

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, December 19, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

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

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

Absent: Delores Belcher

The invocation was given by Pastor Jim Wells of Norton Christian Church and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane. 262543

At this time, Mayor Mays stated he would like City Council to consider amending the agenda to include under Item 6-A-1 an Approval and Acceptance of Right-of-Way Required for Waterline Replacement in the Frog Level section of Dorchester from Humphreys Enterprises, Inc., and Greater Wise, Inc. 262544

It was the consensus of Council to amend the agenda to include under Item 6-A-1 the approval and acceptance of right-of-way granted by Humphreys Enterprises, Inc., and Greater Wise, Inc.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Belcher, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the December 5, 2017, meeting as presented. 262545

There was no response to the Mayor's Call for Visitors. 262546

Ms. Tamara Greear of Thrower, Blanton, and Associates was present to give Council copies of the city's financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2017, and to provide members a brief synopsis of the audit findings.

Ms. Greear advised that the city received an unmodified or clean opinion. She then gave an overview of the audit and answered several questions from council members on various subjects pertaining to the audit. Ms. Greear said the audit did not reveal any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal controls and that the city has an excellent management team. When presenting the Enterprise Fund portion of the audit, Ms. Greear said city council had been proactive in raising water and sewer rates and that has prevented a large rate increase to utility customers all at once. She encouraged city council to continue being proactive with water and sewer rates in an effort to continue moving the Enterprise Fund in the direction of becoming financially self-sufficient.

Following a brief summation of the audit, Ms. Greear advised Thrower, Blanton, and Associates are at the end of their current contract with the city. She said it has been a pleasure to work for the city and they hope to continue with the city's auditing services in the future. She said if Council members have any questions in the future on this audit, please email her or call the office. 262547

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Belcher, Council moved to adopt the 2016-17 Fiscal Audit by Thrower, Blanton, and Associates ending June 30, 2017.

Mayor Mays thanked Ms. Greear for the audit presentation.

Council was presented an Approval and Acceptance of Right-of-Way granted by Humphreys Enterprises, Inc., and Greater Wise, Inc., to the City of Norton for a required easement needed to replace a section of waterline in the Frog Level area of Dorchester.

Mr. Ramey explained the easement was granted by Humphreys Enterprises, Inc., and Greater Wise, Inc., and was placed on a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Easement form and recorded. Mr. Ramey said Mr. Bradshaw advised that Council needed to confirm its acceptance of the right-of-way and the city attorney had to approve as to form. He said Mr. Bradshaw has prepared an Approval and Acceptance of Right-of-Way document for Council's approval.

262548

Mr. Bradshaw said municipalities that are conveyed property are required by the Code of Virginia to formally accept the conveyance, and the conveyance has to be approved as to form by an attorney before it is valid. The Approval and Acceptance of Right-of-Way presented for Council's consideration will provide the necessary approval and acceptance of the easement, and the city attorney's approval of the form of conveyance as required by the Code of Virginia.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve and accept the right-of-way granted by Humphreys Enterprises, Inc., and Greater Wise, Inc. (Insert)

In their packets, Council had one transfer to confirm. The transfer was to Norton City Schools, dated November 27, 2017, in the amount of \$125,000.00, to cover November 2017 payroll expenditures.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Belcher, Council moved to confirm the transfer to Norton City Schools as stated above.

262549

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, 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.

262550

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

The city attorney left at this time.

262551

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

262552

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, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Belcher, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert) 262553

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Virginia Health Authority for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2021.

Councilman Caruso nominated Debbie Ward to be reappointed to the Southwest Virginia Health Authority for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2021. 262554

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

Mayor Mays declared Debbie Ward reappointed to the Southwest Virginia Health Authority for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2021.

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

Earlier in the year, the Seventh Grade Art Class at Norton Elementary and Middle School painted a picture on a city snowplow and the truck is parked outside council chambers for council's viewing.

The filings of annual Disclosure Statements, as required by the state, have been placed at each member's desk. The documents are due back to the clerk by February 1, 2018, but not before January 1, 2018.

The 2018 Commonwealth of Virginia state holiday calendar that the city will observe next year has been placed on your desks. 262555

The 2018 Regional Legislative Reception is planned January 25, 2018, in Richmond. If you are planning to attend the reception, please advise the city manager as soon as possible so reservations can be confirmed.

Mr. Ramey placed at each member's desk copies of the tentative 2018 Budget Calendar, the December Retail Sales Tax Report, and the Christmas and New Year holiday office and garbage collection schedules.

On behalf of all city employees, Mr. Ramey wished council a happy and safe Christmas and New Year holiday, and thanked council members for all they do for city employees.

In comments from Council:

Councilman Caruso wished everyone a Merry Christmas. 262556

Councilman Fultz said he received an email from Mr. Shawn Lindsey, Executive Director of Spearhead Trails, requesting that he ask city council members to save-the-date of Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 2:00 p.m., to attend an announcement at the Spearhead Trails office in Coeburn. 262557

Councilman Fawbush shared that the Norton Lions Club, through the Big Heart Fund, served over 200 families this past weekend and it was a blessing to those they served in the community, as well as, to those who donated and gave of their time.

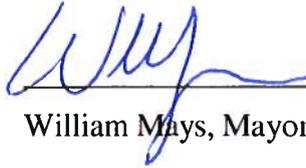
Mayor Mays thanked Councilman Fawbush for supplying council chambers with 2018 calendars from Hagy Fawbush Funeral Home.

Mayor Mays recommended that the January 2, 2018, council meeting be cancelled if there were no objections from council members.

Council was in consensus to dispense of the January 2, 2018, meeting.

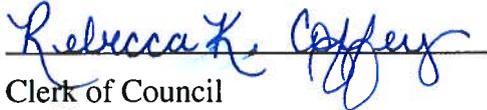
There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council