

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

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

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

At this time, Mayor Mays stated he would like City Council to consider amending the agenda to include under Item 7-G-1 a proposed partnership agreement between the Southwest Virginia Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) and the Norton Police Department.

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It was the consensus of Council to amend the agenda to include under Item 7-G-1 the proposed partnership agreement between the two entities.

The invocation was given by Minister Freddie Powers and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 7, 2017, meeting as presented.

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

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A public hearing was held to solicit input on a proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) proposal to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the Norton Downtown Revitalization Project.

Mr. Ramey advised over the past 12 months the City has worked on a downtown revitalization project and for the past three months with David Hill, of Hill Studio of Roanoke Virginia, to develop a master plan for revitalization. The City is holding the second required public hearing to apply for CDBG funds and City Administration is asking Council to consider the resolution in their packets authorizing City Administration to submit an application to DHCD for a Community Development Block Grant. Mr. Frank Kibler, Senior Planner of LENOWISCO, was present to update Council on the technical aspects of the CDBG program, and Mr. David Hill, President of Hill Studio was present to update Council on the proposed Master Plan. This plan was developed as a result of work sessions held over the past three months.

Mr. Kibler briefly discussed the requirements to apply for CDBG funding and said he appreciates the City's Planning Grant Management Team's participation in the process. He said he works with many localities and Mr. Ramey has done more than is required of a locality and his efforts are appreciated. Mr. Kibler said the City's second public hearing tonight will fulfill the requirements to apply for CDBG funding.

Mr. David Hill, via a PowerPoint presentation, reviewed the long process beginning with the planning grant up to tonight's meeting. He advised the study has determined that the City appears to have economic blight so revitalization will focus on reviving these

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downtown areas. He said the revitalization will most likely include upgrading 11 facades and the farmers' market building. He noted improvements will begin at Dairy Queen and end at the old sewing factory building where a tourism destination hub will be created. The center of downtown will include applying for CDBG funds for exterior upgrades and companion grants for interior upgrades to the farmers' market building through applications to the Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) and the Department of Agriculture. Another portion of the project will include new sidewalks, a new gateway sign depicting the City's new branding, and new landscaping. The budget will include City funding, and possibly City labor which will count toward the required funding match, CDBG funding, and additional grants applied to interior renovations. The total estimated cost of the proposed projects is 2.3 million and the application will be submitted March 29, 2017. Mr. Hill advised the City will learn this summer if the application for funding is approved. If the application receives approval, designing will begin in the fall and construction will start early 2018.

Council had no comments before the public hearing.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

Councilman Caruso thanked Mr. Kibler and Mr. Hill for their work on the Master Plan and stated he hoped the application is successful.

Councilman Fultz said he is excited for other potential entrepreneurial businesses to open downtown and he thanked both presenters for their work on the planning grant.

Mr. Ramey shared with Council that the funding application is larger than façade improvements. The City is proposing in the application to offer more Business Challenges to encourage entrepreneurs to open their businesses downtown to help eliminate economic blight in the business district.

Mayor Mays said during the first downtown revitalization in 1996 numerous business owners participated, and he hopes many downtown property owners will partner with the City this time to improve their storefronts.

Councilman Fawbush thanked Mr. Hill for his work on the planning phase and for taking the many comments and suggestions and creating a Master Plan with them.

Mr. Hill said he is impressed with the entrepreneurial spirit in the City and the CDBG grant could kick start a lot of other initiatives for downtown.

Council had been presented in their packets with A Resolution in Support of Community Development Block Grant Application for the Norton Downtown Revitalization Project.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt the resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for a \$700,000 Community Development Block Grant for the Norton Downtown Revitalization Project and to submit any associated paperwork for the grant. (Insert)

Mr. Ramey said Council annually considers applying for a Local Government Challenge Grant each year in the amount of \$5,000 for the Pro-Art Association. He noted the grant is state matching funds for the City's annual appropriation to Pro-Art for the 2017-18 season programs.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to apply for a Local Government Challenge Grant on behalf of the Pro-Art Association.

Mr. Ramey advised Council around this time each year the City enters into a contract with the fireworks vendor for the Fourth of July. City Administration is asking Council if they want to have a fireworks display this year and, if so, which date does Council want to select to have the fireworks demonstration. In 2015, the state's licensing requirements for fireworks technicians changed and has created a shortage of certified shooters for July 4th. As result, localities are having to increase their budget to acquire a licensed shooter on July 4th or pick an alternate date for their fireworks display. City Administration is recommending that Council authorize fireworks on Saturday, July 1st with a rain date of Sunday, July 2nd. Mr. Ramey noted that some communities have certified someone to take over the responsibility of shooting fireworks and this is an option Council can consider in the future. Mr. Ramey added that City Administration can ask these communities if they would like to partner with the City for a July 3rd display, which creates an issue with a rain date. 26242

Before setting a date for the City's fireworks display, Councilman Caruso recommended the City change the name of the event to Independence Day Celebration. Mr. Caruso said the City is commemorating the independence of the country and not observing a day in July. The designation Independence Day Celebration is an appropriate reference for celebrating Independence Day in July.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to hold this year's fireworks display Saturday, July 1st, with a rain date of Sunday, July 2nd, and call the festivity Independence Day Celebration.

Councilman Fawbush asked City Administration to research certifying our own fireworks technician.

The City Manager said the City has received a request from ROD Enterprises, Inc., Doing Business As (DBA) Doughmakers Pizza, LLC, to use the City's "Woodbooger" service mark for the purpose of naming a menu item.

After a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the request by ROD Enterprises, Inc., DBA Doughmakers Pizza, LLC, to use the City's "Woodbooger" service mark for the purpose of naming a menu item and authorized the City Manager to issue a license that included the language "used with permission by the City of Norton." 26243

Council had been presented with A Resolution to Apply for the Virginia Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water's Water Supply Assistance Grant Program for a Phase 1 Clear Creek Waterline Replacement Project.

Mr. Ramey said City Administration is asking authorization to submit the application for Phase 1 of the project which is estimated to be just over \$100,000, and he hopes the City will receive a \$100,000 grant. 26244

After brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following roll call 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)

In their packets, Council had been presented with A Resolution to Apply for the Virginia Department of Health’s Office of Drinking Water’s Water Supply Assistance Grant Program for a Phase 1 Josephine Waterline Replacement Project.

Mr. Ramey said City Administration is asking authorization to submit the application for Phase 1 of the project to replace undersized lines and noted that customers are starting to experience volume and pressure issues. 26245

Councilman Fawbush said he realizes this is a City water project but these water customers are in the county. He wanted to know if the county would be providing any assistance on the waterline replacement for the Josephine residents.

Mr. Ramey advised the county will not be providing any assistance to the City since the Josephine residents are City customers and the City receives the revenue from utility billing.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution to Apply for the Virginia Department of Health’s Office of Drinking Water Grant. (Insert)

Council had been given a copy of A Resolution Authorizing a Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Funding Application to the Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund for the Purpose of Engineering a Design for Leak Repairs on the Lower Dam.

Mr. Ramey stated the lower dam has been leaking for a while and the primary purpose of this request is to allow the City to obtain an engineering design to repair the leaks. This will hopefully allow the City to apply for federal infrastructure grant funding to repair the leaks in the future. 26246

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt a Resolution Authorizing a Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Funding Application to the Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund in the amount of \$32,200. (Insert)

Council had been presented with A Resolution Proclaiming the Month of April 2017 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The City Manager explained the City has been adopting this Resolution for several years to bring attention to this issue. 26247

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Proclaiming the Month of April 2017 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. (Insert)

Mr. Ramey advised the City has received a proposed partnership agreement between the Southwest Virginia’s Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) and the City’s Police Department. This request is for 2017 and is an annual agreement between the two entities. 26248

Chief Lane and Mr. Bradshaw have reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and both have approved the agreement.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the CAC and the Norton Police Department and authorized the City Manager to sign the MOU.

Council had one check to confirm. The check was to the Wise County Treasurer, dated March 10, 2017, in the amount of \$229,690.04 to cover shared services.

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 check to the Wise County Treasurer, as stated above. 26249

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, 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. 26250

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting. 26251
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. 26252

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Regional Jail Authority for a four-year term to expire on April 3, 2021.

Councilman Caruso nominated Fred Ramey, Jr., to be reappointed to the Southwest Regional Jail Authority for a four-year term to expire on April 3, 2021. 26253

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

Mayor Mays declared Fred Ramey, Jr., reappointed to the Southwest Regional Jail Authority for a four-year term to expire on April 3, 2021.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the 2017 Virginia Municipal League Policy Committees. 26254

Councilman Caruso nominated the list of recommendations that was presented by the City Manager which is as follows: Fred Ramey, Jr., Community and Economic Development; Andrew Greear, Environmental Quality; Jeff Shupe, Finance; William Bradshaw, General Laws; Gina Wohlford, Human Development and Education; Steve McElroy, Transportation.

Councilman Fawbush moved that nominations cease.

Mayor Mays declared the list of recommendations by the City Manager and listed above nominated to the 2017 Virginia Municipal League Policy Committees.

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

He placed at each member's desk a copy of the latest Retails Sales Tax Report.

He reminded Council a budget work session is scheduled for 8:00 a.m., Saturday, April 1, 2017, in Council Chambers. 26255

The School Board Budget Presentation is planned for the April 18th Council meeting.

Mayor Mays advised he has a work conflict with the April 1st budget work session but he does not want Council to reschedule the meeting due to of his conflict.

The City Attorney advised that he and Mr. Ramey have met with representatives of the Coeburn-Norton-Wise Regional Wastewater Treatment Authority (CNW) to review the paperwork to transfer the Josephine pump station to the City. He has received a second draft of the documents with most of the requested changes and he has sent CNW's attorney some suggested changes in the language. One such change is that the deed must be presented and accepted by City Council and approved by the City Attorney to properly transfer ownership of the Josephine pump station to the City. He will have the documents to Council no later than the April 18th Council meeting. 26256

In comments from Council:

Councilwoman Belcher had no comments. 26257

Councilman Fultz had no comments. 26258

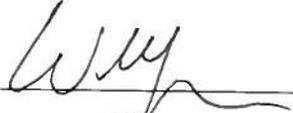
Councilman Caruso had no comments. 26259

Councilman Fawbush commended Mr. Ramey and his staff for the City's social media. 26260

Mayor Mays had no comments. 26261

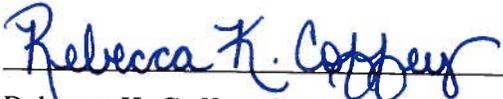
There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rebecca K. Coffey, Clerk of Council