

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, February 6, 2018, 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 Roger Sloce 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 January 16, 2018, meeting as presented.

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

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The next agenda item was recognition of 12 employees for their years of service to the city.

The City Manager said tonight's meeting is one of his favorite meetings each year and the city will be recognizing 12 employees with a combined total of 215 years of service to the community.

Those being honored were: Shane Potter, Stevie Couch, Suzanne Russell for 10 years of service; Leisa Brummitte, Greg Mays, Virginia Miller for 15 years of service; Sherry Smith for 20 years of service; Kim Bledsoe for 25 years of service; and Carlos Noaks for 35 years of service.

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Mayor Mays, on behalf of Council, presented service pins to those employees in attendance and thanked them for their years of service to the city.

Receiving an award but not present were Mark Swindall for 15 years of service, Sam Pugh for 20 years of service, and David Rose for 25 years of service.

Following the pin presentation, a group photo was taken with council, and the employees were honored with applause.

The City then recognized retired Sergeant Ken Adams of the Norton Police Department. On behalf of fellow council members, Mayor Mays presented Mr. Adams with a plaque for 20 years of dedicated service as a police officer for the City of Norton. Mr. Adams was honored with applause and a photo was taken with council.

The City Manager advised that City Parks and Recreation Director Michele Knox was present to update council on the department's 2017 summer camps.

Ms. Knox, via a PowerPoint presentation, gave council an overview of the various summer camps held during 2017. She said eight camps were held throughout the summer with 231 campers participating. She noted this was an increase of 74 campers from 2016. She also pointed out that there was an activity scheduled week last year for area youth to engage in and some of the camps were sponsored by a health grant received from the

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Virginia Department Health (VDH). Ms. Knox also said the school provided campers with free lunches each day and that camp instructors were excellent this year.

Council members shared their appreciation for Ms. Knox and the summer camps held by the Parks & Recreation Department, and Mayor Mays thanked her for the update on the 2017 summer camps.

Mr. Ramey said the 2018 Independence Day Fireworks Display on the agenda is a continuation from council's last meeting. He advised that Parks and Recreation Director Michele Knox and Fire Chief Todd Lagow have scheduled a meeting with fireworks personnel from the town of Big Stone Gap to discuss the requirements needed to become a certified fireworks shooter and to watch their fireworks display this year. Mr. Ramey said observing Big Stone Gap's certified shooter this year would give city administration time to better understand what is required to shoot our own fireworks display, and that we recommend moving forward with our fireworks vendor for this year's show to allow city staff time to prepare for next year's celebration.

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Council agreed with the city manager's recommendation to hire a fireworks vendor for this year's 2018 Independence Day fireworks display, and to celebrate the Fourth of July holiday on Saturday, July 7, 2018.

Council had been presented in their packets with a Resolution in Support of Senate Bill 780 and House Bill 1555 being introduced by Senator Ben Chafin, Jr., and Delegate Todd Pillion regarding efforts to develop a revenue sharing agreement between localities in the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA) region as it relates to the potential construction of a Hydroelectric Pumped Storage Facility in Southwest Virginia.

Mr. Ramey said localities have been encouraged to work together on a revenue sharing agreement so the entire region can benefit from the anticipated funds that are expected to be generated as a result of building a Hydroelectric Pumped Storage Facility in Southwest Virginia. He said the city is being asked to support the legislation by adopting a resolution in support of the two bills.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution in Support of Senate Bill 780 and House Bill 1555 being introduced by Senator Chafin and Delegate Pillion. (Insert)

Council was presented a Resolution in Support of the Request to the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) for the city to become a Destination Marketing Organization.

Mr. Ramey said the city has made significant investments in tourism the past couple of years and he believes this designation would allow for more funding opportunities and open a direct line of communication to VTC.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution in Support of the Request to the Virginia Tourism Corporation for the city to become a Destination Marketing Organization. (Insert)

Council had been given a copy of a Resolution Authorizing an Application to Become an Affiliate Community of the Virginia Main Street Program.

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Mr. Ramey said the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD) manages the Main Street Program and by becoming an affiliate member the city would have access to training which is designed to help localities improve the downtown area. He said he believes the affiliation with the Main Street Program would be beneficial to the city as it moves forward with downtown revitalization in the next few months. He noted the only cost associated with the program is the expense to attend meetings across the state.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing an Application to Become an Affiliate Community of the Virginia Main Street Program. (Insert)

At this time, Mayor Mays said he would like to recognize city employee Sam Pugh who just arrived at the meeting.

Mayor Mays presented Mr. Pugh with a service pin recognizing his 20 years of service to the citizens of Norton. 262589

Mr. Pugh's service was acknowledged with applause and Mayor Mays thanked him for his service.

Council had one transfer to confirm. The transfer was to Norton City Schools, dated December 19, 2017, in the amount of \$100,000 to cover December 2017 payroll expenditures. 262590

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, 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 transfer to Norton City Schools as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, 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. 262591

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. 262592

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 Fawbush, 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) 262593

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four-year term to expire on January 28, 2022. 262594

Councilman Caruso nominated Roger Sloce to be reappointed to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four-year term to expire on January 28, 2022.

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

Mayor Mays declared Roger Sloce reappointed to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four-year term to expire on January 28, 2022.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Department of Social Services Advisory Board for a four-year term to expire on January 28, 2022.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Frank Gravely to be reappointed to the Department of Social Services Advisory Board for a four-year term to expire on January 28, 2022.

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

Mayor Mays declared Frank Gravely reappointed to the Department of Social Services Advisory Board for a four-year term to expire on January 28, 2022.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Highway Safety Committee for a two-year term to expire on January 31, 2020.

Councilwoman Belcher nominated James Lane, Frank Gravely, and David Daniels to be reappointed and Mark Conner to be appointed to the Highway Safety Committee for a two-year term to expire on January 31, 2020.

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

Mayor Mays declared James Lane, Frank Gravely, and David Daniels reappointed and Mark Conner appointed to the Highway Safety Committee for a two-year term to expire on January 31, 2020.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations of a parent representative to the City of Norton Community and Policy and Management Board to fill the unexpired term of Donna Owens to expire on July 1, 2020.

Councilman Caruso nominated Tiffany Taylor to be appointed as the parent representative to the City of Norton Community and Policy and Management Board to fill the unexpired term of Donna Owens to expire on July 1, 2020.

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

Mayor Mays declared Tiffany Taylor appointed as the parent representative to the City of Norton Community and Policy and Management Board to expire on July 1, 2020.

There were no comments from the city manager.

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In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised the following:

The Workman property on Highland Avenue was auctioned and the sale of the property covered the delinquent real estate taxes and most of the expenses incurred by the tax sale.

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In comments from Council:

Councilman Caruso had no comments.

262600

Councilman Fultz said he enjoyed talking to elected representatives about issues that impacting our area at the Legislative Reception held in Richmond last month.

He stated Chloe Ingle, a sixth-grade student at Norton Elementary and Middle School, participated in Cross Country this school year and is the district middle school champion. He noted Miss Ingle's success is a result of the Get Fit Program offered at the school last year and it was the Get Fit Program that gave her an opportunity to experience running.

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Councilwoman Belcher commented that the longevity of the years of service represented at tonight's meeting indicated that the city is a good place to work.

She said the summer camps offered by the city need to continue and council needs to find the monies to fund the programs or try to obtain grants, donations or find sponsors for the summer camps. She asked the city manager for an informational flyer on the camps.

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Councilman Fawbush congratulated the town of St. Paul on the Western Front Hotel that will be opening on Monday, February 12, 2018.

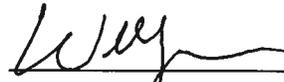
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Mayor Mays had no comments.

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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