

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, November 19, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Joseph Fawbush presiding.

Present: William Mays, Robert Fultz, Jr., Joseph Fawbush, and Delores Belcher

Also Present: Jeff Shupe, City Finance Director

Absent: Councilman Mark Caruso and City Manager Fred L. Ramey, Jr.

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

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by the following vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, ABSTAIN – Fawbush, council moved to adopt the minutes of the November 5, 2019, meeting as presented.

During the Mayor's Call for Visitors, Environmental Scientist Matthew Hepler of Appalachian Voices came forward and presented council with a draft resolution asking for council's support of the Abandoned Mind Land Reauthorization. He told members they could rewrite any portion of the resolution to meet council's approval that Appalachian Voices is merely seeking council's support. Mr. Hepler then left his business card with the clerk and asked to be placed on council's agenda for the December 3rd meeting.

Mr. Shupe said at the November 5th meeting council tabled the request for real and personal property tax exemption for Family Crisis Support Service, Inc., in order to obtain the city attorney's opinion on the matter. He said City Attorney William Bradshaw provided his viewpoint on the tax exemption request and a copy of his opinion was provided in council packets. Mr. Shupe said city administration drafted two motions for city council's consideration for Family Crisis Support Services.

Councilman Mays motioned to increase the FY20 appropriation to Family Crisis Support Services in the amount of \$3,436.06 to offset their FY20 real estate and personal property taxes with funding to be provided from unappropriated reserves. Councilman Fultz seconded the motion and the passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of council to consider the yearly appropriation for Family Crisis Support Services yearly at council's annual budget meeting.

Mr. Shupe said council had two requests from the Commissioner of Revenue for refunds of erroneously assessed 2019 personal property taxes. The first is for Charles Dee Trosper in the amount of \$55.02. The second request is to Jonathan Bolling in the amount of \$116.66. Mr. Shupe said the Commissioner of Revenue has determined Mr. Trosper's and Mr. Bolling's vehicles are housed in Wise County so a refund of personal property taxes paid to the city is due.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to approve a refund in the amount of \$55.02 to Charles Dee Trosper for erroneously 2019 personal property tax.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, council moved to approve a refund to Jonathan Bolling in the amount of \$116.66 for erroneously assessed 2019 personal property tax.

In packets for council consideration was a check to the Wise County Treasurer, dated October 1, 2019, in the amount of \$250,035.18, to cover FY 2019 court services.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to confirm the check to the Wise County Treasurer, as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, council moved to go into closed meeting for Personnel as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Mayor Fawbush declared council in closed meeting.

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

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.

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

In comments from the finance director:

Mr. Shupe told council he placed at each member's desk a copy of a Water Fluoridation Quality Award the Water Plant received from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for maintaining a level fluoride in drinking water for preventing tooth decay throughout 2018.

Mr. Shupe updated council on property reassessment advising real estate reassessments were mailed on November 12th. He said citizens can contact the Commissioner of Revenue to make appointments with the property assessor beginning on November 22nd. Mr. Shupe said the last day to make an appointment with the property assessor to discuss the reassessment will be November 26th.

Mr. Shupe told council copies of the September Financial Statements were placed at member's desk for review, along with the latest Retail Sales Tax Report, High Knob and Flag Rock traffic counts, and the November and December Activities Flyer.

Mr. Shupe reported to council the following upcoming events: The Turkey Trot 5k is scheduled for Thursday, November 28th; the city's Christmas Tree Lighting is planned for 5:00-8:00 p.m., Saturday, December 7th in Veteran's Park; the Christmas Parade is begins at 6:00 p.m., Sunday, December 8th; and the Regional Legislative Reception is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2020, at the Library of Virginia in Richmond.

The following comment was made by Councilman Fultz:

Councilman Fultz told members on Thanksgiving Day area churches will be providing the Community Thanksgiving meals from the kitchens of the Norton Episcopal Church and St. Anthony's Catholic Church located on Virginia Avenue. He asked members if they know anyone who needs to be included in the meal program to have them get on the meal delivery schedule. Councilman Fultz also noted volunteers are welcome.

There being no further business to come before council and upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous consensus of council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rebecca K. Coffey, Clerk of Council

