

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.

262902

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.

262903

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

262904

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.

262905

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.

262906

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.

262907

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.

262908

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.

262909

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

262910

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.

262911

Mayor Mays declared council in closed meeting.

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

262912

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

262913

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.

262914

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.

262915

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.

262916

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.

262917

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.

262918

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.

262919

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.

262920

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.

262921

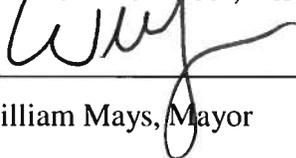
Mayor Mays noted that he has never heard a negative comment from a city employee working for the city.

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.

262922

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council

