

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 7, 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 Roger Sloce and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

At this time, Mayor Mays advised Council he would like to amend the agenda to include under Item 8-G Closed Meeting – the discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publically held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. 25930

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to amend the agenda under Item 8-G Closed Meeting as specified above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the May 17, 2016 meeting as presented. 25931

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 25932

At this time, Mayor Mays advised there were some special presentations to be made for the 2016 Norton Business Challenge. Mr. Ramey advised that six businesses participated in the challenge which was sponsored by the Norton Industrial Development Authority (NIDA). Representatives from People Incorporated and the Chamber of Commerce were present at tonight's meeting for the presentation of awards.

Mr. Byron Cantrell, Chairman of the NIDA, came forward and spoke briefly to Council and stated the NIDA was excited to sponsor the challenge and was thankful for the support of Council and the entities that were involved in the challenge to make it a success.

Natasha Snyder, Senior Business Trainer and Marketing Coordinator, of People Incorporated introduced the competitors in the business challenge and explained the requirements of the challenge.

Councilman Fultz, prior to presenting the winners of the 2016 Norton Business Challenge, thanked the NIDA, Mr. Ramey, Councilman Fawbush, and People Inc., for their work on the challenge and the participants who competed in the challenge. Councilman Fultz asked Council and the NIDA to join with him as he presented the winners of this year's challenge. Councilman Fultz awarded second place and \$5,000 to Rachel Collins of Rachel's Cupcakes and first place and \$10,000 to Shawn Campbell of 25933

Zest Catering. Councilman Fultz welcomed the new businesses to downtown Norton.

Mr. Rick Colley, Executive Director of the Wise County/City of Norton Chamber of Commerce thanked Council for allowing him to speak and stated the Chamber's motto is "connect and grow." So as part of the challenge the Chamber of Commerce is awarding a one year free membership to the Chamber of Commerce to all the participants.

After the presentation of these awards, applause was given to the participants and a group picture was taken with Council and the NIDA.

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Chapter 20 Article I Section 20-3 (Hours of Use) of the Norton City Code.

Mr. Ramey advised Council the City's current ordinance is not in compliance with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) related to the hours of fishing. Mr. Bradshaw has prepared an amendment to the City's Chapter 20 to bring into compliance.

Mr. Bradshaw advised Council he had prepared the amendment as an emergency modification so that it will take effect immediately upon passage by Council after the public hearing.

25934

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

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

Councilman Caruso thanked Mr. Ramey and Mr. Bradshaw for their work on clarifying the amendment.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, Amending Chapter 20 Article I Section 20-3 (Hours of Use) of the Norton City Code. This ordinance shall become effective immediately. (Insert)

Council had been presented with A Resolution Supporting Mercy Ambulance Service, Inc., to Locate Operations in the City.

Mr. Ramey stated Mr. Larry Miller, General Manager for Mercy Ambulance Service, was present at tonight's meeting and could answer questions Council may have regarding their company locating within the City.

Mr. Larry Miller spoke briefly to Council advising Mercy Ambulance wanted to provide two staffed ambulances in the City mainly for non-emergency transportation. However, if available, their company could provide assistance in responding to emergency calls in the City and Wise County by request.

25935

After a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Supporting Mercy Ambulance Service, Inc., to Locate Operations in the City. (Insert)

Donna Stanley, Financial Officer of the Planning District One Behavioral Health Services Agency, was present to give an update on the services provided by their agency. Prior to her presentation, she handed out their 2015 Annual Report and Community Economic Impact Report.

25936

Ms. Stanley then briefly discussed their annual report and advised Council they could review the Economic Impact Report at their convenience. She advised they had an increase of 145 clients from 2014. She advised their performance contract is bi-annual and is due in July and the agency will come before Council at that time for approval.

Mayor Mays thanked Ms. Stanley for her presentation tonight.

The City Manager advised that Council had held a public hearing on the Norton City Schools Proposed 2016-2017 Budget at their last meeting and that Dr. Perrigan had sent him an email prior to tonight's meeting asking him to share information with Council. The email advised that the school system had received the grant for the pre-k position and that the school system is anticipating some savings. So he is requesting that Council fund the debt service and an additional \$35,000 above the Required Local Effort (RLE). Dr. Perrigan apologized that he could not be at tonight's meeting but asked Ms. Gina Wolford, Principal of Norton Elementary and Middle School to attend the meeting to answer Council's questions regarding the pre-k position.

25937

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to approve a budget for the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$8,954,792 which will provide Operational Funding in the amount of \$8,267,991, of which \$2,473,848 is locally appropriated funds, the Textbook Fund in the amount of \$136,196, of which \$25,562 is locally appropriated funds, the Early Retirement Plan Fund in the amount of \$153,700, the Food Services Fund of \$370,305, and the Capital Projects Fund of \$26,600.

The City Manager, via a PowerPoint presentation, presented a brief synopsis to Council on the proposed 2016-2017 City of Norton Fiscal Budget which totals \$9,655,863 in the General Fund, \$3,115,453 in the Enterprise Fund, and \$1,306,950 in the Social Services Fund. Mr. Ramey advised the General Fund represents an increase of \$177,676 or 1.8% over last year's budget and includes a 2% COLA for employees beginning December 1, 2016, step increases, an increase in school debt service, a decrease in local contributions for school operations, an increase in funding for the regional jail, Wise County purchased services, and Social Services. The General Fund budget also includes the elimination of contributions to NIDA for debt service and the removal of contingency funding. The Enterprise Fund shows an increase of \$263,209 over FY2015-2016 due to a decrease in water consumption, an increase in debt service, a decrease in payments to Coeburn-Norton-Wise Regional Wastewater Authority (CNW), and changes in salary and benefits. The Enterprise Fund also includes a proposed water/sewer rate increase of \$0.25 per 1,000 gallons. The Social Services Fund presents an increase of \$100,104 due to an increase in federal and state funding and salary and benefit modifications.

25938

Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Ramey and Jeff Shupe, Director of Finance for their work on the City's budget.

There being no further comments or questions from Council, a motion was made by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to authorize City Administration to advertise the Proposed 2016-2017 City of Norton Fiscal Budget as stated.

Mr. Ramey presented Council with a breakdown of the 2015-2016 budget amendments to the City of Norton Fiscal Budget. He is seeking Council's authorization to advertise a public hearing on them. The unappropriated reserves totals \$192,734.23 and additional revenues totals \$703,847.72 for a total amount of \$896,581.95.

25939

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to advertise for a public hearing on the budget amendments to the 2015-2016 budget in the total amount of \$896,581.95.

In their packets, Council had one check to be confirmed. The check was to the Wise County Treasurer dated May 11, 2016, in the amount of \$230,531.32 to pay for shared services.

25940

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to confirm the check to the Wise County Treasurer 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, and discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publically held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

25941

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

25942

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.

25943

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 of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five (5) year term to expire on June 2, 2021 and for a three (3) year term to fill the unexpired term of Bill Bledsoe to expire on June 2, 2019.

Councilman Caruso nominated Gordon Sandt to be reappointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five (5) year term to expire on June 2, 2021 and Virginia Stokes for a three (3) year term to fill the unexpired term of Bill Bledsoe to expire on June 2, 2019.

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

25944

Mayor Mays declared Gordon Sandt reappointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five (5) year term to expire on June 2, 2021, and Virginia Stokes appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a three (3) year term to fill the unexpired term of Bill Bledsoe which will expire on June 2, 2019. These names will be submitted to the Wise County Circuit Court for approval.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Planning Commission for a four (4) year term to expire on June 30, 2020.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Randy Stidham to be reappointed to the Planning Commission for a four (4) year term to expire on June 30, 2020.

25945

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

Mayor Mays declared Randy Stidham reappointed to the Planning Commission for a four (4) year term to expire on June 30, 2020.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Mountain Empire Community College Board for a four (4) year term to expire on June 30, 2020.

Councilman Fultz nominated Tim Cassell.

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

25946

Mayor Mays declared Tim Cassell appointed to the Mountain Empire Community College Board for a four (4) year term to expire on June 30, 2020.

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

Mr. Ramey advised Council Disclosure Statements are due June 15th.

The Water Treatment Plant received a 2015 Gold Performance Award from the Virginia Office of Drinking Water.

The demolition of the pool building is completed, and he shared photos with City Council.

The Crooked Road has scheduled to give Billy Baker an award on June 12th at 2:00 p.m. at the Country Cabin and they would like for a member of Council to present the resolution recently adopted.

A copy of the Mountains of Music Program was placed at each Council member's desk.

25947

Mr. Ramey presented each Council member with a Norton "Get Fit" water bottle that was purchased with a grant from the Wise County/City of Norton Health Department.

The Norton Friends & Farmers Market opened today and Mr. Ramey presented Council with a packet of pumpkin seeds that advertises the market's acceptance of EBT/SNAP at the market.

He left each member of Council a schedule of the Best Friend Festival activities at their desks. This is the 30th year for the festival and it is scheduled for June 11th – 18th.

A flyer for the Household Hazardous Waste Pick-up, planned for June 25th was also placed at Council's desk.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised Council that Alpha Natural Resources filed Chapter 11 Bankruptcy and ballots have been solicited of the City. He has filed various claims on behalf of the City for delinquent water and garbage bills and real estate taxes. The total claim is approximately \$7,000 and it is estimated the City could possibly receive 1 to 3 percent of allowed claims. The tabulating agency must receive the City's ballots before the end of the month and he is asking for Council to authorize the City Manager or the Director of Finance to vote the City ballots received from the bankruptcy court in favor of a plan of reorganization of Alpha Natural Resources.

25948

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to vote the ballots the City receives from the bankruptcy court in favor of a reorganization plan of Alpha Natural Resources.

In comments from Council:

Councilman Caruso had no comments.

25949

Councilwoman Belcher had no comments.

25950

Councilman Fultz is looking forward to the Best Friend Festival.

He appreciates Council and NIDA's support on the 2016 Norton Business Challenge and congratulations to the winners and hopes those who did not win will continue to pursue their interests.

25951

Councilman Fawbush echoed Councilman Fultz's comments.

He stated that the Council, NIDA and City Administration should be commended for their handling of projects with the upmost professionalism and the attention to detail and planning.

Councilman Fultz added that Mr. Ramey and Byron Cantrell, Chairman of the NIDA, worked a lot of hours on the challenge.

25952

Councilman Fawbush thanked the Parks & Recreation Department, Shayne Fields, Jane Sandt, and Mr. Ramey for their work on the National Trails Day.

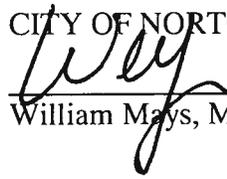
The Woodbooger plaque should be installed within the next 30 days.

Mayor Mays stated it is an honor and a privilege to serve with members of Council.

25953

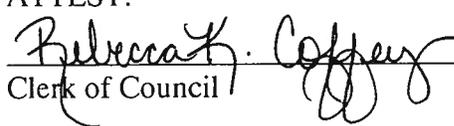
There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council