

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Robert Fultz, Jr., William Mays, Joseph Fawbush, and Delores Belcher

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

Absent: Mark Caruso

The invocation was given by Pastor Ken Taylor and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

At this time, Mayor Mays noted Councilman Caruso was absent from the meeting due to him receiving a request from the United States Army Reserve Officer Training Corps to provide training.

Also, Mayor Mays said he would like council to consider amending the agenda to include under Item 7-D-1 a request for a city sewer connection outside city limits.

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It was the consensus of council to amend the agenda to include under Item 7-D-1 a request for a city sewer tap outside city limits.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to adopt the minutes of the May 15, 2018, meeting as presented.

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

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A public hearing was held to solicit input on the proposed 2018-2019 Fiscal Budget for the City of Norton.

The city manager said the proposed FY19 Budget had been duly advertised and he wanted to provide a brief overview on the proposed budget. He then presented a PowerPoint presentation on this budget breaking it down by its various funds. Mr. Ramey said the budget included no revenue enhancements or reserves to balance the proposed FY19 Budget. He said city administration is proposing a 75 cent increase to the Base Water Rate for both inside and outside city customers, and recommends level funding in the amount of \$345,877 for Social Services.

Mr. Ramey said the General Operating Fund Budget includes a 12 percent cost increase in health insurance, a decrease in the City's Virginia Retirement System (VRS) contributions, and a two percent cost of living (COLA) increase for non-state supported positions. He said the debt service payment for Norton City Schools has slightly increased, the Textbook Fund has decreased, and the proposed budget includes level funding for the school system. The city manager noted the Enterprise Fund shows an increase of \$75,654, due to the proposed 75 cent increase to the Base Water Rate for both inside and outside customers. This increase is being recommended in an effort to meet loan covenants and to move the Enterprise Fund towards sustainability. Mr. Ramey said there is no change to the FY19 Budget for Social Services. He said city administration still

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did not know how the state budget will impact the city's budget but he is receiving information on the state budget.

There were no comments or questions from council prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

Mayor Mays advised the budget will be on the June 19th agenda for consideration of adoption.

Included in council's packet for consideration was the proposed 2018-2019 Fiscal Budget for Norton City Schools in the amount of \$9,092,975, which includes local funds totaling \$2,491,515.

Mr. Ramey asked Superintendent Gina Wohlford if she had any additional comments.

Dr. Wohlford said the school system is waiting to receive information on the state's budget and she appreciates council's consideration of Norton City School's budget.

Councilwoman Belcher made a motion the city fund the Required Local Effort and the Required Local Match of \$1,624,311, debt service in the amount of \$813,765, and the Textbook Fund \$22,107 for total funding of \$2,460,183. Mayor Mays asked if there was any discussion or a second on the motion. Councilman Fawbush seconded the motion.

Councilman Fultz asked if the motion unfunded the Safety Grant match.

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Councilwoman Belcher confirmed the motion did not fund the Safety Grant match or the technology upgrade.

Councilman Fultz asked school representatives the total project cost for the technology upgrade at John I. Burton High School.

Supervisor of Finance for Norton City Schools Jacqueline Brooke said the project is set up as a three-year payment plan costing approximately \$31,000 annually with the school system absorbing the majority of the cost with level funding.

Mayor Mays asked for roll call vote: YES – Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSTAIN – None, ABSENT – Caruso, Council passed by unanimous vote and moved to appropriate to Norton City Schools for FY 2018-2019 the Required Local Effort and Required Local Match in the amount of \$1,624,311, which is based upon 765 students; the Textbook Fund in the amount of \$22,107; and Debt Service totaling \$813,765, for total funding of \$2,460,183 for FY19.

Prior to presenting council with the FY 2017-2018 Budget Amendments, the city manager provided members with an updated breakdown of budget amendments. Mr. Ramey said the city's auditor requested that city administration include any grants the city receives during the budget year in the amendment request. The FY18 Budget Amendments includes \$106,910 from unappropriated reserves, \$679,809 in additional revenues, and \$703,000 in loan proceeds for a total budget amendment of \$1,489,719. Mr. Ramey requested council's authorization to advertise a public hearing to consider the FY18 Budget Amendments.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council authorized the city manager to advertise a public hearing on the updated budget amendments provided to council for the FY 2017-2018 Budget totaling \$1,489,719.

Council was presented with a Resolution Approving the Lease Financing for the Purchase of a Commercial Garbage Truck not to Exceed \$144,000, and the Execution of Documents in Connection with the Lease Financing.

Mr. Ramey said city administration is asking for council's approval of a lease finance through the Virginia Municipal League/Virginia Association of Counties (VML/VACo) Finance for the purchase of a garbage truck and he noted that the city attorney had reviewed the documents.

Mr. Bradshaw added if council approves the lease finance request, he suggests members authorize the city manager and Norton Director of Finance Jeff Shupe to execute any lease documents related to this request when received from VML/VACo Finance.

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Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Fultz, Mays, Fawbush, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, council moved to adopt the Resolution Approving the Lease Financing for the Purchase of a Commercial Garbage Truck not to Exceed \$144,000, and Authorized the City Manager and Director of Finance to Execute Any Documents Related to the Lease Financing. (Insert)

Mr. Ramey said the city's contract for audit services with Thrower Blanton and Associates, P.C., expired this year and the city is required to advertise for procurement of professional services. City administration requested proposals from qualified independent certified public accountants to provide audit services through fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, with the option to extend for up to two additional one-year terms. Mr. Ramey said this process is complete and city administration is recommending the city contract with Thrower Blanton and Associates, P.C., to provide auditing services through FY20 with the option to renew two additional years.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to authorize city administration to contract with Thrower Blanton and Associates, P.C., to provide audit services through fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, with the option to extend for up to two additional one-year terms.

In their packets, council had a request from Lee Propane of Pennington Gap, Inc., of 112 Washington Road, S.W., for a sewer tap.

Mr. Ramey said this request is outside city limits and requires council's approval. He said he received the request June 4th and the City Transmission and Distribution Department has confirmed city sewer is available at this location.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to approve the installation of one outside sewer tap request for Lee Propane of Pennington Gap, Inc., of 112 Washington Road, S.W.

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Mr. Ramey confirmed with council the approved sewer connection expires one year from the date of approval on June 5, 2019.

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.

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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.
Mayor Mays declared council back in open meeting.

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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.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, 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 Library Board to fill the unexpired term of Lann Malesky whose term expires June 30, 2021.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Ginnie Stokes to the Lonesome Pine Regional Library Board to fill an unexpired term which expires June 30, 2021.

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

Mayor Mays declared Ginnie Stokes appointed to the Lonesome Pine Regional Library Board to fill the unexpired term of Lann Malesky whose term expires June 30, 2021.

In comments from the City Manager:

Mr. Ramey said the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles recognized the Norton Police Department for having no traffic fatalities in 2017, and he noted this is the second consecutive year that the department has been recognized.

Mr. Ramey said the city was recently recognized for risk management training through the Virginia Municipal League Insurance Programs. City Building Official Mr. Winfred Collins manages this program for the city and as a result of the program the city received a reduced premium on a portion of its insurance coverage.

Mr. Ramey stated FY18 paving is completed. He said the city will stamp the crosswalk at 5th Street and Park Avenue intersection by the end of June.

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He said city administration has been producing tear-off map pads since 2012 that are used primarily at hotels and local businesses for city promotion. Providing council with a copy of the new map, Mr. Ramey noted that the most recent updated copy includes the city's recent branding.

Mr. Ramey provided council with copies of upcoming activities planned for the month of June and event flyers for the month of July that include the Independence Day Celebration, Fantastic Fridays Waterslides, the Farmers' Market, and Flag Rock.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

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The following comments were made by council members:

Councilwoman Belcher said she is thankful that several portions of the budget process are completed.

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Councilwoman Belcher said everyone needs to start looking at ways to raise money to do projects, especially projects that are needed in the schools.

Councilman Fultz thanked Mr. Ramey, Mr. Shupe, and city staff who contributed to delivering this year's budget.

He noted he spoke with Norton City Schools Supervisor of Finance Jacqueline Brooke at the last meeting regarding the School Safety Grant and she said the Safety Grant match had to be local money. He advised council he is looking into possible match funding sources other than the city, and he indicated that he would be willing to personally make a contribution to any fundraising that might be initiated for these projects.

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Councilman Fawbush said at the June 19th meeting he would like to schedule a Saturday meeting to discuss upcoming projects and their funding packages.

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Mayor Mays said he has spoken with several citizens while obtaining signatures to run for re-election. He said he received one interesting comment from a resident who said he/she is very appreciative of what is taking place in the city, and he/she is very proud of city leadership who has accomplished so much with no money. Mayor Mays said he advised the resident that he could thank Mr. Ramey and Mr. Shupe for these accomplishments.

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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