

City Council Meeting Packet



January 15, 2019

AGENDA

Norton City Council

January 15, 2019

6:00 P.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Invocation – Rev. Gary Hill
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Minutes
 1. Meeting of December 4, 2018
 2. Organization Meeting of January 2, 2019
5. Audience for Visitors
6. Special Presentations
7. New Business
 - A. Overview of the 2018 Parks and Recreation Departments Events and Activities.
 - B. Overview of the 2019 Parks and Recreation Calendar of Events/Activities.
 - C. Confirmation of a Check/Transfer in Excess of \$100,000.
 - D. Closed Meeting for Personnel as Per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia as Amended.

1. Appointment to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a Five Year Term, Currently Joe Buchanan Whose Term Expires 1/17/19.

To 1/17/24

2. Appointment to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a Four (4) Year Term; Currently Renee Robinson Whose Term Expires 1/28/2019.

To 1/28/2023

3. Appointment to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a Four (4) Year Term; Currently T. J. Flanary Whose Term Expires 1/28/2019.

To 1/28/2023

4. Appointment to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a Five (5) Year Term; Currently Mike Ball Whose Term Expires 1/17/2017.

To 1/17/2022

5. Appointment to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for a Two (2) Year Term; Currently Steve McElroy; Joshua Ball, Gary Call, and Cody McElroy Whose Terms Expires 1/31/2019.

To 1/31/2021

6. Appointment to the Norton Rescue Squad Board of Directors for a One Year Term; Currently Delores "Dee" Belcher and William Mays Whose Terms Expires 2/1/2019.

To 2/1/2020

8. Comments by the City Manager, City Attorney, and City Council.
9. Adjournment.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, December 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, 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 Roger Sloce and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

At this time, Mayor Mays asked council members to amend the agenda to include under Item 7-D-1 the Consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Planning District One (PD1) Behavioral Health Services/Frontier Health and Law Enforcement Agencies of Wise County and the City of Norton.

It was the consensus of council to amend the agenda to include the MOU, as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Mays, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Belcher, council moved to adopt the minutes of the November 13, 2018, meeting as presented.

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

A public hearing was held to receive input on a proposed ordinance to recodify Chapter 6 – Elections of the Norton City Code.

Mr. Ramey said this public hearing would just clean up the City’s Code as it pertains to council’s previous actions to combine the former east and west precincts and move the polling place for city elections to the Community Center.

Mr. Bradshaw stated that these actions will certify City Code to an ordinance instead of resolutions that council previously passed.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Mays, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Belcher, council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, to Recodify Chapter 6 – Elections of the Norton City Code. (Insert)

Mr. Ramey advised he had invited Mr. Jahmal Potter to give an update on his request to use the city’s service mark the “Woodbooger” to write a series of children’s books.

Mr. Potter, owner of JGreat Entertainment and the author of the children’s book *Where is the Woodbooger?*, informed council his book was published on November 6, 2018, and is available for purchase on Amazon.com. He said 258 copies of the book have been sold and he has given an interview on News 5 WCYB Television Station (WCYB-TV). Mr.

Potter shared that he had read his book to children in area schools, and has engagements scheduled to read his book at schools in Tennessee and Virginia. He said he has been very busy and has plans to hopefully turn the book into a musical to be performed on stage at the Trail of the Lonesome Pine. He then handed out copies of his book to members to review and his interview with WCYB-TV was played for council.

Council members thanked Mr. Potter for his hard work and efforts to promote the City of Norton.

The next agenda item was an overview of the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP) by the city's board representative Police Chief James Lane.

Chief Lane, via a PowerPoint presentation, presented council with a summary of VASAP's origin, purpose, services and programs, funding, and board duties. He advised the board was established in 1975 per the Code of Virginia and that there are 26 regional offices throughout state. Chief Lane said the main goal of VASAP is to enhance highway safety by reducing the number of individuals who drive under the influence of alcohol and drugs. He then shared VASAP's program methods on how this is accomplished and how the organization is funded.

After answering a few questions from council about VASAP's programs, Mayor Mays thanked Chief Lane for the overview and Chief Lane thanked council for his appointment to the VASAP Board.

Included on the agenda for council consideration was the January 2019 meeting schedule.

Mr. Ramey said council's first meeting in January 2019 is scheduled for January 1st, which is a holiday. He said he recommends council have a reorganizational meeting at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 2, 2019. Mr. Ramey also noted that if an item should need council's attention, members could have a rescheduled council meeting directly after the reorganizational meeting.

It was the consensus of council to hold a reorganizational meeting at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 2, 2019, and to cancel the Tuesday, January 1st meeting unless an item needs to be addressed by members.

In packets for council confirmation was one check to Norton City Schools. The check was dated September 26, 2018, in the amount of \$175,000.00, to cover September 2018 payroll expenditures.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to confirm the check to Norton City Schools, as stated above.

Added to council's agenda for consideration was a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Planning District One Behavioral Health Services/Frontier Health and Law Enforcement Agencies of Wise County and the City of Norton.

Mr. Ramey said the Norton Police Department has received a new MOU and Chief Lane has been in discussions with the parties included in the MOU, so he asked Chief Lane to speak with council regarding the agreement.

Chief Lane informed council that the Wise County Sheriff's Office has applied for a grant that will provide funding assistance to pay for overtime for deputies to guard

individuals who have been transported to a holding facility for mental health evaluations. He said the purpose of the grant is to offset observation by local police departments' officers by transferring the required supervision of the individual from the local department's officer to the sheriff's deputy. By transferring observation between the entities, it will allow local departments' officers to return to duty in his/her locality. Chief Lane noted he has been advised Norton Community Hospital, which is one of the holding facilities, will provide a space for deputies to observe individuals under these circumstances, and although he supports the sheriff department's grant application, Chief Lane said he has operational concerns about the deputy position, which he shared with council. He said he has voiced his concerns to the Wise County Sheriff's Department and the two departments are discussing these potential issues to determine a resolution for Chief Lane's concerns.

The city attorney confirmed that if council approves the MOU, Norton Police Department is not bound by the agreement to participate in the program and that a written agreement would be negotiated separately between the entities if the Wise County Sheriff's Department is awarded the grant funds.

After a lengthy discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Mays, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Belcher, council moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between Planning District One Behavioral Health Services/Frontier Health and Law Enforcement Agencies of Wise County and the City of Norton.

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.

Mayor Mays declared council in closed meeting.

At this time, Mayor Mays excused the city attorney from the remainder of the meeting.

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

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 unanimous vote, council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Social Services Advisory Board for a four-year term to expire November 15, 2022.

Councilman Caruso nominated June Jones to be appointed to the Norton Social Services Advisory Board for a four-year term to expire November 15, 2022.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Mays, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Belcher, council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Mays declared June Jones appointed to the Norton Social Services Advisory Board for a four-year term to expire November 15, 2022.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Planning District One (PD1) Community Services Board for a three-year term to expire December 31, 2021.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Delores Belcher to be reappointed to the Planning District One (PD1) Community Services Board for a three-year term to expire December 31, 2021.

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

Mayor Mays declared Delores Belcher reappointed to the Planning District One (PD1) Community Services Board for a three-year term to expire December 31, 2021.

In comments from the city manager:

Mr. Ramey said the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) did not receive the ARC Grant that they recently asked the City and several other communities to partner with them on. However, DHCD advised they will apply for the grant again in the spring.

He said in June council adopted a resolution to be one of the recipients of the Rural Community Development Initiative Grant that was initiated by DHCD and those funds have been awarded. Mr. Ramey said city administration will learn details about the initiative in spring 2019.

Mr. Ramey said the recent Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) council authorized city administration to apply for has been awarded. He said the city will receive \$469,000 to improve pedestrian safety beginning at the 6th Street intersection and ending at the 9th Street intersection along Park Avenue downtown.

He informed council that the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) portion of the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant was executed today.

Mr. Ramey thanked the organizers, volunteers, and participants in the recent storefront holiday decoration contest, the city's tree lighting ceremony, and the Christmas parade.

The city's new Christmas signage, "Seasons Greetings," has been installed at the gateway on Tipple Hill.

Mr. Ramey said he placed at each member's desk the November Retail Sales Tax Report and the latest monthly financials.

Mr. Ramey said at the city council meeting on December 18th, council will receive an update from the city engineer on the Ridge Avenue Wall, and Seth Thompson from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) will discuss bear control ideas DGIF is considering.

The following comments were made by council members:

Councilman Fultz commended city staff, administration, and city employees for the tree lighting ceremony, Christmas parade, and all the events they make happen in the city throughout the year.

He said the new sidewalk, recently planted trees, and new lamp posts on Park Avenue between 10th Street and 11th Street has greatly improved the appearance on that end of downtown.

Councilman Fawbush reiterated Councilman Fultz’s comments regarding city staff and asked the city manager to relay those comments to city employees.

He thanked the city’s emergency service personnel.

Councilman Fawbush commented that Southwest Virginia is starting to work on a regional level and the cooperation between localities is moving the area forward.

At this time, Mr. Ramey added that Norton Rescue Squad’s annual statistics will be on council’s January agenda and that members will be pleased with the trends.

Mayor Mays noted that he has never heard a negative comment from a city employee working for the city.

Mayor Mays asked if there were any pressing items that could not wait until the January 2, 2019, meeting. There being no pressing issues known at this time, Council was in consensus to cancel the December 18, 2018, meeting unless an item presented that needed council’s consideration.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

A rescheduled organizational meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Wednesday, January 2, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with City Manager Fred Ramey presiding.

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

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager

The city manager opened the floor for nominations for mayor.

Prior to nominating Vice Mayor Joseph Fawbush to replace him as mayor of the City of Norton, current Mayor William Mays noted it has been an honor and privilege to serve as mayor and that he appreciates members support during his tenure on council.

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

Mr. Ramey declared Joseph Fawbush appointed as mayor of the City of Norton.

Mr. Fawbush came forward, was sworn in by the clerk, and took his seat on council.

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for nominations for vice mayor.

Councilwoman Belcher nominated Mark Caruso to be appointed as vice mayor.

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

Mayor Fawbush declared Mark Caruso appointed as vice mayor of the City of Norton.

Mr. Caruso came forward, was sworn in by the clerk, and took his seat on council.

At this time, the remaining three council members took their seats on council.

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for nominations for the appointment of city manager.

Councilman Mays nominated Fred Ramey Jr., to be reappointed as city manager.

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

Mayor Fawbush declared Fred Ramey, Jr., reappointed as city manager of the City of Norton.

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for nominations for the appointment of city clerk.

Councilman Mays nominated Rebecca Coffey to be reappointed as city clerk.

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

Mayor Fawbush declared Rebecca Coffey reappointed as city clerk.

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for nominations for the appointment of city attorney.

Councilman Mays nominated William Bradshaw to be reappointed as city attorney.

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

Mayor Fawbush declared William Bradshaw reappointed as city attorney.

The next agenda item was to set the dates and times of council meetings.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved that the meeting dates and times remain the same – the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers.

Council had been presented with A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, to Dispense with the Second Reading of All Ordinances.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, to Dispense with the Second Reading of All Ordinances. (Insert)

Other organizational business to come before council was the tentative dates and times set for the FY 2019-2020 budget meetings.

Mayor Fawbush noted that Mr. Ramey included tentative dates for budget work sessions with the December 4, 2018, council packet. He asked members to review the tentative dates and advise if anyone had a conflict. After a brief discussion, council agreed to meet on the tentative dates and make necessary changes later if needed.

Included on the agenda for council consideration was the Annual Commonwealth of Virginia Holiday Calendar as published on January 1, 2019.

Mr. Ramey advised that several years ago council adopted the State Holiday Schedule for employees and it has worked very well and each year council confirms the annual holiday schedule.

After a brief discussion, council was of consensus to approve the State Holiday Schedule as published on January 1, 2019.

The following comments were made by council members:

Councilman Mays stated at the December meeting of the Norton Rescue Squad Board of Directors the Norton Rescue Squad presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the city for all the assistance and support given to Norton Rescue Squad. He then presented the award to the city manager.

In comments from the city manager:

Mr. Ramey informed council that 2018 had the highest recorded rainfall for the city with 76.69 inches of rain. He noted that the Water Plant began tracking the precipitation in the 1980's.

He provided each council member with the latest Retail Sales Tax Report.

Mr. Ramey said city administration is excited about 2019 and recognizing the 125th anniversary of Norton becoming a community. He said staff will be looking at ways to honor the city's milestone.

Mr. Ramey then thanked council for the opportunity to continue to serve the citizens of Norton.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca K. Coffey, Clerk of Council



Inter-Office Memo

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager
CC:
Date: January 15, 2018
Re: Special Presentation – Employee Service Pins

As you know, historically each year we award employee service to employees who reach service milestones of 10, 15, 20, 25 years of service.

Tonight, I have invited each of the employees who have reached one of the milestones.

30 Years

Lonnie Williams
Fred Ramey

25 Years

Jonathan Carter

20 Years

Tim Couch

15 Years

Andrew Greear

10 Years

Pam Boggs
David Mullins
Mike Rhoades
Rhonda Robbins
Ann Minor
Bill Glines
Kristy Wells
Jason McConnell

Thank You.



Inter-Office Memo

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager 
CC:
Date: January 11, 2019
Re: 2018 Parks and Recreation Activities

The City's Parks and Recreation Director, Michele Knox, will be at the City Council meeting to provide an overview of the 2018 Parks and Recreation Events and Activities.

Thank You.

City of Norton

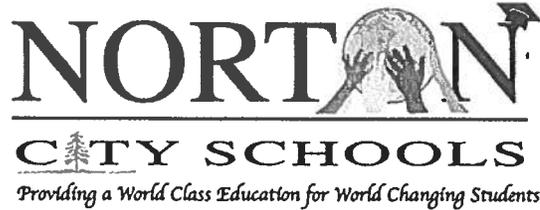
Inter-Office Memo

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager *FR*
CC:
Date: February 16, 2018
Re: 2019 Calendar of Events & Activities

The City's Parks and Recreation Director, Michele Knox and Special Projects Coordinator Katie Dunn, will be at the City Council meeting to provide a Calendar of Events/Activities Planned for 2019.

Thank You.

SCHOOL BOARD
Sherry Adams, Chairperson
Mark Leonard, Vice-Chairperson
Carol Caruso
Joseph Stallard
Cody McElroy



DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Gina J. Wohlford
gwohlford@nortoncityschools.org
Phone 276.679.2330
Fax 276.679.4315

COPY

TO: Jeff Shupe
FROM: Jacqueline Brooke
SUBJECT: Request for Funds

DATE: October 30, 2018

Norton City Schools requests a deposit of City Funds in the amount of \$150,000 to cover October 2018 payroll expenditures.

Thank you!