

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, William Mays, Joseph Fawbush, Terry Roop

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

At this time, Mayor Mays advised that he was amending the agenda to include Item No. 7-D-6 which is the discussion of matters concerning the investment of public funds where negotiation is concerned, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (6) of the Code of Virginia as amended; specifically any preliminary discussions of a proposal to join with Wise County in the consolidation of schools.

24597

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge led by Police Captain James C. Lane.

24598

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the January 5, 2010 meeting as presented.

24599

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mark Salyer and Andi Prince, representing the Appalachian Children's Theatre, spoke to Council regarding this organization. Following this presentation, during which Mr. Salyer presented Council members with a packet containing information on the theatre and posters, he asked Council to consider this organization for funding during their current budget process.

24600

Mayor Mays thanked both Mr. Salyer and Mrs. Prince for their presentation and remarks.

A public hearing was held to solicit input on the City's application for funding to USDA Rural Development for a Wastewater System Rehabilitation Project.

Mr. Ward advised that the City is in the process of making application for the Phase 3 and 4 of the Guest River Project, the 2nd phase of the Benges Branch Project, TV Investigations, and helping with Phase 1 and 2 deficits of the Guest River Interceptors Project. He advised that these funds are available through the Economic Stimulus Program and USDA. There is no limit to the amount of the grant and 75% of the funds awarded will be grant and 25% loan funds. He further advised this will aid the City in looking at the projects in the Comprehensive Sewer Study. One of the requirements of USDA Rural Development is to hold a public hearing and there needs to be no action from Council tonight.

24601

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council.

24602

Mayor Mays commended the City staff for the work done on putting this application together.

Mr. Brian Blanton of Thrower Blanton and Associates presented council members with a copy of the audit of the City for the year ending June 30, 2009.

He advised that the City had a clean and unqualified opinion, which is the best rating that can be given.

Mr. Blanton also advised that the City had a deficiency on the Internal Control and Compliance Form in the Social Services Department on state compliance with Social Service regulations regarding grant funds and reports not being submitted on a quarterly basis. This problem has now been resolved.

Following a brief synopsis, Mr. Blanton advised he would be willing to answer any questions that Council may have.

There were no questions from Council members and Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Blanton for tonight's presentation.

Council, in their packets, had been given a copy of the Norton Industrial Development Authority's audit for the year ended June 30, 2009.

Mr. Ward advised they received a clean opinion, which is the best rating that can be given. He commended NIDA Board Member Robert Leonard, who takes care of the financial reports for this Authority, and Fred Ramey for doing excellent jobs for NIDA and the City.

He gave Council a brief synopsis of the audit and of the Certificates of Memorandums of Understanding. He then advised Council he would answer any questions they may have.

Mayor Mays advised that NIDA has been a wonderful arm of the City and this was a very good audit.

Mr. Ward advised Council that the City has talked with the primary property owner, BoCo Limited, regarding a plan to further develop lots in the Laurel Trails Subdivision. Council was advised that most of the best lots have been developed and the ones that are left are more difficult to build on due to their topography. These lots are #8, 16, 17, 18, 20, 23, and 50. To pay for this work, he would like to use \$16,000 that is in a City account that was received from the sale of a home and lot from a low to moderate income owner to someone who is not a low to moderate income person. These funds have to be spent within the subdivision. Also, the City has budgeted \$35,000 in this year's budget for housing. Some of these funds have been used; however there is approximately \$26,000 left. The City Manager estimates this work will cost \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to proceed to advertise for improvements to be made to the lots in the Laurel Trails Subdivision as discussed tonight in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 with funds to come as specified above.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended and discussion of matters concerning the investment of public funds where negotiation is concerned, pursuant to Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (6) of the Code of Virginia, as amended specifically any preliminary discussions of a proposal to join with Wise County in the consolidation of schools.

24606

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

Councilman Hunnicutt left the meeting as Council was going into closed meeting.

24607

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

24608

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 read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

24609

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four year term which will expire on January 28, 2014.

Councilman Roop nominated Roger Sloce to be reappointed to this Authority.

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

24610

Mayor Mays declared Roger Sloce reappointed to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four year term, which will expire on January 28, 2014.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Social Services Advisory Board for a four year term which will expire on January 28, 2014.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Roger Sloce be reappointed to this Board.

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

24611

Mayor Mays declared Roger Sloce reappointed to the Norton Social Services Advisory Board for a four year term which will expire on January 28, 2014.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for two year terms which will expire on January 31, 2012.

Councilman Caruso nominated Frank Gravely, J. T. Caruso, Bobby Cassell, and James Lane to be appointed to this Commission. Also appointed was Danny Holt to fill the unexpired term of Linville Reed on this Commission which will expire on January 31, 2011.

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

Mayor Mays declared Frank Gravely, J. T. Caruso, Bobby Cassell, and James Lane appointed to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for two year terms which will expire on January 31, 2012. Also appointed to this Commission was Danny Holt to fill the unexpired term of Linville Reed, which will expire January 31, 2011.

2461

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Ninth District Development Financing, Incorporated for a two year term which will expire on January 31, 2012.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Joyce Payne to be reappointed to this Board.

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

24613

Mayor Mays declared Joyce Payne reappointed to the Ninth District Development Financing, Incorporated for a two year term which will expire on January 31, 2012.

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

The City, along with Lenowisco and Congressman Boucher, will hold a groundbreaking at the Church in Josephine for the Josephine Sewer Project. This groundbreaking will be held on January 29, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

24614

The annual CIP Meeting will be held on March 12, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. at the Inn in Norton.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

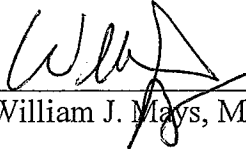
24615

In comments from City Council, Mayor Mays wished good luck to those attending the 2010 Legislative Reception in Richmond this week.

24616

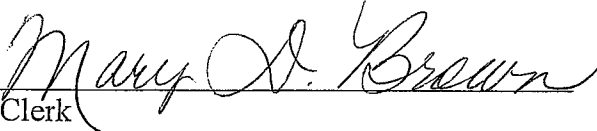
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk