

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, August 1, 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 Pastor Roger Sloce and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

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

262395

Mr. Ramey advised he has been speaking with Rick Watts and Treavor Calhoun about their idea of sponsoring a Geocache Event in the Flag Rock Recreation Area, and they were present to update Council on the event.

Mr. Watts explained that Geocache is a high-tech treasure seeking game using Global Positioning System (GPS) and presented a video explaining the concept of Geocaching. After the video, Mr. Watts said he and Mr. Calhoun are sponsoring the Woodbooger Geo-Trail on September 9, 2017, and that the event will take participants on a scenic trip through Norton and up to Flag Rock Recreation Area searching for caches. He said they are expecting around 150 participants from eight states. The event will kick off on Friday evening at Woodbooger Grill and conclude at the Flag Rock shelters. Twenty geocaches will be hidden and the first 200 people to find all 20 caches will receive a trackable coin.

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Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Watts and Mr. Calhoun for their hard work and stated he is looking forward to seeing the visitors in the City.

At this time, Mr. Ramey said he would like for Council to go ahead and give Mr. Watts and Mr. Calhoun permission to use the City's "Woodbooger" Service Mark for the 2017 Woodbooger Geo-Trail.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve Rick Watts and Treavor Calhoun's request to use the "Woodbooger" Service Mark for the Woodbooger Geo-Trail.

In their packets, Council had a request from High Knob Mercantile to use the City of Norton's "Woodbooger" Service Mark for the purpose of selling web-based souvenir items promoting Southwest Virginia, Eastern Kentucky, and Northeast Tennessee.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve High Knob Mercantile's request to use the "Woodbooger" Service Mark for the purpose of selling web-based promotional items.

262397

In recent months, City Council has discussed the issue of yard sales downtown. In addition, Mr. Ramey said City Administration has received numerous complaints, concerns, and requests for information on regulations for yard sales, food trucks, and itinerate businesses. He stated these items were placed on the agenda for discussion and to

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determine if Council would like for City Administration to research and develop regulations to control these types of uses and businesses within the city.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Ramey told Council if they wanted to adopt an ordinance to control these types of uses and businesses, members could share their views with him and he would send their suggestions to the city attorney for review. It was the consensus of Council to send their opinions on these types of uses and businesses to the city manager who would forward their ideas to Mr. Bradshaw to study.

Mr. Ramey noted activities in Flag Rock Recreation Area have increased, and over the past couple of years, the park has remained open nearly year round instead of closing in October. Mr. Ramey said that if Council wants the park to continue remaining open throughout the year, members will need to consider adopting an amendment to City Code Section 14.144 to prohibit hunting in the Conservation and Recreation Area. Currently, City Code Section 14.144, regulates the Prohibition Against the Discharge of Firearms, but it excludes the Conservation Zone for the purpose of legal hunting as described by Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF).

Councilman Fawbush said the use of Flag Rock Recreation Area has changed the last five years.

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Councilman Caruso said due to the shift in the economy, he thinks Flag Rock should remain open throughout the year for visitors to enjoy, so he is in favor of banning hunting in Flag Rock Recreation Area.

Councilman Fultz, Mayor Mays, and Councilwoman Belcher concurred with Councilman Fawbush and Councilman Caruso's comments to prohibit hunting in the Flag Rock Recreation Area.

The City Attorney said he would prepare a draft ordinance for Council to review at the next meeting. He said if Council approves the draft ordinance, a public hearing would need to be held before adopting the amendment, but it could be enacted prior to this year's hunting season.

Council had one check to confirm. The check was to Mattern & Craig, dated July 7, 2017, in the amount of \$150,835.69 to cover final engineering services for the Safe Route to School Sidewalk and Highwall Project..

262400

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, 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 Mattern & Craig as stated above.

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.

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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. 262402
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 Fawbush, 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) 262403

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

He placed a copy of the donation request from the High Knob Enhancement Corporation that was discussed at the last meeting at each member's desk.

The funding application to Rural Development to purchase two vehicles for the Police Department has been approved.

He approached the Tourism Committee and asked them to consider purchasing traffic counters for Route 619 and Flag Rock Recreation Area to track use of the park and High Knob. This will give City Administration a better understanding of park usage and historical data that can be compared from year-to-year. 262404

He placed at each member's desk the latest Reservoir Report.

The Appalachia Training Center, Central and Bland High Schools Alumni are holding their reunion at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, August 12, at Norton Holiday Inn and has requested the mayor or a council member provide the welcome, if available.

The 2017 Virginia Municipal League (VML) Conference is October 1-3 in Williamsburg. If anyone plans on attending, please advise City Staff so hotel reservations can be confirmed.

The City Attorney had no comments. 262405

In comments from Council:

Councilwoman Belcher said she had no comments but asked if Council wanted to set a date for a workshop.

After brief discussion, Council scheduled a two-hour workshop at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, August 19, in the Municipal Council Chambers. 262406

Councilman Fultz said he would provide the welcome at the Appalachia Training Center, Central and Bland High Schools Alumni Reunion Saturday, August 12. 262407

Councilman Caruso said the National Rifle Association (NRA) would not allow Pathfinders Outdoor Adventures to apply for a grant to upgrade the City's firing range. He said the NRA requires 501C3 agencies or government entities to apply for NRA grants so he has provided Mr. Ramey with the information. 262408

Councilman Fawbush said the Virginia Coalfield Coalition (VCC) will be meeting Wednesday, August 2, to decide the outcome of the Sunset Digital Communications buyout of Bristol Virginia Utilities OptiNet.

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Mayor Mays said he was pleased to see more community members volunteering to bring about events in the City, and he is looking forward to seeing visitors in Norton for the Woodbooger Geo-Trail event.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council