

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Mark Caruso and Terry Roop

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

The invocation was given by Rev. John Ellington and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Captain James C. Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the October 5, 2011 meeting as presented.

2519.

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

2519.

Council was given an update on the Upper Norton Dam Reservoir Project by David Dawson of Thompson and Litton via a PowerPoint presentation. He advised several slabs and walls have been poured. Two more slabs plus the walls will be done and this will be the stopping point for the winter. Exceptional progress has been made; however the project will not be finished this year.

2519!

Mr. Dawson advised Council he will answer any questions they may have.

Mr. Jeff Cochran of The Lane Group was present to give Council an update on the Fox Run Slide Project. He advised that the materials have been ordered for this project and, weather permitting, work should begin the first week in November. Traffic will have to be rerouted through Saw Mill Hollow for a week due to the drilling.

2519!

Mr. Cochran advised he would answer any questions Council may have.

Council had a request by Norton Community Hospital for a Special Use Permit to use City right-of-way on 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Freddie Mullins, representing the hospital, spoke briefly to Council advising they would like to have a revocable permit for using City right-of-way on 15<sup>th</sup> Street for the relocation of the helipad. They are moving this helipad closer to the Emergency Room.

2519!

The City Attorney advised that as long as the permit is revocable there should be no problems.

Mr. Mullins answered questions from Council.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to grant a Revocable Permit to Norton Community Hospital to use City right-of-way on 15<sup>th</sup> Street for the relocation of a helipad.

The City Manager advised that the City was in receipt of a letter from the Virginia Department of Health regarding a funding package for a water project known as the

Phase I Water Project. The funding package for this project is \$1,472,037 and is a 50% grant and 50% loan. The loan will be a 3% loan for 30 years and the City's annual payment will be approximately \$37,000.

Mr. Jeff Cochran of The Lane Group spoke to Council advising that this project will replace water lines along 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Pine Street, a portion of Spruce Street, Frog Level, and Dorchester. Also included in this project will be purchase of 2,000 radio read water meters. He further advised that the City only has until October 31<sup>st</sup> to accept the offer.

Following a brief discussion, Council was advised that the primary point of this project is to protect the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Pump Station. It will improve fire protection, be beneficial in water productivity, and reduce power costs at the pump station as well as replacement of water meters with radio read water meters.

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 with the application on the Phase I Water Project from the Virginia Department of Health in the amount of \$1,472,037 which is a 50% grant and 50% loan at 3% for 30 years.

In their packets, Council had been presented with a letter from D. C. Mullins, Chief of the Norton Fire Department, advising Council of the working officers and business officers of the Department for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Mr. Ward advised that the business officers are elected by the members of the department and the working officers are appointed by City Council. He then read the list of officers to be appointed.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to accept the slate of working officers for the Norton Fire Department as presented by the Fire Chief.

Council had a copy of a transfer request from the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$510,000 to cover payroll and fringes.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a transfer to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$510,000.

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.

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

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 then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting.

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

25203

At this time, Mayor Mays announced that this announcement is one of the toughest jobs he has had to do on City Council. He advised he has experienced a very good relationship and friendship, both personal and business, with Mr. Ward. He then announced that Mr. Ward has submitted his letter of resignation effective March 30, 2012 advising Council of his impending retirement. Although happy for Mr. Ward and wishing him the best, it is sad for the City. He stated that Mr. Ward has been a good friend, a good leader for the City, and his integrity is beyond reproach.

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There were no comments from the City Manager

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In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he is still acquiring right-of-ways for the sewer project and has three easements for one property that needs to be signed by the Mayor. He advised Council that he recommends acceptance by them and asks that they authorize the Mayor to accept and sign these easements.

25206

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the Mayor to accept and execute the easements presented to him tonight by the City Attorney.

In comments from Council members:

Councilman Hunnicutt jokingly stated that Mr. Ward was not old enough to be retiring.

Councilman Fawbush stated that he wished Mr. Ward the best in his endeavors and that the citizens and City Council of the City of Norton are truly grateful for what he has done. He has been the front man for Council, fielding a lot of obstacles and problems, and he further stated he honestly felt that without the efforts of Mr. Ward and his staff several years ago, the City may have had to revert back to a town status. They secured the shopping center and worked with developers to do so. That was quite a feat and he thanked Mr. Ward for that.

25207

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

At this time, Mayor Mays reconvened the meeting for an item to be discussed. At the last meeting, he had brought up the issue of using surplus monies from the Tennis Court Project of approximately \$20,000 to give City employees an additional amount of money to be included in their Christmas bonus since they have not had a raise in two years.

25208

Councilman Fawbush advised that the project he had mentioned at the previous council meeting is still being worked on and it appears that equipment will be leased

rather than purchased. This project is one that will allow movies to be shown in the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Park.

Mayor Mays advised that \$150 per employee would total \$18,000.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve that each employee will receive an additional \$150 to be added to their Christmas bonus with said funds to come from the surplus from the Tennis Court Project. Councilman Fawbush further stated that the City has good employees in all departments with good plans and crews in place and all is running smoothly.

At this time with no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
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William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk