

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

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

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt

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

The invocation was given by Rev. Ken Taylor and was followed by the pledge led by Ron McCall, Chairman of the Norton City School Board.

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 2, 2010 meeting as presented. 24635

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 24636

A public hearing was held to consider financial encumbrances for the year ended June 30, 2009 in the amount of \$463,743 for the City's General Operating Fund and \$92,707 for the Norton City Schools.

The City Manager advised that a detailed list of encumbrances was enclosed in Council's packets and the public hearing had been duly advertised. He further advised that he and Mr. Shupe, the City's Finance Director, would be happy to answer any questions Council may have on the City's General Operating Fund and that Dr. Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, was present to answer any questions on the Schools' encumbrances. 24637

There were no questions or comments from Council prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the 2009-2010 General Fund Budget of the City in the amount of \$463,743 for encumbrances as presented and also to amend the 2009-2010 Norton City Schools' Budget in the amount of \$92,707.

A public hearing was held to amend the 2009-2010 budget of the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$164,277 for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds for Title I and Title VIB Special Education Programs.

The City Manager advised that Dr. Comer was present to answer any questions of Council. 24638

There were no questions or comments from Council prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

There were no questions or comments from Council following the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the 2009-2010 budget of the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$164,277 for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds for Title I and Title VIB Special Education Programs.

In their packets, Council had been given a copy of a letter from Dr. Jeff Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, asking for a discussion on their 2008-2009 budget surplus at tonight's meeting.

Prior to making his presentation, Dr. Comer passed out an information packet to the members of Council. He then took the opportunity to extend their thanks and appreciation to Council for their extraordinary support of the school system and for the great job done in cleaning the school parking lots and roads in order that school can be held. He then extended thanks to the Norton Police Department for their attendance at all of the ballgames and advised that this is a great benefit to the schools.

An Open House for the Norton Elementary-Middle School Project will be held on March 27, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. A formal invitation will be forthcoming to Council members.

He advised Council that he had provided them with a copy of a Monthly Fund Report which is the result of a Virginia School Board Policy change that was adopted by the Norton City School Board on November 9, 2009. This report is for the period ending December of 2009.

At this time, Dr. Comer presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2008-2009 budget surplus which totals \$312,594 and advised that they wish Council would reappropriate these funds back to the Schools to establish a Textbook Fund in the amount of \$142,592; \$95,369 for a Health Insurance Retirement Incentive Plan Fund, and \$55,337 for the Norton Elementary & Middle School overage costs. He then discussed two options that Council could consider.

Following a discussion, Councilman Caruso stated he would like to propose a third option. This option is to table any action on this until the City has held its CIP Meeting and is in receipt of the state budget when the City will have more definite information. The item of the Norton Elementary-Middle School Project overage can be addressed tonight.

Mr. McCall, Chairman of the Norton City School Board, stated that this delay would hamper their budget work.

Councilman Roop stated that he is willing to give these funds back to the School System. Being an employee of the School System, he advised that he had filed his Disclosure Form with the Clerk of Council tonight.

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following vote: YES – Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, ABSTAIN – Caruso, Council moved for the City Manager to advertise a public hearing to be held at the next City Council Meeting on March 2, 2010 to return the surplus funds back to the School System as per Option #1 as submitted by the School Board. This will enable the School System to establish two new accounts, one for the Textbook Fund and one for the Health Insurance Retirement Incentive Plan. (Insert – Councilman Roop's Disclosure Form)

Mayor Mays thanked Dr. Comer for his presentation.

Mark Hollyfield, Executive Director, of the Coeburn-Norton-Wise Regional Sewer Authority spoke to Council regarding his Authority and giving them some background information. It was formed in 1987 and, at that time, a four million gallon per day plant was the largest plant that the State would approve for C-N-W. A total of fifteen million dollars was borrowed and this debt will be paid off on January 1, 2012.

Upon applying for permit renewal, C-N-W asked for a five or six million gallon per day permit and they asked The Lane Group to look at options of going to a five or six million gallon per day facility. Mr. Bobby Lane of the The Lane Group is present tonight to give Council an update of this study.

Mr. Lane presented a PowerPoint presentation to Council. Following his presentation, he advised Council that their recommendations were: For C-N-W to obtain a permit for 5.0 mgd expansion; establish a time frame and flow limits for member localities; implement procedures for penalties and awards for flow compliance; apply for funding for a 6.0 mgd expansion from USDA-Rural Development under the ARRA Program; and to proceed with the plans and specs for a 6.0 mgd expansion.

24640

Mr. Lane advised he would be willing to answer any questions Council may have.

Mr. Hollyfield advised that the debt is down to two million dollars with four more payments. He stated he would like to express his appreciation to Mr. Ward and his staff for an excellent working relationship and also to City Council for their continued support. He recognized Mayor Mays as a founding Board Member, Vice Chairman, and Chairman of the C-N-W. He also advised that Mayor Mays was not recognized for his service on the Authority upon completion of his appointments. He took this time to present to Mayor Mays a plaque commending his years to service to the C-N-W.

Upon acceptance of his plaque, Mayor Mays advised that this had been one of the best projects in which the City has participated and commended the C-N-W Board for looking to the future.

Mr. Lane then answered some questions from Council members.

In their packets, Council had a request to approve a \$130,000 transfer to the Norton City Schools to cover payroll and fringe benefits.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a transfer in the amount of \$130,000 to the Norton City Schools.

24641

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward deferred to the Assistant City Manager, Fred Ramey.

Mr. Ramey advised that, in this year's budget, the City Administration was looking at creative ways to market our area. One of the items chosen was a City of Norton Local Areas of Interest Map backed with a map showing regional tourism opportunities. These maps have been distributed to various business locations throughout the City including hotels, hospitals, Chamber of Commerce, and governmental departments. Also the City has acquired www.visitnortonva.com as a domain for a future tourism website. Currently, this link takes visitors to a portion of the City's website dedicated to tourism opportunities. He also advised council members that copies of these maps may be

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downloaded from www.nortonva.gov. He then advised that he is currently working on a Street Map Project.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

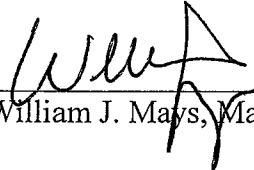
In comments from Council, Councilman Roop stated he would like to commend Mr. Ramey for the work he has done on the City's website and he feels the map will help with economic development. He also thanked him for the information supplied on the on line study of government financing. He also extended thanks to Mr. Ward for the letter he sent to Comcast and the letter sent to government officials regarding the financial situation currently in the Commonwealth. His thanks were also extended to the Police Department on the upcoming Citizen Academy and other items.

Councilman Caruso thanked Mr. Ramey for the hard work and long hours in getting the map prepared and he is very impressed with it. He then gave Council a short update on the Spearhead Trails.

Mayor Mays commended Councilman Caruso for his work on the Spearhead Trails and advised he appreciates the time each member of Council spends on behalf of the City.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk