

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, Robert Fultz, Jr., William Mays, Joseph Fawbush and Dee Belcher

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

The invocation was given by the Reverend Ken Taylor and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the November 17, 2015 meeting as presented.

25705

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

25706

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Chapter 20 Article I Section 20-51 (Required); Article II Section 20-52 through 20-56 (Fee, Issuance, Restrictions, Term and Not Transferrable) of the Norton City Code.

Mr. Ramey advised Council that in order for the City to be considered for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) Fish Management and Stocking Program the City's ordinance must be updated to remove any references to fishing licenses in the upper reservoir.

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.

After a brief discussion, Council determined that the hours of fishing should be modified in order to allow night fishing should the reservoir be stocked with catfish. Council was of consensus to amend Chapter 20 Article I Section 20-3 (Hours of Use) to reflect the reservoirs would be open for use each day from one (1) hour before sunrise until midnight.

25707

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, Amending Article I Section 20-51 (Required), Article II Section 20-52 through 20-56 (Fee, Issuance, Restrictions, Term and Not Transferrable), Article I Section 20-3 (Hours of Use) of the Norton City Code. This ordinance shall become effective after thirty (30) days.

Upon further discussion of fishing at the reservoirs, Council opted to amend Article I Section 20-31 (Limits; check-out of catch) to include "and catfish" wherever the term "trout" is used in reference to limits and check-out of catch to read "trout and catfish."

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the first motion to include Amending Article I Section 20-31 (Limits; check-out of catch) of the Norton City Code. This ordinance will go into effect December 31, 2015. (Insert)

At Council's last meeting, A Resolution Supporting the Southwest Virginia Training Center (SWVTC) was tabled until tonight's meeting. Mr. Ramey reminded Council at the last meeting, Ms. Charlotte Barkley gave Council a presentation on the facility and he has provided Council with more information on the SWVTC in their packet for Council's consideration.

25708

Following a lengthy discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Supporting the Southwest Virginia Training Center. (Insert)

Mr. Ramey advised the Norton Industrial Development Authority (NIDA) had recently received an informal request from City Council to consider ways to improve the façade on the front portion of the Goad Property currently being used as the Norton Friends & Famers Market. Mr. Ramey had a Power Point presentation for Council's review of the building and gave Council the background on the purchase of the property. Mr. Ramey advised that NIDA had determined there were three areas to focus on to improve the frontage of the building. This would include new roof decking and roof, replacing all front and west side facing windows, and to add a glaze on the outside of the building similar to that on the AT&T building. These three items are estimated to cost around \$160,000 and does not include any interior improvements. The NIDA is asking for Council's guidance on the improvements and if Council wants them to proceed on the development.

25709

After a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to authorize NIDA to proceed with facade improvements on the front of the Goad Property.

Council was presented information to consider for the 2016 July 4th fireworks display. Mr. Ramey advised Council he had previously discussed this item with them on July 21st and it is now time to enter into a contract with our fireworks vendor.

Following a lengthy discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with the fireworks vendor to provide fireworks on July 2, 2016 at a cost of \$12,000 with said funds to come from unappropriated reserves.

25710

In their packets, Council had one check to be approved. The check was to Triad Freightliner of Tennessee, LLC., in the amount of \$130,075.00 for payment of new 2016 dump truck and extended warranty.

25711

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the one check as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. 25712

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting. 25713

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 Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, 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) 25714

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest VASAP Board for a three (3) year term.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Reappointing James C. Lane to the Southwest VASAP Board. 25715

Mayor Mays declared James C. Lane reappointed to the Southwest VASAP Board for a three (3) term to expire on December 1, 2018. (Insert)

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Building Code Board of Appeals to fill an unexpired term of Mr. James Boggs, who has resigned.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Joe Buchanan to fill the unexpired term.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease. 25716

Mayor Mays declared Joe Buchanan appointed to the Building Code Board of Appeals to fill the unexpired term which will expire on January 17, 2019.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Virginia Community Corrections Board as required by Section No. 9.1-178 of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the following appointments to this Board: The Honorable Elizabeth S. Wills, The Honorable Henry A. Vanover, The Honorable V. Blake McKinney, Mrs. Teresa Turner, Chief John Austin, Mary Hanzlik, Sheriff David Bradley, Roy Evans, Steve Clear, Kevin Tiller, and Sharon Alderson. 25717

Mayor Mays declared the above individuals approved for appointment to the Southwest Virginia Community Corrections Board.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Community Service Board for a three (3) year term. 25718

Councilman Fultz nominated Dee Belcher to be appointed to the Community Service Board.

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

Mayor Mays declared Dee Belcher appointed to the Community Service Board for a three (3) year term to expire on December 31, 2018.

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

Statement of Economic Interest is due by December 15th.

The first Turkey Trot was held on Thanksgiving Day and exceeded organizers expectations.

25719

The Santa Fun Run is scheduled for Saturday, December 5th.

The City Christmas Parade is Sunday, December 6th.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

25720

In comments from Council:

Councilwoman Belcher attended the football game at John I. Burton on Saturday and was pleased with conduct of the Burton players.

The new dump truck needs to be undercoated to protect against Brine sprayed on the roads.

25721

She thanked the Norton Police Department for being good role models for the City's youth and extended her thanks to all City employees.

Councilman Fultz wished everyone a Merry Christmas and advised that he will be in attendance at the Santa Fun Run and at the City Christmas parade.

25722

He attended the Turkey Trot and then worked with other churches to feed approximately 500 families on Thanksgiving Day. He enjoys these positive community events and is glad to have the opportunity to participate.

Councilman Caruso updated Council on the banner project for downtown. As of today, \$900 has been pledged to buy banners for downtown. He challenges everyone to buy a banner so the City's downtown can be decorated by spring.

He asked the City Manager for an update on the Department of Housing and Community Development Planning Grant.

Mr. Ramey advised the City did not receive the grant but will reapply in January.

Councilman Caruso advised he believes the VDOT letter on the ATV ordinance has some assumptions that are inaccurate.

25723

He would like for Council to pick a date for a strategic planning meeting before Council meets for CIP and budget meetings. He asked Mr. Ramey the date of the Legislative Reception in Richmond. Mr. Ramey advised the reception is scheduled for Thursday, January 21st and if any Council members wish to attend, please advise him so he can make reservations.

After a brief discussion, Council agreed to meet on Saturday, January 9th.

Councilman Fawbush advised December is a busy month and he applauds all the groups and organizations working to benefit those that are less fortunate.

The Lions Club Big Heart project is scheduled for December 19th from 9 a.m. to Noon. The club will be providing food, clothing and toys for 200 families this year. The Lions Club will be purchasing the food but are asking for monetary donations, clothes and toy donations. Also, the Lions Club welcomes any volunteers available on December 19th.

25724

Mayor Mays thanked City staff, employees and City Council for their hard work all year long.

He wanted to know if Council wanted to convene on December 15th. It was the consensus of Council to meet on December 15th as scheduled.

25725

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council