

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, Robert Fultz, William Mays, Joseph Fawbush, and Delores Belcher

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 Police Chief James C. Lane.

At this time, Mayor Mays officially welcomed newly appointed Councilman, Robert "Robbie" Fultz, to his first City Council meeting. On behalf of Council, he extended their appreciation for his acceptance of this appointment for the next eleven months. 25399

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the January 20, 2015 meeting as presented. 25400

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 25401

Michele Knox, the City's Park and Recreation Director, presented Council her annual report on her department via a PowerPoint presentation.

Slides depicting activities sponsored by her department were shown and a description of each was given by Ms. Knox. She advised of the classes held at the Community Center and Clear Creek Park, the basketball season for children, special activities in which her department participates, trail work, and co-sponsorship of activities with the Norton Lions Club and City schools. She advised Council that she and Becky Coffey co-manage the Farmers Market which is one of the busiest and most popular events held. Mr. Ramey advised he planned to have both Mrs. Coffey and Ms. Knox make a presentation to Council on the Farmers Market at an upcoming meeting. 25402

Other events also included work completed on the first phase of a trail which will run from the High Knob Tower to Legion Park. Also discussed were the environmental programs sponsored and rental of City facilities that fall under her department.

One activity that may not be held this year is the summer camp co-sponsored by the Appalachian Children's Theatre. The City Administration has been advised by them that this may not take place this summer.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Mays asked Ms. Knox to give Council a report of the costs incurred by the City due to the free reservations of park shelters prior to their budget work sessions. This would include overtime pay for P&R employees for activities booked over the week-end. Ms. Knox advised Mayor Mays that she would do so.

Councilman Fawbush stated he would like to see Flag Rock utilized more.

Mayor Mays stated she had a busy year and thanked her for annual report.

The City Attorney gave Council a brief update on the special election to be held to fill the unexpired term of office of Terry L. Roop. He advised the petition had been sent to the Wise County Circuit Court and the Judge had given a writ of election, which will be held in conjunction with the November 3, 2015 regular election. A notice will be sent to the Secretary of the Electoral Board and City Registrar advising them of this.

25 } 3

Councilman Caruso gave Council an update on the 2015 Legislative Reception recently held in Richmond. The City Manager, Councilman Caruso, and his wife, Carol, attended this and he worked with the delegation from Wise County. He advised that County Administrator, Shannon Scott, and the county representatives were very gracious and had a set agenda that was followed. They met with various legislators and state agencies. His conclusion was that there is nothing forthcoming from Richmond for far southwest Virginia.

○

25404

His conclusion was that he hoped the City could continue to attend this reception and he personally felt that he needed to be better prepared to attend this reception.

Mayor Mays thanked Councilman Caruso for this update and there were no questions from Council.

Councilman Caruso advised he is working on how to change the agenda for this two day period and to focus more on scheduling and allowing more meetings. He advised he would send this to the City Manager, who, in turn, can send to Council members.

The City Manager presented Council with a draft schedule for the upcoming 2015 Capital Improvement Meeting. Last year, Council decided to divide the meeting into two separate days rather than one long day and to hold them on Saturdays. He had tentatively scheduled the dates of February 28th and March 21st.

25 } 9

Councilman Fultz advised he has a prior commitment on the 28th. Mr. Ramey requested Council to check their calendars and advise him of what dates they would be available.

In their packets, Council had a copy of a transfer to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$250,000.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, 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 \$250,000.

2540

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, 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.

2540

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 in open meeting.

○

2540

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

25409

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a five year term to expire February 18, 2020.

Councilman Caruso nominated Steven McElroy to be appointed to this Board.

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

25410

Mayor Mays declared Steven McElroy reappointed to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a five year term to expire February 18, 2020.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Cumberland's Airport Commission for an unexpired term to expire October 31, 2017.

Councilwoman Belcher nominated Christopher Starnes to this Commission.

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

25411

Mayor Mays declared Christopher Starnes appointed to the Cumberland's Airport Commission for an unexpired term to expire October 31, 2017

The Mayor opened the floor for two nominations to the Norton Rescue Squad Board of Directors for a term to expire on February 1, 2016.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Councilman Mark Caruso to this Board.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following vote: YES – Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, ABSTAIN – Caruso, Council moved that the nominations cease.

25412

Mayor Mays declared Councilman Mark Caruso appointed to the Norton Rescue Squad Board of Directors for a term to expire on February 1, 2016.

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

The Memorandum of Understanding with the Norton Rescue Squad has been executed and they are now operating under it.

The Memorandum of Understanding with the Access Fund and Southwest Virginia Climbing Coalition will be executed tomorrow. Work will begin shortly on the items outlined in this document.

The Bond Closing for the Phase III Water Project is expected to be completed by February 12th. There will be a kick-off meeting with the contractor held next week.

The City's Water Treatment Plan has received the 2013 Fluoridation Award from the Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control.

25413

The deadline for the Requests for Proposals for the City's real estate reassessment services are due in soon. He has inquired if Council would like to participate in the review and awarding of this or if they want the City Administration to handle.

It was the consensus of Council for the City Administration to continue to handle this item.

With a new Council seated, he would like to schedule a photo shoot of Council members. After a brief discussion, he will check and see if this can be done on a Saturday prior to one of the CIP meetings.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

In comments from Council:

Councilwoman Belcher stated she had attended her first meeting of the City of Norton Community Policy and Management Board and is looking forward to working with them.

Councilman Fawbush thanked everyone for their well wishes following his hip surgery. He also stated work would begin in April on the Woodbooger Event which they hope to have earlier this year.

Mayor Mays advised he was glad Joe was back following surgery and thanked Councilman Fultz for agreeing to serve the next eleven months.

Councilman Fultz expressed his thanks for the opportunity to serve in this capacity for the remainder of the year and that it is a privilege for him to serve. He also expressed thanks to Councilman Caruso and the City Manager for the trip to Richmond. Regarding Ms. Knox's presentation tonight on Parks and Recreation, he stated as a resident in the vicinity of the 11th Street Park, it is really nice to see a lot of family oriented events there. He also advised the City furnishes a lot of activities without costs. He commended Ms. Knox and her Department for that.

Councilman Caruso stated that he had sent out an e-mail regarding a Big Foot statue that can be purchased for \$1,600 for the Flag Rock area. Councilman Fawbush advised he is working on a list of donors to donate money for the purchase of this statue.

He inquired about the Memorandum of Understanding with the Forest Service. Mr. Ramey advised that this will be done once the new permanent ranger is in place in April. The City Attorney has received this document and has highlighted some items contained within it and will bring it to Council for discussion.


He would like to proceed with the ATV Concept Plan for the City.

He inquired about the research in ATV Ordinances. Mr. Ramey advised the City has two in hand and continues to look for more.

Speaking on the recent trip to Richmond, he advised that those attending need to be better prepared and the City needs more in attendance to see how this process works. He stressed that going with Wise County is the way to go and he very much appreciates the County for allowing him to go with them.


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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk