City Council
Meeting Packet

February 18, 2020

AGENDA

Norton City Council

February 18, 2020

6:00 P.M.

1. Roll Call

2. Invocation – Rev. Gary Hill

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Minutes

    1. Meeting of February 4, 2020

5. Audience for Visitors

6. New Business

    A. Request to Allow the Placement of a POW-MIA Memorial in Veterans Park.

    B. Overview of the 2019 Parks and Recreation Events and Activities.

    C. Update on the 2020 Norton Business Challenge Competition.

    D. Resolution Recognizing February 15th – 22nd 2020 as National Entrepreneurship Week.

    E. Confirmation of a Check/Transfer in Excess of $100,000.

    F. Closed Meeting for Personnel as Per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia as Amended.

1. Appointment of a Parent Representative to the Norton Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) for a Two Year Term.

2. Appointment to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a Five Year Term, Currently Stephen McElroy Whose Term Expires 2/18/20.

To 2/18/25

7. Comments by the City Manager, City Attorney, and City Council.

8. Adjournment.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Joseph Fawbush presiding.

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

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

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

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by the following vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Caruso, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to adopt the minutes of the January 7, 2020, meeting as presented.

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

Mr. Ramey said each year city employees are recognized with a service pin when they reach certain milestones in their years of employment. Tonight seven city employees will be recognized for 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of service.

Mayor Fawbush, on behalf of council, presented service pins to the employees who were present. Those present and receiving service awards were: Sammy Mullins, 15 years; Todd Lagow, 15 years; Jerry Miller, 20 years; and Barbara Muir, 30 years.

Receiving service pins but not present were: Dee Dee Jones, 15 years; Margaret Asher, 25 years; and Julia Newsome, 25 years.

Mr. Ramey then recognized Assistant Police Chief Joe Baird on his retirement from the Norton Police Department after 22 years of service. He said during Mr. Baird's tenure with the city he has served as an officer, investigator, and assistant police chief.

After the presentation of the awards, applause was given to the employees and a group picture was taken with council.

Mayor Fawbush said the city is fortunate to have quality employees and noted that the number of years of service given to the city by these employees says a great deal about the city, and that council appreciates each employee.

A public hearing was held to solicit public input on local community development and housing needs in relation to a Virginia Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for a project in the city

Mr. Ramey told council the purpose of tonight's public hearing was to give citizens an opportunity to speak to council about any current, past, or future grant projects that they would like the city to explore. He said tonight's public hearing is one of two hearings that are required when applying for CDBG funds. Mr. Ramey said the city has been working through a CDBG planning grant that enables the city to study the possibility of a housing project on the Southside Kentucky Avenue area of city. Mr. Ramey then introduced LENOWISCO Planning District Senior Planner Frank Kibler who is managing the project for the city.

Mr. Kibler said tonight's public hearing is about the Southside Comprehensive Community Development Project. He told council he would submit a CDBG application on behalf of the city in March and present project specifics at the March 17th meeting during the

second required public hearing. He then handed out a flyer to council members that showed the types of programs and funding that are available through Virginia's CDBG program.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Fawbush thanked Mr. Kibler for his assistance in helping the city navigate through the grant application process.

The next agenda item was an update on the Pro-Art Association from Executive Director Jan Zentmeyer.

Prior to her update on last year's activities, Ms. Zentmeyer provided council members with a 2020-2021 Schedule of Pro-Art's 44th Season, as well as information on upcoming performances. Ms. Zentmeyer said Pro-Art has had a very busy season so far with 13 school programs scheduled in March. She noted that Norton students will be attending the performances of *Peter Pan, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, and Oh Freedom!* Ms. Zentmeyer said Pro-Art has hired a new program manager and he has been able to pack this year's schedule. She then went through the upcoming season providing details about some of the programs and said The Virginia Commission for the Arts will be bringing a mobile art exhibit to Mountain Empire Community College's Home Craft Days in October.

Ms. Zentmeyer then addressed Agenda Item 8-B and asked council to consider applying for the 2020-2021 Virginia Commission for the Arts Creative Partnership Grant (formerly known as the Local Government Challenge Grant) in the amount of $4,500.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to authorize the city manager to apply for a 2020-2021 Creative Partnership Grant in the amount of $4,500.

On behalf of council, Mayor Fawbush thanked Ms. Zentmeyer for the update on the Pro-Art Association.

Mr. Ramey, via a PowerPoint presentation, prepared an overview of the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) SMART Scale Program which started out as a study of the Park Avenue corridor but eventually included the Hawthorne intersection up to 14th Street, N.W. He said the study included traffic flow, traffic counts, pedestrian traffic, vehicle speeds and accidents. After collecting the data VDOT came up with potential projects that will improve pedestrian safety which the city may want to consider. Mr. Ramey said part of the process is for VDOT to hold a public information session to gather data from all stakeholders in order to make recommendations for council's consideration. Mr. Ramey presented VDOT's recommendations for improving pedestrian safety based upon the study and the suggestions from stakeholders. He said at this point council needs to narrow down the scope of the projects to fit one or two applications then VDOT will begin estimating the applications. Mr. Ramey said before submitting the applications council is required to pass a resolution in support of the applications.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed changes to the study area, council was of consensus to submit two applications to include all options except lane reductions. The first application will include upgrading traffic signal hardware in the operating units, Hawthorne Intersection, and the Virginia-Kentucky Shopping Center exit. The second application will include 11th Street to 14th Street Lane modifications, 11th Street Sidewalks, and Tipple Hill Improvements. Council does not want the bump outs at 11th and 12th Street intersections except for what may be required to relocate the signal from one side of 11th Street to the Heritage Inn Norton hotel side of 11th Street.

Council was also of consensus to give the city manager and VDOT consultants the flexibility to decide how to package the options in order to obtain funding for the projects.

Included in packets for council consideration was a transfer to Norton City Schools, dated December 16, 2019, in the amount of $120,075.00 to cover General Obligation School Bond Series 2012 payment that was included in the school's December accounts payable run.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to confirm the transfer to Norton City Schools, as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Caruso, and Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to go into closed meeting for Personnel as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Mayor Fawbush declared council in closed 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 Fawbush 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 Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four-year term to expire January 28, 2024.

Councilman Caruso nominated Lynn Livingston to be reappointed to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four-year term to expire January 28, 2024.

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

Mayor Fawbush declared Lynn Livingston reappointed to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four-year term to expire January 28, 2024.

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for four nominations to the Norton Highway Safety Committee for a two-year term to expire January 31, 2022.

Councilman Mays nominated James Lane, Frank Gravely, David Daniels, and Mark Conner to be reappointed to the Norton Highway Safety Committee for a two-year term to expire January 31, 2022.

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

Mayor Fawbush declared James Lane, Frank gravely, David Daniels, and Mark Conner reappointed to the Norton Highway Safety Committee for two-year terms to expire January 31, 2022.

In comments from the city manager:

Mr. Ramey thanked council members for completing their Statements of Economic Interest, and advised that all city board members had complied with the request by the filing deadline.

Mr. Ramey told council city financial advisor Davenport & Company, Inc., has recommended Powell Valley National Bank (PVNB) as the financial institution for opening a new line of operating credit. He said he would like the consensus of council to hold a public hearing at the March 3rd meeting so city administration can set up this account with PVNB.

Councilman Mays motioned to authorize the city manager to advertise a public hearing for the March 3rd meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote. Council then authorized the city manager to advertise a public hearing at the March 3rd meeting regarding the request to open a new operating line of credit with Powell Valley National Bank.

Mr. Ramey said he provided council with a copy of a letter he received from a downtown business and property owner thanking council for funding the Downtown Façade Improvement Program and how important this program was to their business.

Mr. Ramey said the Virginia Department of Forestry dropped off 2020 calendars and he has placed a copy at each member's desk.

Mr. Ramey provided council members with an overview of the 2019 City Highlights.

Mr. Ramey told council city administration is in the process of awarding a paving bid for the milling and paving of Route 74 from Dairy Queen to Kentucky Avenue. He said the paving project is funded through a grant from VDOT and will be completed in early spring. Mr. Ramey said he received a request from a citizen requesting street lights be installed along a portion of the road on Route 74 from the movie theatre to Kentucky Avenue. He said this request was approved by the city's Highway Safety Committee and that city administration has contacted Old Dominion Power Company to see if installation of street lights is feasible in that area.

Mr. Ramey informed council that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) Grant is scheduled for bid opening February 20th and Project Intersection Highwall Removal Project is scheduled for bid opening February 27th.

Mr. Ramey told council he provided members with copies of the latest monthly financials, Retail Sales Tax Report, and traffic counts for High Knob and Flag Rock Recreation Area.

Mr. Ramey said city administration is working with Norton City Schools on an official opening event for the tennis courts involving both the boys and girls tennis teams. City and school officials do not want a typical ribbon cutting ceremony. We would like to do something different and those details will be worked out next week. The event will be a planned kickoff for the tennis season.

The following comments were made by council members:

Councilwoman Belcher told the city manager that Clara Bartley said she is having a bear visit the back of her house.

Councilman Fultz thanked the city manager for updates on Project Intersection and the 11th Street tennis courts.

Councilman said he appreciates the city employees tonight that were honored for their years of service to the city.

Councilman Caruso asked the city manager to have three trash receptacles set at the following locations for citizens to dispose of trash: one at Greens Car Wash on Kentucky Avenue, one in the grass on Kentucky Avenue between the press box and the track entrance, and one near the intersection of Kentucky Avenue and Coeburn Road near the railroad tracks.

Councilman Caruso noted council has not discussed dates for upcoming budget work sessions and asked if a date had been set for the Leadership Meeting between the city and school system.

Mayor Fawbush said the school system would like to receive funding numbers from Richmond before scheduling the meeting so that the school system will have an accurate picture of state funding.

Councilman Caruso congratulated Lucas Addison for his participation as a page for Delegate Terry Kilgore.

Councilman Fultz noted that the Page Program votes for officers, copying the House of Delegates framework, during their tenure as pages in the Capitol Hill Building, and he said that Lucas was voted Speaker of the House.

Councilman Caruso said he and Mayor Fawbush attended one of the legislative sessions and were disappointed in the meeting. He said they also attended a Senate Hearing and the session was interesting. Councilman Caruso said the Legislative Reception was well attended and a nice event. He said Lobby Day 2020 at the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond on January 20, 2020, was attended by over 10,000 Second Amendment supporters and it was an excellent day.

Mayor Fawbush congratulated employees receiving service pins and thanked employees for their dedicated service to the citizens of Norton.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

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Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Rebecca K. Coffey, Clerk of Council

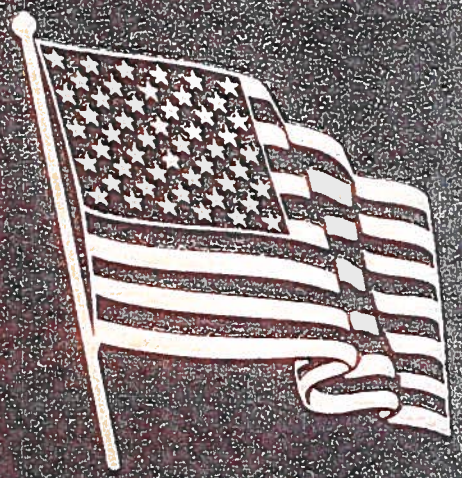
You Are Not Forgotten
POW★MIA
YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

You Are Not Forgotten

Since World War I, more than 92,000 American soldiers are unaccounted for.

This unoccupied seat is dedicated to the memory of those brave men and women and to the sacrifices each made in serving this country.

God Bless You. God Bless America.



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Dedicated by: Rolling Thunder Chapter 4TN

City of Norton

Inter-Office Memo

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager FR

CC:

Date: February 14, 2020

Re: 2019 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 2019 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 14, 2020

Re: 2020 Norton Business Challenge

In 2019, the Norton Industrial Development Authority received a Community Business Launch grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Since that time the City Administration has been working with DHCD on plans for the 2nd Norton Business Challenge. The City Administration plans to provide City Council with an update on the plans.

Thank You.

Resolution

WHEREAS, entrepreneurship is vital to our City's growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, most of the new jobs created throughout the United States in the past decade have come from the creative efforts of entrepreneurs and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, Main Street entrepreneurs serve as models of success to others in the community; and

WHEREAS, National Entrepreneurship Week is a congressionally-chartered initiative that was founded in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes and supports entrepreneurship as an economic equalizer crucial to the long-term growth of local communities, the state, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the City's ongoing Downtown Revitalization Project, the City plans to hold its 2nd Norton Business Challenge in March and April.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Norton City Council joins communities from across the nation in recognizing February 15 – 22, 2020, as National Entrepreneurship Week.

ADOPTED this 18th day of February, 2020.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

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Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Rebecca Coffey, Clerk of Council

SCHOOL BOARD
Cody McElroy, Chairperson
Dr. Wes Campbell, Vice-Chairperson
Sherry Adams
Carol Caruso
Mark Leonard

NORTON CITY SCHOOLS

Providing a World Class Education for World Changing Students

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

COPY

TO: Jeff Shupe

FROM: Jacquline Brooke

SUBJECT: Request for Funds

DATE: January 21, 2020

Norton City Schools requests a deposit of City Funds in the amount of $250,000 to cover January 24, 2019 payroll expenditures.

Thank you!