

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 in the Municipal Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, Joseph Hunnicutt, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Terry Roop

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Rev. Ken Taylor and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by the City Attorney, Bill Bradshaw.

At this time, Mayor Mays amended the agenda to include under Item 7-F Closed Meeting – The discussion of the disposition of publicly held real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

25345

There were no objections from Council members.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 20, 2012 meeting and the March 26, 2012 work session as presented.

25346

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

25347

Mr. Ramey advised that Council had previously discussed the topic of a new roof at J. I. Burton High School and at the work session with the School Board on March 26, 2012, Mr. Joe Hale of HDH Associates was present and spoke of new and more economical options for this roof.

25348

Dr. Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City School System and Ron McCall, Chairman of the Norton School Board, were due to be here tonight regarding this. Due to their absence, Mayor Mays tabled action on this item until their arrival.

In their packets, Council had been given a copy of an update on the second Service Agreement with the C-N-W Authority for their review. This draft is one that is a joint effort from the participants and not the Authority. It was presented to the Authority on March 20th and no reaction has been received from them.

Mr. Ramey advised that he had attended the C-N-W public hearing on March 21st and expressed the City's concerns on accepting the Josephine Pump Station. He stated this would be a new area for the City, along with new costs, and this work may have to be contracted out.

25349

The C-N-W has advised if this new Service Agreement is not adopted by the end of June, they could lose their financing for the expansion project.

Following a lengthy discussion during which Councilman Caruso spoke of the various items with which he had concerns, the City Attorney advised that he would look into all of these items and that another draft would be forthcoming.

Dr. Scott Hamilton, President of Mountain Empire Community College, spoke to Council presenting them with an update of happenings at the college. He advised that enrollment is down approximately five percent and campus improvement projects are progressing. They are still awaiting budget information from the VCCS.

25350

Mayor Mays expressed his appreciation to Dr. Hamilton for this update and for the work he is doing at the college.

Council had a request from the Norton City Schools to amend their 2011-2012 budget in the amount of \$13,163 to cover encumbrances as of June 30, 2011.

Mr. Ramey advised that two school board members, Mr. McElroy and Mr. Childers, were present and could possibly answer questions regarding this item.

25351

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the 2011-2012 budget of the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$13,163 to cover encumbrances as of June 30, 2011.

A request was made to Council from the J. I. Burton After-Prom Committee for an appropriation of \$1,000 to match donated funds this Committee has received.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council approved an appropriation of \$1,000 to the J. I. Burton After-Prom Committee with said funds to come from Contingency.

25352

The City Manager presented Council members with updated information on the current year reassessment. He advised that it appears the City's taxable real property values increased by more than 1% and, per Section No. 58.1-3321 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, a public hearing will need to be held.

A memorandum from the Commissioner of the Revenue advised that the Board of Equalization scheduled and held 9 appointments with concerned property owners regarding 18 parcels of which 13 received changes.

25353

Following a discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that a public hearing be advertised keeping the real estate tax rate of \$.80 per \$100.

A Proclamation for the National Public Safety – 911 Telecommunicators Week of April 8-14, 2012 was presented to Council for adoption.

Mayor Mays advised he would be happy to adopt this proclamation.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Proclamation for the National Public Safety – 911 Telecommunicators Week of April 8-14, 2012. (Insert)

25354

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, 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 to discuss the disposition of publicly held real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. 25355

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting. 25356

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 Caruso, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Mays – NO – None, ABSENT – Roop, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert) 25357

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Tourism Committed to fill an unexpired term to May 2, 2012.

Councilman Caruso nominated Benjie Spurlock.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease. 25358

Mayor Mays declared Benjie Spurlock appointed to the City of Norton Tourism Board to fill an unexpired term to May 2, 2012.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Planning Commission to fill an unexpired term to July 31, 2013.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Danny Holt. 25359

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

Mayor Mays declared Danny Holt appointed to the City of Norton Planning Commission to fill an unexpired term to July 31, 2013.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations, which will be submitted to the Wise County Circuit Court, to the City of Norton Board of Zoning Appeals to fill an unexpired term to June 2, 2014.

Councilman Hunnicutt nominated J. D. Adams. 25360

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

Mayor Mays declared the name of J. D. Adams be submitted to the Wise County Circuit Court for appointment to the City of Norton Board of Zoning Appeals to fill an unexpired term to June 2, 2014.

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

Prior to the meeting, he presented each member of Council with the latest tear off pad which has a map on one side and activities, festivals, events, restaurants, etc. on the other. A pad will be given to area hotels and restaurants. This is also available as a PDF on our website.

Flag Rock opened on Sunday, April 1st.

On Monday, April 2nd, the upper reservoir was opened for a limited time for fishing.

Mountain View Regional Medical Center will have a ribbon cutting on April 11th at 10:00 a.m. for the new Emergency Department. Council members are invited to attend and if any member is available to speak at this occasion, please advise him.

Tickets are available at his office for the Wise County Chamber of Commerce Annual Gala to be held on April 14th at the Holiday Inn.

On April 14th, Earth Day activities and the Farmers Market will be held from 11:00 – 2:00 at the parking lot by the Chamber of Commerce. This event is sponsored by the City of Norton Recreation Department.

The annual Adopt-A-Truck and Free Pick-Up Program, which is held in conjunction with the Great American Pick-Up, will be held April 13 – 23, 2012. Anyone interested should contact Mrs. Brown at the City offices.

25361

He has supplied each member of Council with the most recent annual report from VCEDA.

Included in informational packets was a letter to Mr. Ward from Police Chief J. C. Lane advising of some publications the Police Department now has available. He asked Chief Lane to come forward and briefly advise Council on this topic.

After Chief Lane's comments, Mayor Mays advised him that he had received several complimentary comments on the Police Department since he has taken over. He expressed his appreciation to Chief Lane for the job he is doing.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he will submit the order on the nomination to the Board of Zoning Appeals shortly. All other items on which he is working are going smoothly.

25362

In comments from City Council, Councilman Caruso advised that he would like to express thanks for the opening of the upper reservoir for fishing even though it is for a limited time.

He also expressed thanks to those who spoke civilly during the work session with the City of Norton School Board on the topic of consolidation. He reiterated that he remains committed to finding a viable solution to keeping our schools before finding a viable solution to giving them away.

25363

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk