

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2017, 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 Reverend Jim Collie and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the December 6, 2016, meeting as presented. 26138

There was no response to the Mayor's Call for Visitors. 26139

The City Manager advised that the City would like to recognize 14 employees who have reached certain milestones in their years of service. Those being recognized represent over 275 years of service to the community.

Those being honored were: Wes Ward, Rusty McReynolds, Arthur Jenkins, Raymond Craft for 10 years of service; Jason Hill, James Lane, Shelby Short, Killie Willis, Harold Huff for 20 years of service; Judy Miller, Kim Taylor, and Tim Boardwine for 25 years of service; and Sherry Baker and Michele Knox for 30 years of service. 26140

Mayor Mays expressed Council's appreciation of the years of service given to the City by each employee and presented individual service pins to those in attendance. Following the pin presentation, a group photo was taken with Council, and the employees were honored with applause.

Ms. Tamara Greear of Thrower, Blanton, and Associates was present to give Council a synopsis of the City's audit for the year ending June 30, 2016.

Ms. Greear advised that the City received an unqualified or clean opinion, which is the highest rating an audit can receive. She then proceeded to go over several categories with Council and advised they didn't have any significant concerns or find any deficiencies with internal controls. She also stated that the audit revealed no findings under state compliances for the School Board, Social Service, budgets, public official disclosures, street maintenance, and property tax relief. 26141

Following a brief summation of the audit, Ms. Greear advised if Council had any questions, she would be glad to answer them.

Ms. Greear then answered several questions from Council members.

At this time, Mr. Ramey thanked Ms. Greear for her assistance on the Energy Efficiency Lease that is detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the School Board, and also for allowing City Administration to contact her throughout the year with various accounting questions.

Mayor Mays, on behalf of Council, thanked Ms. Greear for her audit presentation.

Mr. Ramey advised that at the last meeting Council had been presented with a draft ordinance regarding pawnbrokers and had questions regarding application and license fees and the number of pawnshops that should be allowed within the City. Mr. Ramey stated City Administration had researched application and license fees of other localities and application fees ranged from zero to \$240 and annual licensing fees ranged from \$25 to \$200. Research regarding the number of pawnshops allowed within similar localities ranged from no limit to 12 pawnshops.

The City Attorney suggested that Council should adopt an ordinance because it allows Council greater local control over conduct of these types of businesses within the City. He also recommended that Council remove the application and license fees from the ordinance and adopt them annually with the budget and include the allowable limit of pawnshops in the ordinance.

26142

After a lengthy discussion, Council decided to allow three pawnshops within the City limits and to set the application and license fees at \$200 each.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, Council authorized the City Manager to advertise a public hearing on the ordinance, with the recommended changes, to allow pawnshops within the City.

Council had one transfer to confirm. This transfer was to Norton City Schools, dated November 28, 2016, in the amount of \$200,000 to cover November payroll expenditures.

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 confirm the transfer to Norton City Schools as stated above.

26143

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, 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.

26144

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.

26145

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

26146

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2020.

Councilman Fultz nominated Joseph Fawbush to be reappointed to the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority.

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

26147

Mayor Mays declared Joseph Fawbush reappointed to the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority for a four-year term which will expire December 31, 2020.

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

Mr. Ramey reminded Council that annual Disclosure Statements are due January 15.

He placed at each member's desk Virginia Municipal League's review of the proposed Governor's Budget, the state holiday schedule, the latest financials, and the latest Retail Sales Tax Report for Council's review.

He advised the City had received two applications for the Adopt-A-Spot Program. The University of Virginia's College at Wise Women's Lacrosse Team and Pathfinders Outdoor Adventures have adopted two spots. Signs have been purchased recognizing these two groups and the signs will be installed in their adopted locations.

26148

The reservoir has 110.7 million gallons of water in storage.

Mr. Bradshaw thanked City Council for his reappointment as the City Attorney.

26149

In comments from Council:

Councilman Caruso had no comments.

26150

Councilman Fultz said the trail signage for Flag Rock looks good.

He commended the City Manager, Finance Director, and City Staff for a clean audit.

26151

He is grateful to be part of a Council that works together and for the positive atmosphere that exists at the meetings.

Councilwoman Belcher stated she is optimistic for 2017 and is looking forward to working with Council in the new year.

26152

Councilman Fawbush commended everyone involved in the City receiving a clean audit and the accounting practices that are in place to achieve this rating.

He said he was glad to see City employees in attendance to receive their service pins and he attributes the longevity of service to good management, training, and benefits. In addition, City employees are always helpful and pleased to work in whatever capacity needed at City events. The City has excellent employees and he appreciates all of them.

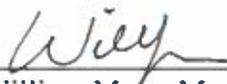
26153

Mayor Mays said the City is a good place to live and he appreciates each Council member, and he then thanked members for the opportunity to serve again as Mayor.

26154

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council