

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 6, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers with Vice Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Jack Wallace, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Robert Raines and Bill Bradshaw

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager

Prior to the invocation, Vice Mayor Mays asked for a moment of silence due to the death of Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist and also for those who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina.

21146

The invocation was given by Rev. Jean Layell and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by Police Chief Kenny Jackson.

21147

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the August 16, 2005 meeting as presented.

21148

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

21149

A public hearing was scheduled for the consideration of the issuance of a Public Dance Hall Permit to the Holiday Inn and the Virginia-Kentucky Opry.

The City Manager advised this is an annual agenda item.

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

Vice Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

There being no public input, Vice Mayor Mays closed the public hearing.

Police Chief Kenny Jackson advised that the Police Department receives very few calls from these establishments considering the amount of people who frequent them and that he has no problem with these permits being reissued.

21150

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to grant Public Dance Hall Permits to the Holiday Inn and the Virginia-Kentucky Opry for one year.

Council had been given a copy of A Resolution Adopting the Lenowisco Comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Plan for consideration.

Mr. Frank Kibler of Lenowisco was present and gave Council a brief synopsis on this plan. He advised that the purpose of the plan is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. This plan has been approved by the State and is being considered for approval by the Federal government.

21151

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Raines, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Adopting the Lenowisco Comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Plan. (Insert)

Council had a request from the Norton City Schools to amend their 2005-2006 budget in the amount of \$10,884.

Mr. Ron McCall, Chairman of the Norton City School Board, was present and discussed these funds with Council. He advised these funds would be applied to the recently completed Sidewalk and Drainage Project done at J. I. Burton High School. He presented Council with a brief slide show on this project and thanked the City for applying some of their Sidewalk Funds for this project.

21152

Mr. Ward advised that these funds are the ones discussed with City Council recently and come from the refinancing of old bonds through the VPSA. The refund comes to the City; however, the funds must go toward school projects. The amount of money to be refunded is \$10,884 and may be a little more due to interest.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the 2005-2006 Norton City Schools budget in the amount of \$10,884 plus interest with said funds to go to the Norton City Schools.

Council had been presented with a copy of A Resolution Prohibiting the Use of City Streets by Organizations Collecting Funds for Charitable, Civic, and Other Purposes.

Mr. Ward advised that the City Administration and the Highway Safety Commission both endorse the adoption of this resolution because of safety concerns.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to have the wording of this resolution changed to include all City streets.

21153

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Raines, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Prohibiting the Use of City Streets, By Organizations Collecting Funds for Charitable, Civic, and Other Purposes with the change discussed tonight, which is to include all City streets. (Insert)

Council had a request to amend the City of Norton 2005-2006 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,000.

Mr. Ward advised that Walmart had donated \$1,000 to the Parks and Recreation Department and Ms. Knox, Parks and Recreation Director, would like to add this amount to the \$5,000 already budgeted for new playground equipment for Flag Rock.

21154

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the City of Norton 2005-2006 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,000.

Council had been presented with copies of two checks to be approved. The first check is in the amount of \$163,176 made payable to the Norton City Schools for the Elementary School Kitchen Project. The second is payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$255,000 to cover payroll.

21155

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve two checks made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amounts of \$163,176.00 and \$255,000.

Council had been provided with A Resolution Recognizing National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

Judge Elizabeth S. Wills, a member of a newly organized group concerned with these problems, was present to discuss this resolution with Council and also presented some statistics regarding increases in crime and drug related deaths in our area.

Following her brief presentation and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Raines, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Recognizing National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month and to support this newly organized group in their efforts. (Insert)

21156

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, 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.

21157

Vice Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting.

21158

Vice Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk then 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 Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Raines, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting.

21159

Vice Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Virginia EMS Council for a three year term which will expire on September 30, 2008.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated William Mays.

21160

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Vice Mayor Mays declared William Mays reappointed to the Southwest Virginia EMS Council for a three year term which will expire on September 30, 2008.

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

Work is proceeding on the lower campgrounds to supply electricity there. This will benefit next year's camping season.

Each member of Council was presented tonight with a copy of the new budget for the July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006 fiscal year. Thanks were extended to Jeff Shupe, Director of Finance, for this document.

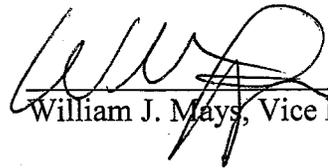
21161

The City experienced a leak on the main water line on Park Avenue and 8th Street early Sunday morning. The crews did repair this leak; however, the City lost approximately 600,000 gallons of water.

In comments from City Council, Vice Mayor Mays advised he was asked by his company to go to Mississippi to work during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He advised it was quite amazing to see the damage and amazing to see the outpouring from the country. He had solicited donations locally to take with him and the donations were very much appreciated by the residents of Mississippi.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


William J. Mays, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk