

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Mark Caruso and 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 Dr. Jeff Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, the minutes of the May 20, 2014 meeting were approved as presented.

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At this time, Mayor Mays amended the agenda to include Item 7-C-1 A Resolution Highlighting the City's Commitment to Outdoor Recreation.

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

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A public hearing was held on the City of Norton Schools proposed 2014-2015 budget. Dr. Jeff Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, was present and advised Council that their budget totals \$7,906,954 and he would be willing to answer any questions that Council may have. He further stated he and the School Board appreciated Council's support.

The City Manager advised that the public hearing had been duly advertised per City Code.

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There were no comments from Council prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

The 2014-2015 Norton City Schools Budget will be considered for adoption at the June 20<sup>th</sup> regularly scheduled council meeting.

A public hearing was held to receive public comments on the proposed combined Stormwater Management and Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance.

The City Manager advised that this proposed ordinance has been discussed at the last several meetings of Council and Council had authorized the City Administration to advise the state that the City is going to manage its own program. Winfred Collins, the City Building Official, gave Council an update at their May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and the only point of discussion was how the appeals process would be handled.

A new first page of this ordinance had been given to Council members as there was a title change. The City Attorney had advised that the existing ordinance needs to be repealed and a public hearing will have to be held in order to do this.

Mr. Ramey advised that Mr. Collins was present again tonight to answer any questions Council may have.

Mr. Bradshaw advised that both the repealing of the current ordinance and the passage of the proposed combined Stormwater Management and Sediment Control Ordinance should be done at the same time.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

In comments from Council, Councilman Fawbush stated he had a concern with the appeals process starting with Council. This was suggested at the previous meeting and Council had directed the City Administration to modify the ordinance to reflect this. After discussion, the City Attorney was asked to present additional options for Council to consider at the next meeting.

After a discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to advertise a public hearing to repeal the existing Sediment Control Ordinance which is Section 7 of the City Code.

Mr. Ramey also advised that at the next meeting, the City Administration will provide Council the additional scenarios of the appeals process from which they can decide. They are: #1 - from Winfred Collins, Building Official, to the City Manager to Council or #2 - going from Winfred Collins to the City Manager to the Wise County Circuit Court.

Included in Council's packet for consideration was a Fee Schedule for the Stormwater Management and Erosion & Sediment Control Program Administration and Permit Issuance.

Mr. Ramey advised that no action needed to take place tonight unless Council decided to do so. It is separate from the ordinance due to the fact that should there be any changes to the fees in the future the ordinance would not have to be changed.

Following a brief discussion and upon the recommendation of the City Attorney, consideration and adoption of this fee schedule will be done at the next meeting when the new ordinance will be adopted.

Council had been presented with a PowerPoint presentation on the City's 2014-2015 Budget. Mr. Ramey advised this is the fourth time that Council has seen this budget which has been impacted by several factors. These factors are: Delayed information on state budget impact to City and other agencies, decreased revenues, guidance to attempt to delay a real estate tax increase, and General Fund debt.

He went over highlights of the various areas of the overall budget. The Norton City Schools will receive \$2,260,495 in this budget. As directed by Council, discretionary agencies were cut ten percent from the current budget allocation.

In conclusion, he advised that the 2014-2015 budget is in the approximate amount of 9.4 million dollars and is \$28,342 less than the current budget with no real estate tax increase. There is a proposed increase on the Transient Occupancy Tax of 2% from 4% to 6%), garbage rate increase of \$2.00 with a corresponding increase for commercial customers, and personal property tax increase of \$ .20 to \$2.05, an increase to a couple of revenue line items due to historical trends, and no transfer from reserves. There is a proposed rate increase in water rates, both in and out of the City and no COLA raise for

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employees. He sought authorization from Council to advertise a public hearing for the increase of the Transient Occupancy Tax and for the increases of Personal Property tax rate, and direction on the funding of discretionary funded agencies and the funding of the Lonesome Pine Regional Library.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to advertise a public hearing for the City of Norton 2014-2015 budget with a rate increase in water and garbage rates, an increase in the personal property tax rate, and the Transient and Occupancy Tax.

Council had been provided with a copy of a check payable to the Norton Industrial Development Authority in the amount of \$122,004.25.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check payable to the Norton Industrial Development Authority in the amount of \$122,004.25.

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The City Manager advised that Councilman Caruso asked that City Council adopt a resolution regarding outdoor recreation which can be read at the Saturday, June 7th dedication of a mountain bike trail that Council had authorized three years ago.

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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 Highlighting the City's Commitment to Outdoor Recreation. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting as per section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

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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 into open meeting.

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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 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)

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Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Board of Zoning Appeals.

Councilman Hunnicutt nominated William "Butch" Hutchinson, William Bledsoe and Fred Gerald Lawson, Jr. to five year terms on this Board which will expire on June 2, 2019. These names will be submitted to the Wise County Circuit Court for appointment.

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

Mayor Mays declared William "Butch" Hutchinson, William Bledsoe, and Fred Gerald Lawson, Jr. nominated to the Board of Zoning Appeals for terms of five years which will expire June 2, 2019.

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

The dedication ceremony for the new trail, which is 1.82 miles long, will be held Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 at Shelter #2 at Flag Rock.

With the current budget schedule, we need to have a third meeting this month and he suggests that it will be on June 24<sup>th</sup>. It was the concurrence of Council to do so.

U. S. District Ranger Jorge Hersel has invited Council for a personal tour of the High Knob Tower Project in order that Council can see the status and their use of the City fill material that Council authorized. Please advise him and he will schedule a tour on Council members' behalf. Completion is scheduled for the second week in August.

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Best Friend Festival kicks off on June 10<sup>th</sup> and runs until June 14<sup>th</sup>. A schedule of events was left on the desk of each council member.

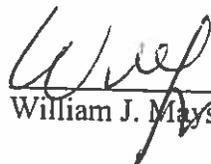
The annual July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks will be held on Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

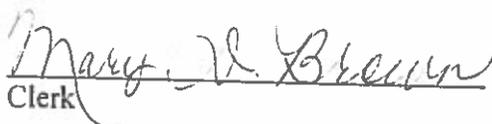
In comments from Council members, Councilman Fawbush asked if the old water tank located at the head of 5<sup>th</sup> Street and not in use could be taken down for the steel contained in it. Mr. Ramey advised he would check into this.

There being 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

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