

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

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

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Ken Taylor and was followed by prayer led by Life Scout Chaplain Dominic Sluss, of Boy Scout Troop 301, and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Troop 301. Troop 301 then recited the Scout's Oath, Law, and Outdoor Code for Council.

Mayor Mays then thanked the Boy Scout Troop 301 for the work they do for the community.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the January 17, 2017, meeting as corrected by the clerk. 26175

There was no one present for the Audience for Visitors. 26176

Dr. Scott Hamilton, President of Mountain Empire Community College, spoke briefly to Council giving them an update on the activities at the college. He discussed student enrollment, the current budget, and various grants the college had received. He stated that enrollment is slightly down and there is an expected budget shortfall due to state cutbacks. He said the college will be able to absorb the budget shortfall due to pre-planning by College Administration. He then said the college has partnered with Flatwoods Job Corps and the Town of Big Stone Gap on a Power Grant and will be offering a Power Lineman Program at the Job Corps facility in Coeburn. The college has also partnered with Wise County and Frontier Secure to train the area's workforce for jobs at Frontier's company. At this time, Dr. Hamilton handed out flyers on an online class being offered in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and a campus class being offered in Cyber Security. Dr. Hamilton stated overall the college is doing well and that this will be his last report to Council due to his pending retirement June 30, 2017. He said Mountain Empire Community College has been the best school he has ever worked at and that he appreciates Council's support. 26177

Mayor Mays thanked Dr. Hamilton for his presentation and wished him the best in his upcoming retirement.

Mr. Ramey advised that Council has recently worked with Dr. Wally Smith, a biology professor at the University of Virginia's College at Wise, to establish a Green Salamander Sanctuary in November 2016, at Flag Rock Recreation Area. As part of this effort, Council was also interested in placing an educational kiosk on the Green Salamander at the site to inform visitors of how the Green Salamander was found at Flag Rock and the uniqueness of the salamander. As a result, Eagle Scout Candidate Isaac Meade of Boy 26178

Scout Troop 301 was in attendance to ask Council's permission to build a kiosk at the Green Salamander Sanctuary as part of his Eagle Scout Project.

At this time, Dr. Smith came forward and informed Council that one of the students who had conducted research on the Green Salamander at the sanctuary site will be having his/her research published, and it will be the first, large publication on this species of salamander. He then thanked Council for the sanctuary designation and advised that he and his students have been working on draft signage about the Green Salamander for the site. Dr. Smith then advised that Mr. Meade will speak with Council about the kiosk he is proposing.

Eagle Scout Candidate Isaac Meade advised that he is requesting Council's permission to build an information kiosk for the Green Salamander Sanctuary as part of his Eagle Scout Project. He said he plans to design, build, and demonstrate leadership skills to fellow scouts. His goal is to provide a community service project beneficial to the City of Norton and to everyone who visits Flag Rock Recreation Area. He explained his proposed project is a two panel kiosk that will provide information on the Green Salamander Sanctuary and a bulletin board to notify visitors of upcoming events at Flag Rock Recreation Area. The proposed kiosk was designed by Dr. Wally Smith and Troop 301 Leader Mr. Teddy Huff and approved by a Troop Committee as his community service project to obtain rank of Eagle Scout. Troop Leader Huff will serve as the construction supervisor and he will maintain a safe working environment for scouts and volunteers. Once the kiosk is completed Mr. Meade will make a formal presentation to Council on behalf of the Troop Committee.

Councilman Caruso thanked Mr. Meade for selecting this project as his Eagle Scout assignment, and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the request to build an informational kiosk at the Green Salamander Sanctuary in Flag Rock Recreation Area.

Councilman Fawbush asked Mr. Meade if he had a cost estimate for the construction of the kiosk.

Mr. Meade advised he estimated the material costs to be between \$1,000 to \$1,500 and that anyone wishing to make monetary donations to the project could contact Troop Leader Huff.

At this time, Mayor Mays signed documentation to authorize Eagle Scout Candidate Isaac Huff to move forward with his community service project to build an informational kiosk in Flag Rock Recreation Area.

Councilman Caruso thanked the group of young men in attendance for being scouts and for representing their community.

Mr. Ramey advised Council had received their first request from the Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority to use the City's "Woodbooger" Service Mark for the purpose of naming a motorcycle route. He said Executive Director Kitty Barker is changing motorcycle routes and names and she would like to rename the 75 mile route "Woodbooger" Run.

The City Attorney advised that requests to use "Woodbooger" should be granted through a license and asked that the City be recognized as "used with permission" to protect the City's service mark.

Mayor Mays requested if Council approves the request, he would like for the motion to include that the City Attorney is to draft the license which includes the terms that the “Woodbooger” service mark is used with permission of the City of Norton.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority’s request to use “Woodbooger” in the naming of a motorcycle run with the City Attorney to draft the license to include the language “used with permission by the City of Norton.”

Mr. Ramey advised that the City is working under a planning grant through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development reviewing the City’s downtown to create a masterplan to revitalize the City’s downtown. This effort will hopefully lead to implementation of a Community Development Block Grant. As part of the process, the City is required to hold two public hearings. Mr. Ramey requested authorization to advertise the first public hearing at 6:00 p.m., on Tuesday, February 21, 2017. The first public hearing will allow citizens to make suggestions for other projects for Council to consider. The second public hearing will be to determine which project to apply for funding.

26180

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to advertise the first public hearing.

Council had one transfer to confirm. This transfer was to Norton City Schools, dated December 16, 2016, in the amount of \$200,000 to cover payroll expenditures.

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 confirm the transfer to Norton City Schools as stated above.

26181

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, 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.

26182

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

26183

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,

26184

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 Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four-year term to expire on January 28, 2021.

Councilwoman Belcher nominated Margaret McAfee to be reappointed to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board for a four-year term to expire on January 28, 2021.

26185

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

Mayor Mays declared Margaret McAfee reappointed to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board for a four- year term to expire on January 28, 2021.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a five-year term to expire on January 17, 2022.

Councilman Caruso nominated Mike Ball to be reappointed to the City’s Building Code Board of Appeals for a five-year term to expire on January 17, 2022.

26186

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

Mayor Mays declared Mike Ball reappointed to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a five-year term to expire on January 17, 2022.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for four nominations to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for two-year terms to expire on January 31, 2019.

Councilman Fultz nominated Fred McConnell and Gary Call to be reappointed and Joshua Ball and Cody McElroy to be appointed to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for two-year terms to expire on January 31, 2019.

26187

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

Mayor Mays declared Fred McConnell and Gary Call reappointed and Joshua Ball and Cody McElroy appointed to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for two-year terms to expire on January 31, 2019.

Vice Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for two nominations to the Norton Rescue Squad Board of Directors for a one-year term to expire on February 1, 2018.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Mark Caruso to be reappointed and William Mays to be appointed to the Norton Rescue Squad Board of Directors for one-year terms to expire on February 1, 2018.

26188

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

Vice Mayor Fawbush declared Mark Caruso reappointed and William Mays appointed to the Norton Rescue Squad Board of Directors for one-year terms to expire on February 1, 2018.

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

26189

The Downtown Design Workshop has been rescheduled to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 22, 2017 in the City Council Chambers.

Mr. Ramey handed out a proposed resolution in support of the Thomas Jefferson Dark Skies Park Designation for the Bark Camp Lake Recreation Area. He will place this draft resolution on the agenda for Council's next meeting.

He requested a short workshop meeting on a Saturday morning to discuss the budget process and to set dates and schedules for the budget.

Council was in agreement to meet at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, February 11, 2017, in Council Chambers.

Mayor Mays asked Fred to place a reminder on the City Manager Report he emails to Council on Friday.

There were no comments by the City Attorney. 26190

In comments from Council:

Councilman Caruso had no comments. 26191

Councilman Fultz remarked it was wonderful to have the boy scouts attend tonight's meeting and the kiosk Eagle Scout Candidate Isaac Meade proposes to build will add value to the Green Salamander site. 26192

Councilwoman Belcher said it was delightful to see the young Boy Scouts growing up and heading down the correct path.

She added there are a lot of job openings in the field of Cyber Security and she encourages everyone to attend the classes Mountain Empire Community College is offering in this field of study. 26193

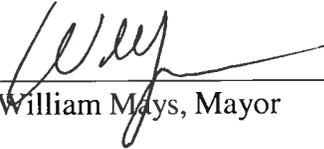
Councilwoman Belcher advised she had another meeting on the same day as the City's rescheduled Downtown Design Workshop and would attend the workshop as soon as the Planning District One meeting adjourned.

Councilman Fawbush said he appreciates the Boy Scouts attending the Council meeting and he attributes their conduct to positive role models. He credits Scout Leader Teddy Huff and his assistants for being a positive influence in these young boys' lives. 26194

Mayor Mays remarked that our youth are our future and how we prepare our youth determines our future. 26195

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rebecca K. Coffey, Clerk of Council