

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 in the Municipal Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. 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 Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge led by Police Chief Randy Mullins.

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote Council moved to adopt the minutes of the April 6, 2010 meeting as presented.

24696

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Ms. Michele Adams of Thackers Branch Road spoke briefly to Council. She was representing the J. I. Burton After-Prom Party Committee and was seeking a donation from Council.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to donate \$1,000 to the J. I. Burton After-Prom Party Committee with said funds to come from Unappropriated Reserves.

24697

During this discussion, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council.

24698

The City Manager advised Council that the Wise County School Board will hold a meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> to narrow the choices of school models. He advised that this information is on their website for review. He then advised Council that he and Mr. Shupe had discussed several financial scenarios regarding the City School System should the system remain independent. This was then shown to Council via a PowerPoint presentation with paper copies to be sent to them. He then went over each scenario with Council. His conclusions were that if the Norton City Schools remain independent and not consolidate with Wise County, there are going to have to be physical and curriculum improvements made to J. I. Burton High School and additional revenue will have to be provided to the schools. A commitment to J. I. Burton High School will have to be made over the next ten years. He then advised that he would be willing to answer any questions Council would have regarding this presentation.

24699

Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Ward for this information.

Councilman Roop advised that Council will have to look down the road regarding this topic.

At Council's last meeting, the agenda item of whether to open the City's pool for the current season was tabled until tonight's meeting. Mr. Ward advised that it will take approximately \$25,000 to operate the pool and there will be additional charges to do

some improvements in order to open. At the last meeting, he had presented Council with a recommendation for a long term plan which includes funding provided in the 2010-2011 budget of \$10,000 - \$15,000 for a Preliminary Architectural Report on a new water park type facility and gutting and renovating the Community Center.

Mayor Mays advised he was in favor of spending a minimal amount to make repairs to the pool in order for it to be open this season, do the Preliminary Architectural Report, and advise our citizens that it probably won't be open next year.

Councilman Fawbush advised that he agreed it is too late to close the pool for this season without a plan in place. Councilman Roop concurred with this.

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to provide minimal funding for repairs in order to open the pool this season and to start on plans for a new facility.

Dr. Jeff Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, spoke to Council regarding their 2010-2011 budget. He discussed with Council, via a PowerPoint presentation, the impact of state funding reductions, a revenue update, expenditure update and analysis, health insurance analysis, salary analysis, a debt service update as well as Textbook Fund, school system budget reductions, and capital projects. He advised that this budget includes a two percent cost of living raise for school board employees. The final amount they are requesting from Council for this budget is \$1,904,546, which is \$91,824 less than the previous year.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Mays thanked Dr. Comer for this presentation and advised that Council would take this budget in consideration during their work session following tonight's meeting.

Mr. David Dawson of Thompson and Litton was present to give Council an update on the Upper Norton Reservoir Project. Mr. Dawson discussed with Council a letter, which was included in their packets, received from the Department of Conservation and Recreation that delays the approval of our Alteration Permit based on the adoption of Senate Bill No. 276 in this past session of the General Assembly. Funding for this project has been secured from USDA-Rural Development and the State Health Department.

Following a discussion, the City Manager advised that Council needs to take action on two items. The first is if they wish to proceed with the improvement of our spillway capacity to 100% capacity which is what Council has already approved or reduce it to 90%, which this legislation will permit, and secondly to support moving the project to 2011, with bids being sought in October of this year.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to proceed with improving our spillway capacity to 100% of the Probable Maximum Flood Design and Plan as previously approved.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the construction of this project to 2011.

In their packets, Council had requests for two separate water connections outside the corporation limits. The first was for Mona L. Huff of 6423 West Norton Road and the second was for Rick C. McArthur of 8532 Ramsey Road.

24703

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve two water taps outside the corporate limits for Mona L. Huff and Rick C. McArthur.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, 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.

24704

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

24705

Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

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

24706

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the Lonesome Pine Regional Library would like a member of Council to serve as Grand Marshall of their Big Read, which will be held in the City Park from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

24707

Councilman Roop advised he would serve as Council's representative.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that there was a fair attendance at the final tax property sale and he would recommend the acceptance of the successful bid to the Circuit Court. He advised the bid was enough to cover the back tax liability and to cover the cost of litigation as well.

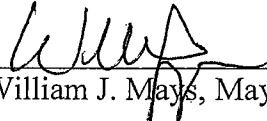
24708

There were no comments from Council members.

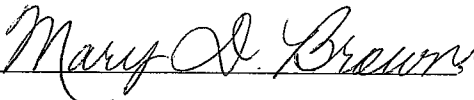
24709

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned for ten minutes prior to Council going into a budget workshop.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary A. Brown, Clerk