

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, October 1, 2013 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: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., 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 Police Chief James C. Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the September 17, 2013 meeting as presented.

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

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The City Manager advised that as of September 25th, we had a total reservoir capacity of 90.9 million gallons of water and a total of 2.55 inches of rain in September.

As of today (October 1st), we have a total of 92 million gallons capacity in both reservoirs and a total rainfall of 3.15 inches in September. Both of these figures are above our normal 20 year average.

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He will continue to keep Council informed on the water reserves.

Mr. Ramey introduced Mr. Eric Price of Thompson and Litton, the Project Engineer on the Upper Dam Spillway Project. Mr. Price took over when David Dawson, the project engineer, became ill and was not able to complete the project.

Mr. Price spoke briefly to Council and thanked them for the opportunity to work on this project advising that it has been almost a year since its completion. Rural Development did a one year inspection and advised everything looks good. Soon the City will receive a regular operational permit for both the upper and lower reservoirs. This is something the City has not had in a period of time.

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He then presented Council with a matted and framed collage print of the upper reservoir project showing the spillway. This picture was taken from a drone helicopter flying over the area.

Mayor Mays and members of Council thanked Mr. Price and Thompson and Litton for the job done on this project and for the framed print.

Council had been presented with A Resolution of the City of Norton, Virginia Authorizing Irrevocable Election Not to Participate in Virginia Local Disability Program.

The City Manager advised that in recent years the General Assembly had made dramatic changes impacting local governments. A new plan for new employees coming into the Virginia Retirement System goes into effect January 1, 2014 and is part of the new VRS Hybrid Plan for new employees. In addition also effective January 1, 2014, the

VRS Disability Program will be modified for all new employees. In this case, the local government has some input on whether to participate with VRS or not. He has asked the Finance Director, Jeff Shupe, to present a PowerPoint presentation to Council on this new program.

Mr. Shupe gave an overview of this plan which will only affect new employees. The City can either participate and go with the plan submitted by VRS or choose an alternative plan by December 1st of this year with either decision being irrevocable. Two plans that the City has reviewed have lower premiums than the VRS Plan. The City requested from VRS and received an extension deadline of November 1, 2013. He further advised that hazardous duty employees covered under enhanced benefits are exempt from the Hybrid Retirement Plan and will continue to be covered under the VRS Disability Retirement. It was the recommendation of the City Administration to opt out on the Virginia Retirement System's VLDP as it is more expensive than other options, the City will maintain more control over benefit offering, and can go out for procurement as needed.

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During this discussion, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council.

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Following Mr. Shupe's answering questions from Council, a motion was made by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to take the recommendation of the City Administration to opt out of the Virginia Retirement System's Virginia Local Disability Program and adopt A Resolution of the City of Norton, Virginia Authorizing Irrevocable Election Not to Participate in Virginia Local Disability Program. (Insert)

25932

In their packets, Council had a request from Ball Construction Company for a sewer tap for Optafuel located at 5516 Industrial Park Road, which is the former Buster Brown Building. Mr. Ramey advised this would be a second sewer tap for this site.

Following a discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve a sewer tap for Ball Construction for Optafuel at 5516 Industrial Park Road with an expiration date of six months.

25933

The City Manager introduced Mr. Rick Watts who gave Council an update on an EarthCache he established within the City at Flag Rock. After providing handouts to Council, Mr. Watts advised Council that an EarthCache is a geological site such as rock formations, waterfalls, volcanoes, etc. The listing for this location will be published on October 13th at Flag Rock. He also advised of other earthcaches he has found in the area.

25934

He thanked Council for the opportunity to have found this one at Flag Rock and answered questions from Council members.

Council informed Mr. Watts that they appreciate his efforts regarding Flag Rock and stated this should bring in additional tourists.

Members of Council will be attending the Virginia Municipal League's annual conference on the next meeting date of October 15th and Election Day is on the first meeting date in November. The City Manager asked Council for guidance on what should be done regarding these meeting dates.

25935

Mayor Mays advised holding a meeting on October 29th would be in line with both the October 15th and November 5th meeting dates and then have the second meeting in November on the 19th.

Following a discussion, it was the consensus of Council to cancel the October 15th and November 5th meetings and have a meeting on October 29th and November 19th.

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 and a discussion concerning a prospective business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' interest in locating in the City as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (5) of the Code of Virginia as amended. Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, Council moved to go back in 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 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)

25938

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Cumberland's Airport Commission for a four year term which will expire October 31, 2017.

Councilman Hunnicutt nominated W. H. "Wally" Witt to be reappointed to this Commission.

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

Mayor Mays declared W. H. "Wally" Witt reappointed to the Cumberland's Airport Commission for a four year term which will expire October 31, 2017.

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

Phase I Water Improvement Project is underway, with the contractor working in the West Norton/Dorchester area.

The Norton Parks & Recreation Department and Norton Lions Club will hold the Halloween Bash in the park on October 12th in the Norton City Park. A handout was given to Council members.

City offices will be closed Monday, October 14th for Columbus Day.
The tentative date for the Safe Route to Schools Project bid opening is Tuesday, October 15th. This date could possibly change.

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Thursday, October 17th, the Parks and Recreation Department will be sponsoring art classes for both children and adults. A handout was placed at council members' desks.

The International Walk to School Days is planned for Friday, October 18th. This will hopefully be the last such event on the existing sidewalk. He asked Council members to mark their calendars for this event.

The City Attorney advised he was continuing to work on the real estate tax sales.

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In comments from City Council, Councilman Caruso apologized for missing some meetings. He advised he was participating in an Entrepreneurship Challenge and hoping to receive a grant to establish a business in the City.

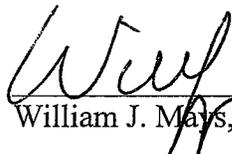
Councilman Roop advised the Halloween Bash in the Park is a good event for the youth of the City. He further advised that the Norton City School System is one of 36 of the state's 132 school divisions to be accredited.

25942

Mayor Mays advised he wanted to thank the Green Club Garden Club on the recent ceremony on the Blue Star Memorial for Veterans Park. He advised there was good attendance and it was a beautiful ceremony.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk