

A special called meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, June 30, 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 Councilman Robert Fultz and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Caruso, Belcher, Fawbush NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to adopt the minutes of the June 16, 2020, meeting as presented.

During the Mayor's Call for Visitors, Mr. Lev M. Smith, Jr., 204 – 10th Street, N.W., spoke briefly to council regarding his neighbor's overgrown yard and a standing water issue. Mr. Smith said his neighbor's yard has become upkept and has canoes containing standing water which has attracted bullfrogs. Mr. Smith said he has no animosity toward his neighbor and would be glad to assist him in cleaning up his property, but he needs the city's assistance in addressing the issue with the property owner.

At this time, Mr. Mike Still, a reporter covering the meeting, informed council his brother owned the property adjacent to Mr. Smith, and that he would see to it that Mr. Smith's concerns about the adjacent property are resolved.

A public hearing was held to solicit comments on an amendment to the 2019-2020 General Operating Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,421,450, of which \$387,900 are unappropriated reserves, \$20,800 are loan proceeds, and \$1,012,750 are additional revenues associated with grants and other outside funding sources for city projects.

Mayor Fawbush opened the public hearing.

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

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to adopt the budget amendment to the 2019-2020 General Operating Fund Budget totaling \$1,421,450.

Council had been presented with an Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia, for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2020, thru June 30, 2021, Appropriating Funds for All Contemplated Expenses of the City for the Fiscal Year and Placing Levies Upon All Real Estate, Personal Property and Bank Stock, Licenses, Fees, User Chargers, and All Other Levies as Previously Imposed or Modified Herein.

Mr. Ramey said a public hearing was held June 16th on adopting the city's FY 2020-2021 Budget which totals \$10,045,524 in the General Operating Fund, and represents a decrease over last year's budget in the amount of \$235,276. The recommended budget does not include any revenue enhancements, but the budget does include \$125,000 in surplus funds to balance the budget. The Enterprise Fund totals \$3,340,482, which is an increase of \$78,126 over the FY20 budget. The Enterprise Fund does not include any proposed rate increases to the water and

sewer rate schedules. The Norton Social Services Fund totals \$1,430,550, which is an increase of \$127,333; however, local appropriation decreased by \$50,000.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Fultz, Mays, Belcher, Caruso, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to adopt an Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia, for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2020, thru June 30, 2021, Appropriating Funds for All Contemplated Expenses of the City for the Fiscal Year and Placing Levies Upon All Real Estate, Personal Property and Bank Stock, Licenses, Fees, User Chargers, and All Other Levies as Previously Imposed or Modified Herein. (Insert)

In council's packets was a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, Adopting a Five-Year Capital Improvements Program.

Mr. Ramey advised that council had to cut capital expenditures this year but the budget does include two projects: council appropriated funds for a preliminary engineering report to study sites and utilities for building cabins in Flag Rock Recreation Area and funding the city's annual paving program in the amount of \$225,000, which is a decrease in annual paving from previous budgets. He said capital improvement project Items 76A, 76B, and 76C, which are part of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Smart Scale Program targeting Alternate 58, Signalization, Tipple Hill, and 11th and 14th Streets, N.W., if approved, would be added to VDOT's six-year plan. Mr. Ramey also mentioned that the request for a beacon to be installed at the red light on Hawthorne Drive needed approval from Wise County Board of Supervisors since the beacon would be located in the county. He said the Wise County Board of Supervisors approved the request and he has received a letter of support.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to adopt a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, Adopting a Five-Year Capital Improvements Program. (Insert)

Also included in packets for council consideration was a check to W-L Construction and Paving, Inc., dated June 1, 2020, in the amount of \$166,174.65 for paving of Route 74 to Kentucky Avenue related to a VDOT grant

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to confirm the payment to W-L Construction Paving, Inc., as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Fultz, Mays, Belcher, Caruso, Fawbush, 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 Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, 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 Councilman Mays, 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 Planning Commission for a four-year term to expire June 30, 2024.

Councilman Mays nominated Randy Stidham to be reappointed to the Planning Commission for a four-year term to expire June 30, 2024.

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

Mayor Fawbush declared Randy Stidham reappointed to the Planning Commission, as stated above.

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for nomination to the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2023.

Councilman Caruso nominated Robert Fultz to be reappointed in an interim position to the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2023.

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

Mayor Fawbush declared Robert Fultz, Jr., reappointed in an interim position to the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority, as stated above.

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for nominations of a parent representative to the Norton Social Services Community Policy and Management Board for a four-year term to expire July 1, 2024.

Councilwoman Belcher nominated Tiffany Taylor to be reappointed to the Norton Social Services Community Policy and Management Board for a four-year term to expire July 1, 2024.

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

Mayor Fawbush declared Tiffany Taylor reappointed to the Norton Social Services Community Policy and Management Board, as stated above.

In comments from the city manager:

Mr. Ramey stated the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) continues making progress on various crosswalks downtown, and once the handicap access is completed the contractor will begin working on traffic signaling.

He told council that he is requesting authorization from council to advertise a public hearing on a proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) proposal to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the Norton City – Small Business Recovery Assistance Project. Mr. Ramey said this grant may help the city obtain monies to help local businesses.

It was the consensus of council to authorize the city manager to advertise a public hearing on a proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) proposal to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the Norton City – Small Business Recovery Assistance Project.

Mr. Ramey distributed an updated tear-off maps of the city.

He reminded council the Independence Day fireworks display is scheduled for Friday, July 3rd at 9:50 p.m.

The following comments were made by council members:

Councilman Fultz said he is glad to see progress downtown and the impact the façade program has made to business district.

He then wished council a happy Fourth of July.

Councilman Mays commented that he liked the new tear-off maps.

Councilman Caruso asked about the status of Norris Fabrication making bear-proof dumpster lids.

Mr. Ramey said Norris is going to try to make a dumpster lid for \$1,000, but in the meantime, the city is picking up garbage daily at the Laurel Avenue trailer park.

Councilman Caruso said the city needs a dumpster lid program so the city doesn't have a safety issue with bears. He said if a bear is in the area a lid needs to be placed on the dumpster or the receptacle needs to be removed.

Councilman Caruso reminded council that the city's Comprehensive Plan is over 10 years old and council needs to update the plan to provide a vision for the city.

He thanked city crews and the city manager for starting the cleanup of 400 and 500 Avenue blocks up to Tipple Hill.

Councilman Caruso said he would like to see \$500 Fine for Littering signs installed at city entrances.

Councilman Caruso asked if the city received information on how many homeless people are receiving shelter from Family Crisis Support Services.

Mr. Ramey said the city does not receive an official report from Family Crisis Support Services but he could request one from the executive director.

Councilman Caruso asked about the status of the dilapidated housing report he requested to be placed on an agenda.

Mr. Ramey asked Councilman Caruso what he specifically wanted in the dilapidated housing report and suggested council discuss the topic at a work session.

After a lengthy discussion about the city's dilapidated housing process, Mr. Ramey suggested that council may want to incorporate wording in the city's ordinances to allow for fining land owners who do not maintain their property.

Mayor Fawbush said he asked the city manager to have polo shirts made for council and he distributed the shirts to council members.

He said since the Woodbooger Festival is cancelled for this year, he decided to have a fundraiser for next year's event so he is selling Woodbooger vehicle magnets and stickers.

Mayor Fawbush thanked the city manager for his work on getting council the polo shirts.

He noted that the city finished the fiscal year in a better position than what it could have due to the pandemic, and he said city council, city administration, and city departments are to be thanked for their efforts and that the city is "Norton Strong."

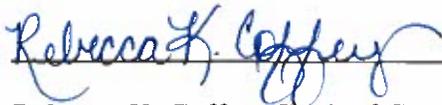
There being no further business to come before council, Mayor Fawbush declared the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rebecca K. Coffey, Clerk of Council