared Jessica Fultz appointed to fill the unexpired term of Ann Holbrook whose term expires on May 22, 2019.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Black Diamond Rural Conservation Development Council for a two-year term to expire on July 1, 2020.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Adams Wells to be reappointed to the Black Diamond Rural Conservation Development Council for a two-year term to expire on July 1, 2020.

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

Mayor Mays declared Adam Wells reappointed to the Black Diamond Rural Conservation Development Council for a two-year term to expire on July 1, 2020.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Planning Commission for a four-year term to expire on July 31, 2022.

Councilwoman Belcher nominated Robert Isaac to be reappointed to the Norton Planning Commission for a four-year term to expire on July 31, 2022.

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

Mayor Mays declared Robert Isaac reappointed to the Norton Planning Commission for a four-year term to expire on July 31, 2022.

In comments from the City Manager:

Mr. Ramey said the Independence Day Celebration held Saturday, July 7th, was successful. He said the city did receive several compliments about this year's fireworks display and a few complaints about not having fireworks on July 4th.

At this time, council was in consensus to celebrate next year's Independence Day on Saturday, July 6, 2019, and authorized the city manager to have the fireworks display and other Independence Day activities on Saturday, July 6, 2019.

Mr. Ramey informed council the city is scheduled to receive another AmeriCorps/National Civilian Conservation Corps Team in August, and the city will partner again with Camp Bethel to house the team.

City Administration was recently notified by Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine that the city will again be included in their Top Adventure Town Contest. The competition is separated into three categories based upon the size of the community. Mr. Ramey is encouraging everyone to vote for the city through the online voting link on the Blue Ridge Outdoors website.

Mr. Ramey said city administration is planning the first High Knob Outdoor Festival on Saturday, August 18th, at the Norton Friends & Farmers Market and Expo Center. He said three musical groups are scheduled to perform, several groups will be tabling, and the city's first beer garden will be included.

He said as of July 15th, 64 participants from 20 states and two countries had registered for the Cloudsplitter 100 Ultra Trail Race.

Mr. Ramey said the Southwest Virginia Rally Project conducted by the city's Community Builder Daniel Pinard has concluded and community representatives have selected a stage for the Norton Friends & Farmers Market and Expo Center as the top priority. He said the stage has been ordered and is expected to be delivered in time for the High Knob Outdoor Festival.

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He said he was contacted about the possibility of a large car show event being relocated to the city's downtown. He said the organizer wants to close several streets on a Saturday evening and the event is in the preliminary stages.

Mr. Ramey reminded council of the 2018 Virginia Municipal League (VML) Conference scheduled in Hampton, Virginia, and asked members to advise him if they plan to attend.

He provided council copies of the planned High Knob Outdoor Festival, the latest Retail Sales Tax Report, and traffic counts for Route 619 and the entrance to Flag Rock.

Councilman Caruso asked the city manager to share the Route 619 traffic counts with the U.S. Forest Service.

The following comments were made by council members:

It was the consensus of council to schedule a workshop from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., Saturday, August 11th, in the Municipal Council Chambers.

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Councilman Fawbush said he and Mr. Ramey met with the Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) federal co-chair Tim Thomas. He said we shared with Mr. Thomas current city projects and they visited Flag Rock Recreation Area, the Woodbooger statue, and High Knob Tower.

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Mayor Mays said he was pleased to welcome and be able to speak with Congressman Morgan Griffith at the city's Independence Day celebration on Saturday, July 7th.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council