

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 in the Municipal Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor William Mays presiding.

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

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

The invocation was given by Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by James Adams.

At this time, Mayor Mays advised he would like to amend the agenda to include under Item 7-D 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.

25364

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to amend the agenda under Item 7-D Closed Meeting as specified above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the special called meeting of March 29, 2012 as presented.

25365

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of April 3, 2012 as presented.

In the audience for visitors, Stephanie Adams, 1228 Park Avenue, NW spoke regarding an article that had appeared in the newspaper regarding the Norton School System and she voiced her disagreement with that article and cited statistics from the Virginia State Report Card 2008-2011. After presenting these statistics, she stated that the City is offering better education to its students than the County.

25366

Dr. Jeff Begley, 5720 Back Valley Road, Big Stone Gap, addressed Council on several items. The first of these items is the rumor that Council is having discussions on the topic of selling property in the City to Wise County on which they plan to build a new high school. His second comment was that everyone's opinion should be looked at and he feels as if there is an all time low in transparency and keeping the citizens informed in the City. His last comment was regarding the joint meeting with the School Board and some comments that were made prior to the meeting.

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He asked that Council not sell the land to Wise County and advised that it would not help J. I. Burton or the Norton City Schools.

Council had the item of the new roof at J. I. Burton High School on the agenda. Mr. Ramey advised that he had received an e-mail and call from Dr. Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, who apologized for not appearing at the last meeting due to a

miscommunication. Dr. Comer advised that the School Board would like to be placed on the agenda for the May 1, 2012 meeting to discuss the roof replacement at the J. I. Burton High School, discuss surplus funds, and an additional appropriation due to increase enrollment. (Insert – Councilman Roop’s Disclosure Form which was given to the Clerk prior to the meeting regarding the subject of the roof replacement at J. I. Burton and the consideration/discussion as pertains to possible transfer of land between NIDA/City Council and Wise County Schools.)

2536

Mayor Mays advised the City Manager to place these items on the next agenda.

Mr. Ramey advised the item of the Second Service Agreement with CNW is on the agenda to keep Council updated. There have been no additional meetings since Council discussed this at their previous meeting; therefore the draft agreement is the same as was presented to Council at that time. He advised they had received the comments from Councilman Caruso and had sent them to the participants who are working on this new agreement. The City had received a memorandum from Mark Hollyfield, Executive Director of the C-N-W Authority, stating that the latest draft had been sent to the Virginia Resources Authority. If council members have any additional concerns regarding this draft, please advise him.

2536'

The topic of the proposed transfer of ownership of the Josephine Sewer Project was discussed with Council. Mr. Ramey advised that a copy of the City’s agreement dated June 29, 2009 was included in Council’s packet for review. The 1.7 million dollar completed project now serves 97 homes. He is working with the City Attorney on the transfer of assets from the project to the Wise County Public Service Authority as stipulated in the agreement. He further advised that this topic will be on the agenda during the next few months.

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The City Attorney advised that there will need to be a public hearing advertised and held and Council can act, by ordinance, after that time. This procedure will take some time and items will be brought back to Council.

Mayor Mays thanked both Mr. Ramey and Mr. Bradshaw for their comments.

Mr. Ramey advised that the City of Norton Water Treatment Plant had received special recognition recently and asked Mr. Tommy Roberts, Superintendent of the Water Plant, to come forward and discuss this with Council.

Mr. Roberts advised that he had recently attended the 24th annual Virginia Rural Water Association Conference in Roanoke and the City was the recipient of the 2011 Water System of the Year Award. This award covered the entire distribution system from source to tap. Two of the main achievements for which this award was received are the Upper Reservoir Project and water production from 1.0 million gallons per day to under 800,000 gallons per day.

25371

Mr. Roberts received a round of applause from those present and Mr. Ramey stated he was very proud of Mr. Roberts stating that our accountability is up to 70 plus percent due to the work of Mr. Roberts, Mr. McElroy, and the Transmission and Distribution Crew.

The City Manager gave Council a brief update on the 2012-2013 budget timeline. Due to the General Assembly’s failure to adopt a budget, it now appears that Council will

have to hold two special meetings in June in order to meet mandated timelines in the budget adoption process. Two dates on which items have been advertised are: May 1st the item of the discussion of encumbrances for the previous year and May 15th the item of Property Tax Increase will be on the agenda. The dates of June 12th and June 26th are tentatively set for special called meetings. 25372

Mr. Ramey asked Council members to pencil in these dates and advise him of any conflicts.

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 2.1-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended and to discuss the disposition of a 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. 25373

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting. 25374

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, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert) 25375

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the 2012 VML Policy Committees.

Councilman Caruso nominated the following: Fred Ramey on the Community and Economic Development Committee, Tommy Roberts on the Environmental Quality Committee, Jeff Shupe on the Finance Committee, Fred Ramey on the General Laws Committee, Roger Ramey on the Human Development & Education Committee, and Steve McElroy on the Transportation Committee. 25376

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

Mayor Mays declared the individuals listed above to serve on the 2012 VML Policy Committees as noted above.

At this time, upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Mays, NO – Caruso, Roop, ABSENT – None, Council moved that pursuant to the City's developmental agreements and our Memorandums of Understanding, authorization was given to the Norton Industrial Development Authority to continue negotiations with County officials regarding an option for a real property purchase in the Hawthorne Drive/Walmart Shopping Center area of the City and County. 25377

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

The intersection improvement to Hawthorne Drive and Rt. 58 is about finished. The traffic signal is installed and lane improvement should be completed this week or next. A good portion of Hawthorne Drive that has been affected by the improvements will be repaved.

He passed out to Council members hand-outs covering the Great American Clean-Up done annually with Wise County, will be held on April 21st from 9:00 – 2:00 at the Coalfield Parking Lot. Also conducted that day will be the Riches in the Ditches Program.

Clean Your Files Day will be held at the Magic Mart parking lot on Friday, April 27th, from 10:00 – 3:00 p.m.

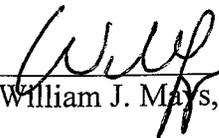
Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held at the Magic Mart parking lot on Saturday, May 5th from 10:00 – 2:00 p.m.

The City Attorney advised that Council had authorized and directed him at the last meeting to file a petition to the Wise County Circuit Court for the appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals. He has done so and has received the Judge's order on this.

In comments from Council, Councilman Roop thanked those who stayed through tonight's long meeting and advised the decision on consolidation has been a very very difficult one. In order to go forward and if Norton is to compete, all Council members, school board members, City Administration, and stakeholders must make a commitment to work together, focus, and develop an action plan to get this done.

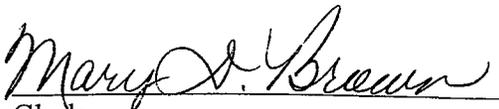
There being no further comments to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk