

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, March 20, 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 Jim Wells and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

At this time, Councilman Fawbush said he would like council to consider amending the agenda to include under Item 6-G-2 an appointment to the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (RIFA).

262642

It was the consensus of Council to amend the agenda to include under Item 6-G-1 an appointment to the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority.

Mayor Mays welcomed three members of 2018 Forward Wise County class: Mr. Joe Morton, Ms. Melody Lovell, and Police Chief James Lane.

262643

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following vote, YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, ABSTAIN – Mays, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 6, 2018, meeting as presented.

262644

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

262645

The next agenda item was a presentation by representatives from the Pro-Art Association.

Mr. Ramey advised Ms. Jan Zentmeyer, Executive Director of the Pro-Art Association, regretted that she could not attend tonight's meeting and asked that she be allowed to present an update on the Pro-Art Association's activities at the next council meeting on April 2, 2018.

262646

Mr. Ramey said due to the deadline for the 2018-2019 Local Government Challenge Grant council should go ahead and consider the request to apply for funding in the amount of \$4,500 for the Pro-Art Association.

Mr. Ramey advised for the first time the Virginia Commission of the Arts has reduced funding by \$500 for a total matching grant of \$4,500. Mr. Ramey said during the budget process council will determine the allocation to Pro-Art and he recommends that council authorize city administration to apply for the 2018-2019 Local Government Challenge Grant in the amount of \$4,500.

262647

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the city manager to apply for a 2018-2019 Local Government Challenge Grant in the amount of \$4,500.

Included in council's packets was a Cooperative Agreement with the Family Crisis Support Services, Inc., (FCSS) for their consideration.

Mr. Ramey said the agreement details what services FCSS will provide to citizens and what support the Norton Police Department will provide FCSS in delivering these services to victims of violent crimes and homelessness.

262648

Police Chief Lane added that the police department was already providing the services included in the agreement prior to its initiation and will continue to do so.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to authorize the city manager and police chief to execute the Cooperative Agreement between Family Crisis Support Services, Inc., and the Norton Police Department.

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 II Clear Creek Waterline Replacement Project.

Mr. Ramey said the city just completed the design of Phase I of the Clear Creek Waterline Replacement Project and that Phase II will provide an additional \$100,000. He said city administration implemented the project in three phases to receive maximum funding because this specific grant is restricted to \$100,000 award. Mr. Ramey said city administration is asking authorization to submit the application for Phase II of the project which requires a resolution by council.

262649

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, 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 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 II Josephine Waterline Replacement Project.

Mr. Ramey said City Administration is asking authorization to submit the application for Phase II of the project which will complete the Josephine Waterline Replacement Project. Mr. Ramey noted Josephine residents are city water customers who reside in Wise County.

262650

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, 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 Program for Phase II of the Josephine Waterline Replacement Project. (Insert)

Council had one transfer to confirm. The transfer was to Norton City Schools, dated February 26, 2018, in the amount of \$125,000 to cover February 2018 payroll expenditures.

262651

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to confirm the transfer to Norton City Schools 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. 262652

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. 262653

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. 262654

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Mays, Fawbush, Belcher, 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 Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (RIFA) to fill the unexpired term of Mark Caruso whose term expires January 16, 2020.

Councilman Caruso nominated Fred Ramey, Jr., to be appointed to the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities to fill his unexpired term which expires January 16, 2020. 262655

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

Mayor Mays declared Fred Ramey, Jr., appointed to the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority to fill the unexpired term of Mark Caruso whose term expires January 16, 2020.

In comments from the City Manager:

Mr. Ramey said city administration had applied for and been awarded a Rural Development Emergency Vehicle Grant. He is asking council's authorization to advertise a required public hearing at the April 2nd meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to authorize the city manager to advertise a public hearing at the April 2nd meeting.

Mr. Ramey said city administration is concerned about the Ridge Avenue wall and has closed the street indefinitely to allow for further engineering tests to determine the stability of the wall and what actions might need to be taken to stabilize it.

Mr. Ramey said the delay in the Virginia General Assembly passing a budget will delay the city's budget process and that may push the school's budget presentation to May 1st.

The Lonesome Pine Regional Library is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Wise Branch at 3:00 p.m., April 8, 2018 and they would like to have a council representative present at their event. A resolution recognizing the library will also be on the April 2nd agenda. 262656

Mr. Ramey said the Kingsport Times News prepared an article for their 2018 Progress Edition highlighting the city's work at Flag Rock Recreation Area.

One of the participants in the 2017 Woodbooger Geocache wrote an article for Geocache Magazine detailing how much fun they had all weekend.

He placed at each member's desk the March 2018 Retail Sales Tax Report and the upcoming Parks & Recreation activities for the months of March and April.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

262657

The following comments were made by Council Members:

Councilwoman Belcher had no comments.

262658

Councilman Fultz had no comments.

262659

Councilman Caruso asked the city manager if engineers were still using a laser to determine if there is continued movement in the Ridge Avenue wall.

Mr. Ramey said it is very expensive to use the laser so he is leaning toward doing only core drilling now because it is known that the wall has moved and he would rather save that money.

262660

Councilman Fawbush supported Mr. Ramey's decision to close the road at the Ridge Avenue wall.

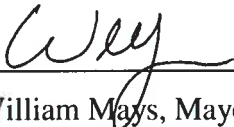
262661

Mayor Mays recognized Mr. Gerald Hairston who was in attendance.

262662

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council