

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 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 Freddie Powers and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 1, 2016 meeting as presented.

25828

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

25829

Included in Council's packets was a copy of a Board Appointment Agreement (previously referred to as Board Appointment Letter) for Council's consideration.

Mr. Ramey advised that Councilman Caruso had suggested to Council that citizens appointed to various boards, commissions, and committees should be provided with information regarding their representation of City Council while serving as a representative. The Board Appointment Agreement in Council's packets provides citizens serving in these capacities information about their appointment.

Councilman Caruso stated the Board Appointment Agreement confirms what is expected of citizens representing City Council on various boards, commissions and committees and his recommendation is for Council to approve the Board Appointment Agreement.

25830

The City Attorney advised Council that the Board Appointment Agreement does not apply to appointees that are selected to serve by the statues of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Board Appointment Agreement will only apply to any boards, commissions or committees established by City Council.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the Board Appointment Agreement as presented.

Mr. Ramey, via PowerPoint presentation, presented Council with an update on establishing a line of credit. Mr. Ramey advised the City's Financial Advisor, Davenport & Company, Inc., had received four Requests for Proposals (RFP) and they are reviewing the submissions to determine if they meet the City's conditions. After evaluating the proposals, Davenport & Company, Inc. will provide their recommendation to City Council for your review. City Administration is asking for Council's approval to advertise a public hearing to establish a line of credit with a financial institution.

25831

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to advertise a public hearing to establish a line of credit.

Mr. Ramey updated Council on the Proposed 2016 Norton Business Challenge. He advised the City had partnered with various businesses to present the challenge to new and existing entrepreneurs. Currently, 18 individuals are registered and the first meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2016. The Challenge has been promoted through various marketing outlets and City Administration is working on a postcard that will be mailed to several Chamber of Commerce contacts.

25832

Mr. Ramey stated Council had adopted a resolution in June 2015 requesting Route 619 to be included in the Virginia Byway Scenic Highway System. The General Assembly had approved the bill that would designate the scenic driving loop as a Virginia Byway and the bill is awaiting the governor's signature.

25833

Council had been presented with A Resolution to Apply for the Virginia Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water Grant for the Hawthorne Intersection Water System Relocation Project.

Mr. Ramey advised the study on the cost to relocate the utilities in the Hawthorne Drive and Route 58 area is completed and City Administration would like to submit an application to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to see if this project would qualify for funding. The VDH does require a resolution to support the application.

25834

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution to Apply for the Virginia Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water Grant. (Insert)

Also included in Council's packets was A Resolution Proclaiming the Month of April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City of Norton. On April 8, 2016 the Norton Department of Social Services along with several other organizations has an event planned to remind citizens to be attentive to victims of abuse.

25835

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Proclaiming the Month of April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City of Norton.

In their packets, Council had one check to be confirmed. The check was to Thomas Construction Company, Inc., dated January 25, 2016 in the amount of \$166,811.54 to cover paving for the Safe Route to School Sidewalk Project and the Highwall Project.

25836

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to confirm the check to Thomas Construction Company, Inc., as stated above.

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

The Board of Equalization has been trained and has advertised the first two meetings. Any property owner wishing to schedule a meeting with the Board should contact the Commission of Revenue.

The latest Retail Sales Tax Report has been placed at Council's desks.

Mr. Ramey confirmed with Council the second Capital Improvement/Budget Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, March 19th at 9:00 a.m. 25837

A flyer for the Parks & Recreation Department Easter Egg Hunt and the Trash to Treasure Workshop has been placed at Council's desk.

In comments for the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he is continuing to work on the City's delinquent property tax sales. An auction was held today on a delinquent property and a bid was received. Pending approval of the bid from the Wise County Circuit Court the City should receive payment to satisfy the delinquent taxes owed on the property and the cost of the sale. 25838

In comments from Council:

Councilwoman Belcher commended the City Department of Social Services for their work and thanked the Police Department for the job they are doing in the City. 25839

Councilman Fultz concurred with Councilwoman Belcher on the City Department of Social Services and for their bringing attention to child abuse.

Councilman Fultz asked Councilman Caruso if the reservoir was going to be stocked with catfish. 25840

Councilman Caruso said it is up to Council to decide if the reservoir should be stocked with catfish.

Mr. Ramey stated that he understood the Department of Game and Inland Fishing (DGIF) was conducting testing to determine if the reservoir could support catfish.

Councilman Caruso stated he was concerned about the Forest Service's management plan in the Nettle Patch. He asked City Administration to invite the Forest Service to attend the next Council meeting to explain the proposed management plan and to provide maps indicating the areas involved in the management plan.

Mr. Ramey advised he had contacted the Forest Service after Council's last meeting and asked the ranger to come to Council and that he will reach out to him again.

Councilman Caruso advised he met Michele Knox, the Parks & Recreation Director, and Neil and Beth Walker at Clear Creek Park to discuss the Park and Ride Horse Park. Councilman Caruso, via a PowerPoint presentation, advised Council he determined the best place locate the Park and Ride Horse Park is at the corner of the baseball field in the teardrop. He stated this location meets all the requirements for the Park and Ride Horse Park and doesn't interfere significantly with the park. He stated the Park and Ride Horse Park can be developed for approximately \$5,000 and it is his recommendation that Council move forward with this plan. 25841

Mr. Ramey commented that if the City boxed in the ball field as suggested that the field would become an infield practice park so the City may want to look at moving the ball field or not fence in the area.

Councilman Caruso stated he would not fence in the ball field. He would let the horse park and the ball field coexist.

Mayor Mays stated Council needs an opportunity to determine how the Park and Ride Horse Park will work with the residents in the area. He advised he had received positive and negative comments about the concept.

Councilman Fawbush stated the Park and Ride Horse Park is a wonderful opportunity and he would like for the park to develop but he has received over 20 comments from residents in the area who are concerned about the concept. Before moving forward with the idea he would like a public hearing on the matter to receive input from the residents in the Ramsey area.

25842

He thanked City Administration and Public Works for cleaning up the gravel from winter.

He commended Mr. Ramey for promoting “#Norton Outdoors” and for leaving Flag Rock open during the winter.

Mayor Mays thanked Council for their service and hard work.

25843

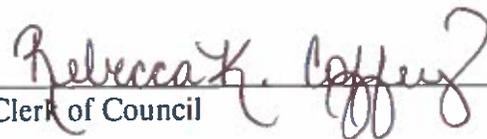
There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council