

City Council Meeting Packet



September 19, 2017

AGENDA

Norton City Council

September 19, 2017

6:00 P.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Invocation – Rev. Jim Wells
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Minutes
 1. Meeting of September 5, 2017
5. Audience for Visitors
6. New Business
 - A. Introductions of the Winners of the Woodbooger Story Writing Contest.
 - B. Update on State Board of Elections Decertification of Touchscreen Voting Equipment.
 - C. Resolution in Support of the Virginia Coalfield Regional Tourism Development Authority's Request for Modifications to the Virginia Code Related to Their Board Membership.
 - D. Resolution in Support of the Virginia Coalfield Regional Tourism Development Authority's Request for \$200,000 in Funding from the Virginia General Assembly.
 - E. Update on Proposed Shooting Range Improvements by Pathfinders Outdoor Adventures, LLC and Request to Authorize Grant Application to the National Rifle Association.

F. Request for One (1) Sewer Tap in the County.

G. Confirmation of a Check/Transfer in Excess of \$100,000.

H. Closed Meeting for Personnel as Per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as Amended.

1. Appointment to the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Advisory Board for a Two (2) Year Term; Currently Michele Knox Whose Term Expires 9/15/2017.

To 9/15/2019

2. Appointment to the Norton Tourism Committee for a Four (4) Year Term; Currently Jane Sandt Whose Term Expires 9/30/2017.

To 9/30/2021

3. Appointment to the Norton Tourism Committee for a Four (4) Year Term; Currently William "Buzz" Witt Whose Term Expires 9/30/2017.

To 9/30/2021

4. Appointment to the Norton Industrial Development Authority; Currently William Sturgill Whose Term Expires 5/10/2020.

To 5/10/2020

7. Comments by the City Manager, City Attorney, and City Council.

8. Adjournment.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 5, 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 Delores Belcher

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Freddie Powers and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by First Sergeant Greg Mays.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the August 15, 2017, meeting as presented.

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

A public hearing was held to receive public input on the purchase of two emergency vehicles using a loan/grant package from the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDARD) for the police department.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

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 to purchase two emergency vehicles for the police department using a loan/grant package from the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development. (Insert)

Included in Council's packets was a Resolution Amending Chapter 14, Section 14-144 of the Norton City Code that currently allows hunting in the Flag Rock Recreation Area.

Via a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Ramey displayed City Code Section 14-144 relating to the discharge of a firearm in the City limits and advised current city code conflicts with Council's goals and use of Flag Rock Recreation Area. He advised Council directed the City Attorney to prepare a resolution amending this section of the code to prohibit hunting in the Conservation Zone in the area south of Chapman Street and Laurel Avenue. Mr. Ramey said a public hearing has been advertised to allow public input on removing this language from City Code Chapter 14, Section 14-144.

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

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

Mr. Seth Thompson, a Wildlife Biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, asked Council if the proposed legislation addressed archery equipment or just focused on the discharge of firearms in the Flag Rock Recreation Area.

Mr. Bradshaw stated the resolution only addressed the discharge of firearms in the Conservation Zone.

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 adopt a Resolution Amending Chapter 14, Section 14-144 of the Norton City Code prohibiting the discharge of a firearm for legal hunting purposes in the area south of Chapman Street and Laurel Avenue.
(Insert)

Mr. Ramey said the City has been awarded an AmeriCorps/National Civilian Conservation Corps Team Delta 5 (AmeriCorps/NCCC Team Delta 5) for the next eight weeks and members were invited to tonight's meeting along with City Trail Coordinator Shayne Fields who introduced the team.

Mr. Fields informed Council this year's team will finish the Magnolia Trail in two weeks and will begin working on other trail projects as weather permits. He then asked each team member to introduce themselves and note where they are from: Jonathan Belka (Virginia); Sylvester Mabry III (California); Leisha Malone (Alabama); Ray Blair (Atlanta); Renjia Huang (New York); Cody Carver (Georgia); Robert Penick (Ohio); Jackie Miles (Iowa); Ashley Kalihoff (Oregon); Jerry Veals (Illinois); Kaseim Taylor (North Carolina); and Michael Andress (Missouri).

Mr. Ramey said on rainy days city staff is working to connect the team with the school system, Camp Bethel, and the Country Cabin to assist them with projects. The AmeriCorps/NCCC Team Delta 5 is also going to conduct outreach by tabling at the High Knob Naturalist Rally, Woodbooger Festival, and in the schools and colleges.

At this time, Mayor Mays thanked the AmeriCorps/NCCC Team Delta 5 for their service to the community and a group picture was taken with Council.

Dr. Kristen Westover, President of Mountain Empire Community College, introduced herself to Council and gave a brief update on Mountain Empire Community College (MECC). She advised that enrollment is down 1.5 percent due to the decline in the area's population. She said the college has added two new courses - Cyber Security and Drone Technology. Dr. Westover said the college will begin reviewing its current mission statement, goals, values, and vision for the future to ensure the college is meeting the present needs of the community. As part of this process, the college will be mailing invitations to a Meet and Greet to be held on Tuesday, October 17th, and Council is encouraged to attend and provide input.

Mayor Mays welcomed Dr. Westover and thanked her for her presentation.

The City Manager said that over the past several years the City has been experiencing problems with bears and other animals getting into trash receptacles. Via a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Ramey presented an overview of the nuisance problems and said the City, through two grants from the Department of Game Inland Fisheries (DGIF) and local matching funds, was able to purchase 18 bear-resistant containers and three dumpster tops. These containers have been placed throughout Flag Rock Recreation Area and other areas on High Knob in an effort to reduce the problem. The dumpster tops were placed at Norton Elementary and Middle School and at the homeless shelter in Ramsey. City Administration would like to place additional receptacles throughout the City where bears and other animals are getting into trash receptacles causing a nuisance in residential areas.

At this time, Mr. Ramey introduced Mr. Seth Thompson, a wildlife biologist with the Virginia Department of Game Inland Fisheries (DGIF), who was present to provide more information on bears in Norton.

Via a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Thompson presented information on the number of black bears in the area, management of the bear population, and the number of black bear complaints received statewide for 2017. He said in October DGIF will have a three-day bear season in an effort to control the area bear population. He also shared suggestions on how residents could reduce the number of bears and other animals on their property. Mr. Thompson said DGIF partners with local governments to install electrical fences and dumpster lids to curtail the number of bears in trash receptacles. Mr. Thompson said citizens who continue to experience bear problems can contact the Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline.

Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Thompson for his presentation and for the DGIF grants.

Council was presented a Resolution to Approve a Proposed Name Change for the Planning District One Community Services Board (PD1).

Mr. Ramey informed Council that PD1 actually changed its name a few years ago and just recently found out that the board must receive authorization from each governing locality to formally change the name. Mr. Ramey said Donna Stanley, Financial Officer for PD1, was present to answer any questions Council may have regarding this request.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the resolution authorizing the name change from Planning District One Community Services Board to Planning District One Behavioral Health Services.

Included in Council's packets was a Code of Conduct related to the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDARD) for the purchase of two emergency vehicles for the police department.

Mr. Ramey said in order for the City to receive grant funds from USDARD, City Council must approve a Code of Conduct.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Code of Conduct to meet USDARD's criteria to receive grant funds for the purchase two emergency vehicles.

In their packets, Council had a request from The Wood Booger Grill to use the City's "Woodbooger" Service Mark for the purpose of naming their restaurant and certain menu items.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the request of The Wood Booger Grill to use the City's Service Mark "Woodbooger" in the naming of the restaurant and certain menu items.

The City Attorney noted that the approval of the use of the city's service mark is on such condition as the City Manager approves for a period of time as with the other licenses that have been approved by Council.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, 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.

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

The City Attorney left at this time.

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

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 Caruso, 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)

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Planning Commission for a four-year term to expire on July 31, 2021.

Councilman Caruso nominated Robert Mitchell Kennedy to be appointed to the Norton Planning Commission for a four-year term to expire on July 31, 2021.

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

Mayor Mays declared Robert Mitchell Kennedy appointed to the Norton Planning Commission for a four-year term to expire on July 31, 2021.

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

He placed at each member's desk the financial report from the Norton Little League 11- and 12-year-old Girls Softball Team that qualified for the State Softball Tournament in McLean, Virginia.

Real Estate and Personal Property tax tickets will be mailed at the end of the week.

A copy of the governor's press release has been placed at each member's desk. The press release reads that the City has been approved for a \$40,000 Building Collaborative Communities (BCC) grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). As Council is aware, these funds will be joined with Appalachian Regional Commission's Power Grant (ARC Power Grant) to complete a regional master plan for High Knob for the City of Norton and Wise and Scott Counties.

Traffic counts for Route 619 and Flag Rock entrance have been placed at each member's desk for review.

The city has made it to the final round of Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine's 2017 Top Adventure Towns. The final six towns will be divided into three categories according to the size of the community, and the winners will be selected from the remaining six towns. Winners of the 2017 Top Adventure Towns will be announced in the upcoming weeks.

City Administration is continuing to work on the Cloudsplitter100 Trail Race. At this time, volunteers are especially needed for the aid stations.

Councilman Caruso said he believes that several of the young people on the rescue squad would volunteer to work the Cloudsplitter100 Trail Race, and that most of the volunteers would be certified emergency medical technicians (EMT).

Mr. Ramey said they have discussed the idea of using rescue squad members and he is waiting on a list of responsibilities and duties for race volunteers from Race Director Susan Howell.

Mr. Ramey said at the September 19th meeting Councilman Fawbush asked that the winners of the Woodbooger Story Contest be recognized. Also, Mr. Ramey handed out a packet to Council Members from Kitty Barker, Executive Director of the Heart of Appalachia (HOA) that contained two resolutions the HOA would like Council to consider at the next meeting, and the packet includes an update on HOA activities.

He said upcoming activities in the City include the 2017 Woodbooger Geo-Trail, Dock Boggs Festival, Benges Revenge Bike Race, High Knob Hellbender, Cloudsplitter100 Trail Race, and the Woodbooger Festival.

Mr. Ramey advised the University of Virginia's College at Wise (UVA-Wise) has provided two season tickets and a parking pass that can be checked out in the City Manager's office by any Council Member wishing to attend a football game at the college during the 2017 season.

In comments from Council:

Councilwoman Belcher said she attended a Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEO) meeting with Mr. Ramey at the University of Virginia's College at Wise.

She said the Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board is going to start working in area high schools to help students decide what path they going to take after graduation. She said she feels students need help determining a path prior to the tenth grade and that recognizing a student's abilities earlier would assist them in navigating a more precise path after graduation.

Mr. Ramey added that the Workforce Development Board wants to participate in a program called "Certified Community." A Certified Community offers a workforce that is certified on three different levels by using a standardized test that is given in high school, college, and at the Virginia Employment Commission. These test results are then entered into a database where companies who utilize the Certified Community program can access the information to determine if an area's skilled workforce meets their company's specific needs.

Councilman Fultz said John I. Burton High School's 2017 Football Homecoming is not going to be your typical homecoming this year. He said the National Honor Society and the Cross Country Team is doing a Raider Heroes Glow Walk/5K fundraiser for St. Jude's Children's Hospital (St. Jude's) in honor of Harper Potter. The event is scheduled at 7:00

p.m., Sunday, October 1st to kick off Burton's Homecoming week. He said the homecoming theme this year is "Nothing Greater Than a Raider" and that kids are going to dress up in super hero costumes, which is fitting because St. Jude's calls their fundraisers heroes. Councilman Fultz said grand marshals for the homecoming parade are students Harper Potter and Clay Hart, and former student and current Burton teacher Madison Adams who have all been patients at St. Jude's.

Councilman Caruso said Chris Jones, Chairman of the Norton Tourism Committee, had suggested a joint meeting between the Tourism Committee, Norton Industrial Development Authority, and City Council and he wanted to know if any dates have been determined for that joint meeting.

He said Mr. Chris Jones, volunteer organizer of the High Knob Music Festival, had requested a donation for the festival and that Council needed to make a decision on the request.

Councilman Caruso asked Mr. Ramey if the Highway Safety Committee had met and discussed the highway crossing issue.

Mr. Ramey said the Highway Safety Committee did meet and discussed all the highway crossing issues in the City and determined that any crosswalk installed in the City must be installed to meet the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) standards, even if the City has to apply for grant funds to install the crosswalks correctly.

Councilman Caruso said another crosswalk issue was brought to his attention and that is on the viaduct as you are coming from Main Avenue, S.W.

Mr. Ramey said to install a crosswalk on the viaduct the sidewalk would have to be ramped down to meet VDOT standards and he is not sure there is enough room on the bridge to meet criteria required by VDOT. Mr. Ramey said installation of a crosswalk signal would probably be the best solution for this pedestrian crossing.

Councilman Caruso asked if Council was back on schedule for Saturday meetings.

Councilman Caruso asked Mr. Ramey if a determination had been made on whether the City would install hammock poles in Flag Rock Camping Ground.

Mr. Ramey advised Michele Knox, the City's Parks & Recreation Director, was researching the request looking for samples and trying to determine what has worked at other locations.

Councilman Caruso said he had received a lot of compliments from out of town visitors on what the City is doing with the trail system on High Knob.

Councilman Fawbush gave each Council Member a copy of the writings he had received for the Woodbooger Story Contest. He said over 20 submissions were received from Wise, Coeburn, Pound, and Gray, Tennessee. He noted a group of five individuals read the stories then ranked their top five writings and submitted their rankings to determine the winner. Councilman Fawbush said Ms. Olivia Basham from Wise was the overall winner and that six submissions were runner ups. He said he has written a letter to the first place winner and to each of the runner ups inviting them to the September 19th Council meeting to be recognized for their participation.

Mayor Mays had no comments.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

“Life of a Woodbooger”

Hey, It's Woodbooger here! I may be “Yeti,” “Sasquatch,” or even “Bigfoot” to you. However, around Southwest Virginia, most of the folk call me Woodbooger. Some people believe in me, and some do not. But I'm here to tell you that I am very much alive and real. I live in the mountains and I travel a lot. There is only one of me. Sometimes people spot me and get me on film. I don't like that too much. That's why it is very hard to catch me. I like to stay hidden from people because I am afraid of what they will think of me. I do care very much about the people who live near me, though. They have even named a restaurant after me! It is called the “Woodbooger Grill.” It sure does make me happy that people who live here care that much about me. I make sure to look out for them and make sure they are safe.

I spend most of my days hanging around the Flag Rock area. Lots of adventurers flock there and I enjoy it when they do. Sometimes I sit on the rock for hours upon hours just admiring the view. It is very peaceful and enjoyable there. I could spend days there just admiring God's beauty.

Despite spending most of my time alone, I never get lonely. In fact, I have a family that I visit from time to time. I have two sisters, Willow and Meadow. They are twins and are a couple years younger than me. I love them and all the memories we have created, growing up together. It makes me sad that I do not get to see them as often as I'd like. However, I know I will see them round considering I'm always traveling. My mom and dad are also very important in my life. They have supported me from the beginning and made sure to raise me right.

There's so many fun things to do around here. I love to visit Little Stoney Falls and see the beautiful waterfalls. Sometimes I even swim in them. But I always make sure no people are there so I don't scare them off. I also like to go to Bear Rock. It is very steep cliff, but the thrill and view is definitely worth it. Occasionally I go to St. Paul and float the Clinch River. It is a great way to cool off when I start to overheat in the summer. I do not think there is a better place to live than these mesmerizing mountains. I wouldn't give up my calm, relaxing, thrilling, lovely life for anything. These mountains are my home. There's is just something so wonderful to know you're in the Appalachian Mountains. The fresh smell of the wind and the flowers blooming. The sway of the trees and the love in the air. There is simply nothing like it. I love living the life of a Woodbooger.



★ VIRGINIA ★
DEPARTMENT of ELECTIONS

News Release

For Immediate Release
September 8, 2017

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VIRGINIA DECERTIFIES PAPERLESS VOTING EQUIPMENT

RICHMOND – The Department of Elections today called for the immediate decertification of Direct Record Electronic (DRE) voting equipment in Virginia, and the State Board of Elections approved the request in an effort to increase the security and integrity of Virginia’s voting systems ahead of the November election.

The vote to decertify the DRE, or touchscreen, voting equipment is effective immediately and means that DREs may no longer be used for elections in Virginia. DREs are used in 22 localities across the Commonwealth.

The Department of Elections had requested a security assessment by the Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA) of various paperless voting systems in use in Virginia and determined that decertification was necessary to safeguard against unauthorized access to the machines. Additionally, the DREs in use in Virginia do not have a voter-verifiable paper audit trail, which is an important security feature provided by the paper systems.

“The security of the election process is always of paramount importance. The Department is continually vigilant on matters related to security of voting equipment used in Virginia,” said **Edgardo Cortés, Virginia’s Commissioner of Elections**. “The ability to meaningfully participate in our democracy is one of the most important rights that we have as citizens, and the Department of Elections is dedicated to maintaining voters’ confidence in the democratic process.”

James Alcorn, Chair of the State Board of Elections, added: “Our No. 1 priority is to make sure that Virginia elections are carried out in a secure and fair manner. The step we took today to decertify paperless voting systems is necessary to ensure the integrity of Virginia’s elections.”

The Department contacted all DRE localities in early August about the security concerns so that they had sufficient time to prepare for a smooth transition. Throughout this process, the

Department has coordinated with local officials and vendors, which have affirmed adequate inventory and staff to handle equipping and training localities with new voting equipment. “The Department has served as a significant resource during this process and their work has helped general registrars minimize voter impact and has even saved local taxpayer dollars,” said **Tracy Howard, President, Voter Registrars Association of Virginia.**

For several years, the Department of Elections has encouraged localities to upgrade voting equipment that has reached its expected end of life. In response to these concerns, Governor McAuliffe proposed adding \$28 million to the state budget for all Virginia localities to purchase new voting machines in 2015. However, the proposal was not approved by the General Assembly.

As of today, the following 22 Virginia localities use DREs: Bath, Buchanan, Chesapeake, Colonial Heights, Culpeper, Cumberland, Emporia, Falls Church, Gloucester, Hopewell, Lee, Madison, Martinsville, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Rappahannock, Russell, Surry, Sussex, Tazewell, and Washington.

Seven (7) of the above twenty-two (22) localities have informed the Department that they have contracted to secure new equipment for use in the November General Election, and three (3) have indicated pending procurements. Additional information about these individual localities and their voting equipment is available here:

<http://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/voting-systems/index.html>.

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, This RESOLUTION is for the Virginia Coalfield Regional Tourism Development Authority dba Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, with a mailing address of P.O. Box 186, St. Paul Virginia 24283, (herein called "HOA"); and

WHEREAS, HOA was created by the Virginia General Assembly in 1993 to promote, expand, and develop the tourism industries of the coal-producing region including the counties of Scott, Lee, Wise, Dickenson, Russell, Buchanan, Tazewell and the City of Norton, as a whole; and,

WHEREAS, since 1993, most of the localities have hired or will be hiring tourism directors in the near future to improve the economic impact of tourism for each locality, and

WHEREAS, the legislative language approved in 1993 does not include seats on the Board of Directors to Tourism Directors, nor mandates representation of the tourism industry for seats on the Board. Therefore, hotels, restaurants, attractions, major events, state parks, interstate parks, nor federal parks are seated on the HOA Board of Directors, and

WHEREAS, to strengthen the HOA Board of Directors to improve capacity as a tourism marketing and development authority, the Board of Directors elected to submit updates and changes to the existing Legislative Language to increase the number of board members to 18 seats; and

WHEREAS, eight seats will be available for Tourism Directors from each locality who shall have a permanent seat on the HOA Board of Directors. If a community does not have an official Tourism Director, the governing shall appoint a member of the government staff, chamber of commerce director, or community leader with tourism ties to serve as on the Board and report to the governing body; and

WHEREAS, the Tourism Directors shall present a slate of nominees from tourism industry businesses such as lodging, restaurants, attractions, parks, outdoor recreation, or community leaders to fill a second seat for each locality. These eight seats shall be appointed by the local governing body to serve a two-year term which may be extended if desired by the local governing body; and

WHEREAS, two seats on the HOA Board shall be filled by a representative of Virginia State Parks, Jefferson National Park Clinch River District, for a two-year term which can be extended if desired; and

WHEREAS, the HOA Board of Directors may remove from the board any appointed member in the event that the board member is absent from any three consecutive board meetings or is absent from any four board meetings within any 12-month period. In either such event, the local governing body shall appoint a successor for the unexpired portion of the member who has been removed; and

WHEREAS, ten (10) members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum; and

WHEREAS, each locality shall appoint a Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC) to represent the tourism industry. The Tourism Director shall provide a slate of nominees to the governing body to appoint at least five, and more if desired, tourism representatives from lodging, restaurants, attractions, outdoor recreation, community leader or parks with terms determined by the Tourism Director and governing body; and

WHEREAS, the Tourism Director and chair of each locality shall facilitate regular meetings of the local Tourism Advisory Committee to complete the work of the tourism plan and represent the tourism industry of the locality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Norton that City of Norton supports the request to the Virginia General Assembly to support changes and updates in the Virginia Coalfields Regional Tourism Development Authority as stated in the Legislative Language Bill for 2018-2019 General Assembly Session.

Adopted this 19th Day of September 2017.

City of Norton

William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Code of Virginia

Title 15.2. Counties, Cities and Towns » Chapter 55. Tourism Development Authority » § 15.2-5508.

Provisions of chapter controlling over other statutes and charters

§ 15.2-5500. Tourism Development Authority established.

There is hereby established a Tourism Development Authority for the LENOWISCO and Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commissions. The Authority shall promote, expand and develop the tourism industries of this coal-producing region as a whole.

1993, c. 663, § 15.1-1399.19; 1994, c. 160; 1997, c. 587.

§ 15.2-5501. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Authority" means any political subdivision, a body politic and corporate, created, organized and operated pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, or if such Authority is abolished, the board, body, commission, department or officer succeeding to the principal functions thereof or to whom the powers given by this chapter are given by law.

"Participating locality" means any county or city in the LENOWISCO or Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commissions with respect to which an authority may be organized and in which it is contemplated the Authority will function.

§ 15.2-5502. Directors; qualifications; terms; vacancies; compensation and expenses; quorum; records; certification and distribution of report concerning bond issuance.

~~The Authority shall be governed by a board of directors in which all powers of the Authority shall be vested and which board shall be composed of the eight chairmen of the local tourism development committees established in § 15.2-5505. The eight directors shall be appointed initially for terms of one, two, three and four years: the representatives of Buchanan and Dickenson Counties being appointed for one year terms; the representatives of Lee County and the City of Norton being appointed for two year terms; the representatives of Russell and Scott Counties being appointed for three year terms; and the representatives of Tazewell and Wise Counties being appointed for four year terms. Subsequent appointments shall be for terms of four years, except appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired terms. All terms of office shall be deemed to commence upon the date of the initial appointment to the Authority, and thereafter, in accordance with the provisions of the preceding sentence. If, at the end of any term of office of any director a successor thereto has not been appointed, then the director whose term of office has expired shall continue to hold office until his successor is appointed and qualified. Each director shall, upon appointment or reappointment, before entering upon his duties take and subscribe the oath prescribed by § 49-1.~~

The Authority shall be governed by a board of directors of eighteen (18) representatives in which all powers of the Authority shall be vested and which board shall be composed of (8) eight Tourism Directors representing each county and City of Norton which will hold permanent seats on the Board. If a Tourism Director position does not exist in a locality, the governing body shall appoint a representative, preferably from the government staff, chamber of commerce, or travel industry to represent the locality on the Board of Directors. The remaining seats shall be filled preferably by representatives from the travel industry from each of the (8) governing localities. Each Tourism Director, working with the tourism committee from the localities, shall provide a slate of nominations to the governing body, for selection of one (1) representative preferably from the tourism industry segment which may include the chairman of the local tourism committee, or a representative from lodging, restaurants, attractions, parks, outdoor recreation, or a community leader. The Board of Directors will create two ex-officio non-voting board positions for representatives from, (1) Jefferson National Forest Clinch Ranger District Office, and (1) Virginia State Parks. Appointed representatives shall serve a two-year term which begins on January 1st, and may be reappointed for additional terms with appointments made at the annual year-end board meeting. The Board of Directors has the authority to appoint non-voting tourism representatives, and determine additional seats they deem necessary.

The directors shall elect from their membership a ~~chairman~~, a vice-~~chairman~~, and from their membership or not, as they desire, a secretary and a treasurer, or a secretary-treasurer, who shall continue to hold such office until their respective successors are elected. The directors shall receive no salary but the directors ~~may be compensated such amount per regular, special, or committee meeting as may be approved by the appointing authority, not to exceed fifty dollars per meeting, and may be~~ reimbursed for necessary traveling and other expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

The Board of Directors may remove from the board any appointed member in the event that the board member is absent from any three consecutive board meetings or is absent from any four board meetings within any 12-month period. In either such event, the local governing body shall appoint a successor for the unexpired portion of the term of the member who has been removed.

Ten (10) members of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum of the board for the purposes of conducting its business and exercising its powers and for all other purposes. No vacancy in the membership of the board shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the board. The board shall keep detailed minutes of its proceedings, which shall be open to public inspection at all times. It shall keep suitable records of its financial transactions and, unless exempted by § ~~30-140~~, it shall arrange to have the records audited annually. Copies of each such audit shall be furnished to the governing bodies of the participating localities and shall be open to public inspection.

1993, c. 663, § 15.1-1399.20; 1994, c. 160; 1997, c. 587.

§ 15.2-5503. Executive director; staff.

The Authority shall appoint an executive director, who shall be authorized to employ such staff as necessary to enable the Authority to perform its duties as set forth in this chapter. The Authority is authorized to determine the duties of such staff and to fix salaries and compensation from such funds as may be received or appropriated.

1993, c. 663, § 15.1-1399.22; 1997, c. 587.

§ 15.2-5504. Powers of Authority.

The Authority shall have the following powers together with all powers incidental thereto or necessary for the performance of those hereinafter stated:

1. To sue and be sued and to prosecute and defend, at law or in equity, in any court having jurisdiction of the subject matter and of the parties;
2. To adopt and use a corporate seal and to alter the same at pleasure;
3. To contract and be contracted with;
4. To employ and pay compensation to such employees and agents, including attorneys, as the board of directors deem necessary in carrying on the business of the Authority;
5. To exercise all powers expressly given the Authority by the governing bodies of the participating localities which established the Authority and to establish bylaws and make all rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, deemed expedient for the management of the Authority's affairs;
6. To borrow money and to accept contributions, grants and other financial assistance from the United States of America and agencies or instrumentalities thereof, the Commonwealth, or any political subdivision, agency, or public instrumentality of the Commonwealth;
7. To formulate a tourism development plan for each participating locality in the LENOWISCO and Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commissions;
8. To receive and expend moneys on behalf of tourism development;
9. To coordinate the participating localities' individual tourism plans; and
10. To form corporations, limited partnerships or limited liability companies for the purposes of fostering or promoting tourism, job creation, economic development, or the sale of goods manufactured and produced in Virginia.

1993, c. 663, § 15.1-1399.21; 1997, c. 587; 2004, c. 806.

§ 15.2-5505. Establishment of local tourism ~~development~~ **advisory** committees.

Each of the participating localities in the LENOWISCO and Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commissions shall establish a local tourism development **advisory** committee to promote tourism in the participating locality, participate and assist in the planning of the regional Tourism Development Authority, and develop a tourism development **destination** plan for its participating locality. ***Each locality will create a Tourism Advisory Committee. The governing body may remove from the board any appointed member in the event that the board member is absent from any three consecutive board meetings or is absent from any four board meetings within any 12-month period. In either such event, the local governing body shall appoint a successor for the unexpired portion of the term of the member who has been removed.***

The Tourism Director, working with the Tourism Advisory Committee chair shall provide a slate of recommendations to the local governing body which will then appoint five members to serve on its local tourism development committee. The committee shall elect a chairman from its membership, five or more appointees representing the travel industry which includes lodging, restaurants, attractions, outdoor recreation, events or parks, or any community leaders with terms determined by the governing body, and which may be reappointed. The Tourism Director, will work with the chairman of the Tourism Advisory Committee to facilitate regular meetings of the Tourism Advisory Committee.

1993, c. 663, § 15.1-1399.19; 1994, c. 160; 1997, c. 587.

§ 15.2-5506. Responsibilities and duties; local tourism advisory committees.

The local tourism advisory committees established in § 15.2-5505 shall:

1. Promote and assist tourism destination plan in their individual participating localities;
2. Develop and assist in the implementation of a tourism destination plan to increase tourism revenue in their respective participating localities;
3. Encourage individuals, businesses and their local government to invest in tourism development as an integral part of overall economic development; and
4. Assist the regional Tourism Development Authority in planning and implementing a regional tourism development and destination plan.

1993, c. 663, § 15.1-1399.23; 1994, c. 160; 1997, c. 587.

§ 15.2-5507. Application for and acceptance of gifts and grants by local tourism advisory committees.

The local tourism advisory committees are authorized to apply for, accept and expend gifts, grants or donations from public or private sources to enable them to carry out their objectives.

1993, c. 663, § 15.1-1399.24; 1997, c. 587.

§ 15.2-5508. Provisions of chapter controlling over other statutes and charters.

Any provision of this chapter which is found to be in conflict with any other statute or charter shall be controlling and shall supersede such other statute or charter to the extent of such conflict.

1993, c. 663, § 15.1-1399.25; 1997, c. 587; 2015, c. 709.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, This RESOLUTION is for the Virginia Coalfield Regional Tourism Development Authority dba Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, with a mailing address of P.O. Box 186, St. Paul Virginia 24283, (herein called "HOA"); and

WHEREAS, HOA was created by the Virginia General Assembly in 1993 to promote, expand, and develop the tourism industries of the coal-producing region including the counties of Scott, Lee, Wise, Dickenson, Russell, Buchanan, Tazewell and the City of Norton, as a whole; and,

WHEREAS, HOA provides marketing and promotion support to new tourism businesses and heritage attractions that receive investment dollars from VCEDA, People Inc., ARC, DHCD, TRRC and various bank loans and private investment. However, no marketing funds are provided to ensure visitors have knowledge of the new tourism assets, and

WHEREAS, HOA shall increase marketing for new Spearhead Trails ATV, UTV, Dirt Bike, Jeep, Mountain Biking, Equestrian, Kayaking and Hiking Trails. Marketing support is provided to all trailhead towns to include Pocahontas, Buchanan County, Haysi, Pennington Gap, Dungannon, Keokee, Coeburn, Big Stone Gap, Honaker, St. Paul and City of Norton, and

WHEREAS, HOA supports the mountain music culture assets with marketing campaigns to increase visitation to Ralph Stanley Museum, Carter Family Fold, Lays Hardware, Country Cabin II, Trail of the Lonesome Pine Outdoor Drama, Lee Theater and numerous events, festivals, jams and schools that support traditional mountain music and bluegrass, and heritage and culture museums, festivals and events; and

WHEREAS, HOA markets and promotes outdoor recreational areas, parks, and trails in the eight localities including local community parks, Virginia State Parks, Jefferson National Forest, Natural Preserve Areas, Virginia Designated Blueways, Historical Driving Trails, and Virginia Scenic Byways; and

WHEREAS, HOA is a marketing partner with Clinch River Valley Initiative and provides marketing for Downtowns of the Clinch, Tastes of the Clinch and supports all the communities along the Clinch River with additional marketing and promotions; and

WHEREAS, HOA markets and promotes outdoor recreational areas, parks, and trails in the eight localities including local community parks, Breaks Interstate Park, Virginia State Parks, Jefferson National Forest, Natural Preserve Areas, Virginia Designated Blueways, Historical Driving Trails, and Virginia Scenic Byways; and

WHEREAS, HOA has implemented Appalachian Backroads Motorcycle/Sports Car Campaign creating 14 new driving loops with 1,400 miles of mountain riding looping through downtowns, attractions and parks to increase visitation and overnight stays; and

WHEREAS, HOA has implemented a three-year program to create individual and regional "Tourism Destination Plans" to increase the capacity of leadership and tourism planning in each of the eight localities; and

WHEREAS, the HOA Board of Directors voted on July 17, 2017 to request from the General Assembly funding of \$200,000 (\$100,000 per year for 2018 and 2019) for the next biennium to fund marketing programs to increase economic impact and diversity to localities, non-profit assets, and tourism industry businesses located in the Coalfield Region; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Norton that, as a partner of HOA, the City of Norton supports this request to the Virginia General Assembly of \$200,000 for next biennium (\$100,000 per year for 2018 and 2019) to promote and market the tourism industry businesses, and tourism assets in the Coalfield Region.

Adopted this 19th Day of September 2017.

City of Norton

William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk



Inter-Office Memo

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager *FR*
CC:
Date: September 15, 2017
Re: Update on Proposed Shooting Range Improvements & Grant

Earlier this year, City Council approved a request from Pathfinders Outdoor Adventures, LLC (POA) to amend its Special Use Permit to utilize the City's Firing Range for firearms training and classes to allow limited public access to the facility for competitive shooting competitions and other activities.

At that time, POA noted their interest in applying for a National Rifle Association (NRA) grant to improve the firing range facilities and they plan to review those plans with City Council at our meeting. If these plans are acceptable to City Council then Council would need to authorize the submittal of the NRA Grant Application.

Thank You.

City of Norton

Application For Out of City Limits Water and (or) Sewer Connection



YOU MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE

NAME (or) Company THE CAVE CHURCH
(PRINT FULL NAME) FIRST MIDDLE LAST

IF CONTRACTOR, WHO IS TAP FOR? _____

SERVICE ADDRESS 5451 Industrial Park Way Norton, VA 24273

MAILING ADDRESS P.O. Box 96 Norton, VA 24273

Pump System Design - Engineering Services WVA, VA 276-328-1080

PHONE 276-393-2967 ARE YOU OVER THE AGE OF 18? YES NO

PLEASE INDICATE SERVICE REQUEST(S) BY CHECKING THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES)

WATER NA SEWER Pump to manhole SIZE METER 5/8" Over 1" _____

DATE 9/11/17 SIGNATURE [Signature]

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

APPLICATION APPROVAL/DENIAL

INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES _____ NO

COMMENTS: Sewer Available. This will be a private pump

DATE 09/12/17

SIGNATURE [Signature]
T & D FOREMAN

CONNECTION FEES	
Water \$ _____	Sewer \$ _____
Date Collected _____	
Comments _____	

NORTON CITY COUNCIL OUTSIDE CONNECTION APPROVAL/DENIAL

APPROVED: _____ DENIED: _____ IF APPROVED, APPLICATION VOID AFTER _____ DAYS

DATE WHICH APPLICATION PRESENTED TO CITY COUNCIL: _____

DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____

CITY MANAGER

SCHOOL BOARD
Sherry Adams, Chairperson
Mark Leonard, Vice-Chairperson
Carol Caruso
April Fletcher
Joseph Stallard



DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT
Gina J. Wohlford
gwohlford@nortoncityschools.org
Phone 276.679.2330
Fax 276.679.4315

TO: Jeff Shupe
FROM: Jacqueline Brooke
SUBJECT: Request for Funds

DATE: August 28, 2017

Norton City Schools requests a deposit of City Funds in the amount of \$200,000 to cover August 2017 payroll expenditures.

Thank you!