

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, September 4, 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 Gary Hill and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Mays, Fawbush, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to adopt the minutes of the August 21, 2018, meeting as presented.

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

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Next, the city manager said each year the city likes to honor those employees who have reached a milestone in their career and tonight the city will be recognizing Mr. Gary Call and Sergeant Danny Hughes. Mr. Ramey said Gary Call has worked for the city in several capacities during his 40-year career and will be retiring on September 30, 2018.

On behalf of council, Mayor Mays presented Mr. Call with an award recognizing his 40 years of service to the citizens of Norton, and a photo was taken with council.

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After the presentation, Mr. Call received applause and he thanked both past and present council members for the honor.

Next, the city manager said Sergeant Hughes served in the Norton Police Department for 13 years and retired June 30, 2018. Mr. Ramey said Sergeant Hughes was unable to attend tonight's meeting and that city administration will present Mr. Hughes his plaque at another date.

The next agenda item was the introduction of the AmeriCorps/National Civilian Conservation Corps Team River 3 that will be developing trails at Flag Rock Recreation Area.

City Trail Coordinator Shayne Fields shared with council that Team River 3 is currently building the Mockingbird Trail which is 1.2 miles long in the Flag Rock Recreation Area. Mr. Fields then asked team members to introduce themselves and note their hometown.

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Mayor Mays thanked Team River 3 for their service to the country and for the work they are doing for the city.

Councilman Caruso thanked Team River 3 for their efforts in building a new economy in Southwest Virginia.

Council was given an update on the 2018 Woodbooger Geo-Trail scheduled for Saturday, September 8th by event organizers Rick Watts and Treavor Calhoun.

Mr. Watts informed council the National Geocaching Headquarters in Seattle, Washington contacted him and asked to change the Woodbooger Geo-Trail to a geo-tour. He said the event will now be a geo-tour which means the headquarters will provide some

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advertising for the event. Mr. Watts said 100 geocachers have registered for the event and they expect approximately 200 visitors in Norton for the geo-tour.

At this time, the meeting adjourned to view the geo-cache box installed outside council chambers by Mr. Watts and Mr. Calhoun. Mr. Watts advised the geo-cache box will be used in the 2018 Woodbooger Geo-tour.

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Mayor Mays reconvened the meeting and thanked Mr. Watts and Mr. Calhoun for the update.

In their packets, council had a request from JGreat Entertainment to use the city's "Woodbooger" Service Mark for the purpose of writing a series of children's books in search of the Woodbooger.

Mr. Jahmal Potter, owner of JGreat Entertainment, explained his concept of writing the book series and his desire is to stress the importance of reading and encourage exploration of our area. He said to promote the book series he plans to visit schools and read to school age children. Mr. Potter said the book would contain a statement that the name "Woodbooger" was used with the express written consent of the City of Norton.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to approve JGreat Entertainment's request to use the service mark "Woodbooger" to write a series of children's books in search of the Woodbooger.

The city manager said at the July 17, 2018, council meeting members were informed that Norton Fire Department had received a grant to replace 24 self-contained breathing apparatuses (SBA's). He said the new SBA's have been received and are in service. Mr. Ramey said Fire Chief Todd Lagow has received a request from Wise Fire Department about possibly acquiring the city's surplus SBA's.

Fire Chief Lagow advised council the department's old SBA's were certified in March and were originally purchased with a grant. He said it would benefit Norton and Wise fire departments to have air packs that are compatible in the event the departments must work together.

The city attorney advised he could write a Bill of Sale for 23 air packs for a total of \$10 and include extensive disclaimers against warranty and liability and execute an indemnity agreement.

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Mr. Ramey recommended the city attorney draw up a sales agreement and transfer the city's 23 air packs, additional canisters, and appurtenances to the Wise Volunteer Fire Department, LLC.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Mays, Fawbush, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to authorize the city manager to execute a Bill of Sale for the 21 air packs and appurtenances in the amount of \$10 to Wise Volunteer Fire Department, LLC.

Council was presented a Resolution Amending Authorization of the Pump and Haul Sewage Facilities to allow the permittee to make a refundable cash deposit instead of a letter of credit or cash bond.

Mr. Ramey said the city does not have to advertise this resolution because it is a policy and not an ordinance.

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Mr. Bradshaw said this is an alternative way for the permittee to oblige the requirements and the method of payment is much easier to enforce should the city need to enforce an issue if not addressed properly.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to adopt a Resolution Amending Authorization of the Pump and Haul Sewage Facilities to allow the permittee to make a refundable cash deposit instead of a letter of credit or cash bond. (Insert)

In council's packets for their consideration was a lease with the Norton City School Board for a parcel used by John I. Burton High School.

The city manager said in researching Norfolk and Southern Railroad's easement renewal, it was discovered the city owns a piece of property at the end of the driving track at John I. Burton High School. Mr. Ramey said at some point the city purchased the property from Evans Distributing.

Superintendent Gina Wohlford added that Norton City School Board entered into an agreement with Norfolk and Southern Railroad regarding the easement that includes portions of the school parking lot, football field, tennis courts, and track. She said the school board thought they probably should enter into a lease with the city on the property at the end of the driving track.

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Mr. Bradshaw said a lease between the city and the school board is the easiest option to allow the school to use the property. He explained that since the school is using the property at the end of the track the lease would switch liability back to the schools where it should be because they have control of the use of the property.

After a brief discussion it was the consensus of council to have the city attorney prepare a lease between the City of Norton and Norton City School Board for a parcel of property located at the end of the driving track at John I. Burton High School.

Council had been presented with a Proclamation Declaring September 14, 2018, "International Walk to School Day" in the City of Norton.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to adopt a Proclamation Declaring September 14, 2018, "International Walk to School Day" in the City of Norton. (Insert)

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The next agenda item was the discussion of the September 18th city council meeting.

The city manager advised he would be attending a Virginia Department Transportation Workshop September 18th - 20th and he wanted to inform council he would not be in attendance at the meeting.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of council to reschedule the September 18th meeting to Thursday, September 27th. Council members also decided to cancel the October 2nd meeting because of the Virginia Municipal League Conference that is scheduled that week.

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Council had one check to confirm. The check was to BB&T Governmental Finance Payment Processing, dated July 11, 2018, in the amount of \$123,007.12 to cover the Debt Service on the 11th Street Bridge (Viaduct).

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to confirm the check to BB&T Governmental Finance Payment Processing as stated above.

In comments from the City Manager:

The latest trail maps had been printed and a copy was placed at their desks. He also had banners printed to be placed in several businesses and city staff will use them when the city tables during various events.

Mr. Ramey said he provided council with the August traffic counts for Flag Rock Recreation Area and Route 619.

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He said upcoming activities in the city include the 2018 Woodbooger Geocache, Bengé's Revenge Bike Challenge, High Knob Hellbender, Cloudsplitter 100 Ultra Trail Race, and the Woodbooger Festival.

The following comments were made by council members:

Councilman Fultz noted that the runners for the Cloudsplitter 100 bring a support team with them to the event. He said these individuals have a positive impact on the economy because they shop and eat in the area. He noted last year several of the support members came to his aid station at the High Knob Tower to check on the progress of their runner.

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Councilwoman Belcher said the city has excellent emergency service personnel.

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Councilman Fawbush concurred with Councilwoman Belcher and said the city provides the citizens of Norton with many services that other localities do not provide their residents.

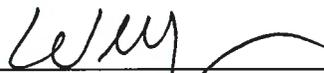
Councilman Fawbush said Jahmal Potter of JGreat Entertainment will broaden the market on the Woodbooger Festival and turn it from a recreational event into a tourism event.

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He said he is working with Sam DeLoach of Mountain Empire Cryptic Research Organization (MECRO) from Kingsport, Tennessee, and they will be participating in this year's Woodbooger Festival.

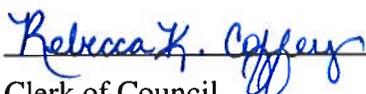
There being no further business to come before council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council