

A rescheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, July 13, 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 the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Councilman Terry Roop.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the June 15, 2010 meeting as presented.

24776

During the Mayor's call for visitors, J. D. Adams of Highland Avenue spoke briefly to Council advising that the 9-10 year old Girls Softball Team of the Norton Little League had won the District 13 title and would be traveling to Yorktown for the state finals. He advised that they will need approximately \$7,700 for the trip and the girls have earned, through a bake sale and car wash, approximately \$2,000 and they have \$2,000 pledged from local businesses and the community. He asked for Council's consideration of whatever funds they could donate.

24777

Councilman Roop stated it was commendable that the girls had raised approximately \$2000 on their own and that a tour of Williamsburg and Yorktown was planned.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to appropriate up to \$3,000 for the girls softball team's expenses to the state finals in Yorktown. These funds are to come from Contingency and Council asked that receipts be brought back for the expenses. Council then wished the girls good luck in the state finals.

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

24778

Council held a public hearing on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 20-31 of the Norton City Code as Pertains to Fishing in the Upper Reservoir.

Mr. Ward advised that he had presented a draft ordinance to Council at the last meeting and advised this ordinance will allow catch and release of all fish except trout.

Councilman Caruso thanked Council for their consideration of this ordinance.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

24779

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

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT - None, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City

Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 20-31 of the Norton City Code as Pertains to Fishing in the Upper Reservoir. (Insert)

The City Manager advised that at the May 4, 2010 Council meeting, Council considered support for the "Let Freedom Ring" activity which is to be held September 23 – September 26, 2010 at the Lonesome Pine Airport. At that time, Council asked the City Manager to contact Mr. Spera stating that Council would support this activity, but would like to wait until the new budget year. Mr. Ward advised he would be glad to answer any questions Council might have.

24780

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 appropriate \$500 for the "Let Freedom Ring" activity and to bring this item up again at the August 17th meeting to see if more funds are needed by Mr. Spera. The City Manager was asked to solicit additional information as to how much other localities are appropriating to this activity. These funds will come from Contingency.

The City Manager advised Council that he had supplied them with additional information on a two-sided digital sign for the City Parking Lot on Park Avenue and the relocation of this sign. This was per Council's request at the meeting of May 4th.

Mr. Ward advised that a new double-sided sign would cost approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000 and a rendering of this sign was included for Council's review.

24781

Following a lengthy discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and adopted by the following roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – Hunnicutt, ABSENT – None, Council authorized an appropriation of \$40,000 for a two sided digital sign to be relocated at the front of the Municipal Parking Lot on Park Avenue with funds to come from Unappropriated Reserves. The City Manager is also to seek bids from other companies on this sign.

Mr. Ward advised that the bids could come in early September and start construction in October after the season for the Farmers Market.

Council had stated that they would like to have a policy for municipal signs similar to the policy adopted for Channel 51. Mr. Ward advised that he had drafted a policy for Council and the City Attorney to review.

The City Attorney advised that he only saw one question and this was on the item of "Messages of a Political Nature".

24782

Following a lengthy discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the City of Norton Municipal Signs and Message Boards Policy with the correction to the item of "Messages of a Political Nature" to "Messages of a Partisan Political Nature". (Insert)

In their packets, Council had been given a copy of the 2009 Financial Audit of the Coeburn-Norton-Wise Regional Wastewater Authority on which they received an unqualified or clean opinion. Mr. Ward advised that they were in compliance with State regulations.

The City Manager then presented Council with highlights from this audit and advised that the original debt issued in 1989-1990 was \$15,488,020. The balance as of June 30, 2009 was \$2,307,065 and the debt will be fully retired in 2012.

24783

He further advised Council that once the debt is paid off in 2012, the City's contribution, in theory, will be cut in half and also advised that new service agreements will have to be re-negotiated before January 1, 2012. Mr. Ward advised he would be willing to answer any questions Council may have.

Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Ward for this presentation.

At this time, Mayor Mays turned the meeting over to Vice Mayor Joseph Fawbush and advised he would be abstaining from discussion and vote on this item as he has a son who is a police officer for the City.

Vice Mayor Fawbush advised that Council has before them A Resolution of Governing Body of City of Norton and advised that the City is in receipt of a grant from RADA for the purchase of a Police Department vehicle in the amount of \$28,875. This grant is from stimulus funds and is a 75% grant and 25% matching funds. He advised that he would like Council to go forward with this grant and allow him to sign documents for this grant.

24784

Councilman Roop advised he would like to take advantage of this grant.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, NO – None, ABSENT – None, ABSTAIN – Mays, Council moved to adopt a Resolution of Governing Body of City of Norton. (Insert)

Vice Mayor Fawbush turned the meeting back over to Mayor Mays.

Mayor Mays advised that Council has a Code of Conduct which has to be adopted when getting Rural Development funds.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt a Code of Conduct. (Insert)

24785

Council had been presented, in their packets, copies of three checks for approval. One check was to The First Bank and Trust Company for an interest payment on the loan for the Norton Elementary School Debt Service in the amount of \$179,329.16. The second check was to Boring Contractors for the Guest River Interceptor Project – Phase 1 in the amount of \$105,656.38 and the third was to Boring Contractors for the Guest River Interceptor Project – Phase 2 in the amount of \$127,024.38.

24786

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the three checks as listed above.

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 and the discussion and consideration of the acquisition of real property as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

24787

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

24788

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, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

24789

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

The City had received notification recently that Lenowisco had \$50,055 in construction dollars available for water and wastewater projects in the City. The City has applied for these funds for the Poplar Street Water Project following complaints from a resident of that area, Al Stecker.

W-L Paving is to repave Oak and Craig Streets hopefully within the next couple of weeks.

He and the Assistant City Manager had attended a meeting with VDOT regarding the signal at the Hawthorne Intersection location. They are proceeding with this project and they plan to go into construction in November and should be finished in February

24790

He had met with the architect on Monday, July 12th, for an initial meeting on the swimming pool. They discussed concepts, etc. and the architect will be coming to Council with a report.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

24791

Councilman Roop stated he was proud of the Parks and Recreation Department for offering a soccer camp; however he felt the \$50.00 fee is too much to charge. He also expressed his pleasure in the Police Department using the speed limit device recently at different locations around town.

There were no comments from Councilman Fawbush or Councilman Hunnicutt.

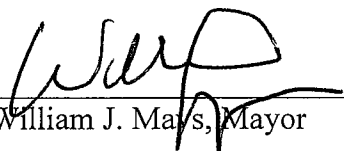
Councilman Caruso spoke briefly on an article in the Kingsport Times News regarding Hungry Mother State park being the third park in the state in generating revenue. He feels that the Trails Committee that he is serving on is not moving fast enough on the trails, etc. He further advertised that adventure tourism is the new coal.

24792

Mayor Mays advised the next meeting will be August 17th.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk