

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Joseph Fawbush presiding.

Present: Robert Fultz, Jr., Joseph Fawbush, Mark Caruso, and Delores Belcher

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

Absent: William Mays

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

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following vote: YES – Fawbush, Caruso, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – Mays, ABSTAINED (During Meeting) – Fultz, council moved to adopt the minutes of the April 16, 2019, meeting as presented with a correction in Section 263039 to read advertisements instead of article. 263039

During the Mayor's Call for Visitors, there was no response from the audience to bring matters before council that were not on the agenda. 263040

Tamara Greear of Thrower, Blanton, and Associates, P.C., delivered copies of the completed City of Norton FY2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) to council and city administration.

Ms. Greear said the audit numbers presented at the April 16, 2019, meeting have not changed and that this is the official audit release for the city. She presented the Communication with Governments letter and advised the letter is filed with the city manager's office. 263041

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to accept the 2017-18 Fiscal Audit by Thrower, Blanton, and Associates ending June 30, 2018.

Mayor Fawbush thanked Ms. Greear for the completed audit.

Norton City School Board Chairman Cody McElroy spoke to council regarding the division's proposed 2019-2020 Fiscal Budget.

Mr. McElroy presented a brief PowerPoint presentation on the school board's proposed budget and advised the budget was developed on an average daily membership (ADM) of 775 students. He said the budget included a five percent salary increase, continuance of the one-to-one initiative, a four percent health insurance increase, two school resource officers, a safety grant with a 25 percent local match, instructional programs, and hiring of additional staff to meet the Board of Education Standards of Quality (SOQ). Mr. McElroy said the division would like to use \$42,277.58 of FY17-18 surplus funds to pay the 25 percent required local match on the safety grant. He said Norton City School's total budget is \$9,745,607, and the board is requesting a local appropriation of \$1,667,946, which is \$42,082 more than the previous year; \$811,490 for debt service, and \$22,395, for the Textbook Fund, for a grand total of \$2,501,832, in local appropriations. He then thanked council and the city 263042

for everything city administration and all city departments do for Norton City Schools and for the relationships between council and the school board and both management teams.

After a brief discussion on the budget presentation, Mayor Fawbush thanked School Board Chairman McElroy for presenting the FY 2019-20 Fiscal Budget and asked him if he wanted to speak about the system's FY 2018-19 surplus.

Mr. McElroy said Norton City School's has a surplus of unencumbered funds in the amount of \$331,453 for FY 2018-19. He said the surplus funds are attributed to receipt of additional revenues, less expenditures than expected, and prudent spending.

After the presentation and a brief discussion of Norton City School's proposed FY 2019-20 Fiscal Budget, council was in consensus to authorize the city manager to advertise a public hearing on the proposed Norton City School Budget as presented for a total amount of \$9,745,607.

The next agenda item was the discussion of the Norton City Schools FY 2017-18 surplus funds.

Mayor Fawbush said a previous discussion between Norton City School System and City Council led to the establishment of a Leadership Team between the two entities. He said a team meeting was held earlier this year and was very productive with both bodies presenting their current position, goals, and challenges in the upcoming months. Mayor Fawbush then asked Councilman Caruso to share the details and discussions of the Leadership Team meeting.

Councilman Caruso read a prepared statement summarizing the team meeting. He said the Leadership Team is comprised of the mayor, vice mayor, city manager, school board chairman, school board vice chairman, and the school's superintendent. Councilman Caruso said the team discussed the potential audited school surplus and tentatively decided to address previously identified capital and public safety projects. He said the tentative plans were given to each elected board to review with council providing the final approval for joint projects. Councilman Caruso said if council approves the tentative recommendations the surplus would be used to renovate the tennis courts at the city's 11<sup>th</sup> Street Park, to provide the additional matching funds for the school system's potentially awarded Safety Grant, and to replace the roof at the Norton Community Center. He said a determination on the amount of audited surplus funds needed to facilitate the Leadership Team's recommendations will be made when city council formally takes action to approve both the school board's and city's FY 2019-2020 Fiscal Budgets, which should take place within the next several weeks. Councilman Caruso stated any audited surplus funds not appropriated for the joint projects will be returned to Norton City Schools. He said the creation of the Leadership Team enabled effective communication and cooperation between the two elected bodies and the team will ensure the timely completion of joint projects and continued cooperation.

On behalf of council, Mayor Fawbush thanked Mr. McElroy again and said he is looking forward to the upcoming year.

Mr. Ramey presented council with a breakdown of budget amendments to the City of Norton FY 2019 Fiscal Budget. He said the encumbrances total \$48,502 and city administration is asking council to amend the budget to include the list provided in council's packet ending June 30, 2018.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Fultz, Fawbush, Caruso, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – 263044

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Mays, ABSTAIN – None, council moved to amend the FY 2019 budget to include the budget amendments to the 2019-2020 budget in the total amount of \$48,502.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to go into closed meeting for Personnel as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. 263045

Mayor Fawbush declared council in closed meeting.

The city attorney was excused at this time. 263046

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to go back into open meeting. 263047

Mayor Fawbush 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. 263048

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for two nominations to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for a four-year term to expire May 10, 2024.

Councilwoman Belcher nominated Barbara Caruso and Robert Leonard to be reappointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for a four-year term to expire May 10, 2024. 263049

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

Mayor Fawbush declared Barbara Caruso and Robert Leonard reappointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for a four-term to expire May 10, 2024.

In comments from the city manager:

Mr. Ramey said the Downtown Revitalization Project Bid Opening was held April 29<sup>th</sup>. He said the low bid came in over budget and the design consultant is reviewing the bid. The city manager noted he and the design consultant will discuss modifying the downtown project with the contractor to bring the project within budget.

He said the first half of real estate taxes are due May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ramey handed out an ad that had been placed in the local paper about the 2019 property reassessment process.

He said the Virginia Municipal Conference is scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> in Roanoke. If you plan to attend, please let me know as soon as possible so rooms can be reserved.

Mr. Ramey said he provided council with copies of the following: High Knob and Flag Rock Recreation Area traffic counts, a sign designed by climber Brad Mathisen that meets insurance requirements and will be installed at trailheads, the 2018 Excellence in Water Works Operation Gold Award for meeting clarification, filtration, and backwash during 2018, and the Coalfield Progress “Best of the Best” certificate for Flag Rock Recreation Area being named the best place to picnic. 263050

He also provided members with the Mountains of Music Home Program Guide and said the city has a joint ad with the Country Cabin on page 28 of the guide.

Mr. Ramey said he provided at each member's desk the May Calendar of Activities and an updated draft budget schedule.

He said council needs to confirm the budget work session scheduled for 9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

The following comments were made by council members:

Councilman Fultz commented John I. Burton High School's prom and after prom party went well.

He said Norton Elementary and Middle School (NEMS) began Standards of Learning (SOL) testing. He said the tests were taken online using the Chromebook and the online method will reduce testing time from three weeks to one week.

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Councilman Fultz said he has received comments from school staff that they appreciated the positive comments and cooperation between council and school board after the budget presentation and is looking forward to the upcoming year because of the renewed communication between the two groups.

Councilman Caruso commented that Norton Businessman Danny Mullins passed away and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

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Mayor Fawbush echoed Councilman Fultz's comments about the cooperation between the two groups and said he is pleased they are moving forward.

He confirmed with council the budget work session scheduled for this upcoming Saturday and advised after the work session council will tour the Norton Friends and Farmers Market building.

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Councilman Fultz added the next Spearhead Trails meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> in Coeburn.

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At this time, Councilman Caruso asked the city manager to work with the school superintendent to schedule the next Leadership Team meeting before council's next meeting.

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There being no further business to come before council and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Mayor Fawbush declared the meeting adjourned.

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CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rebecca K. Coffey, Clerk of Council