

AGENDA

Norton City Council

February 1, 2022

6:00 P.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Invocation – Rev. Roger Sloce
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Minutes
 1. Meeting of January 18, 2022
5. Audience for Visitors
6. Special Presentations
7. Public Hearing
 - A. Public Hearing to Solicit Public Input on a Proposed Amendment to Section 6.1 of the City Code Related to Recording of the City’s Reapportionment Ordinance.
 1. Public Hearing
 2. Comments by City Council
 3. Consideration by City Council
8. New Business
 - A. Presentation of the Planned 2022 Community Calendar of Events/Activities.
 - B. Discussion Regarding the City’s Continued Support for Fair Housing in the City of Norton.

- C. Update on the American Rescue Plan Act's Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding.
- D. Confirmation of a Check/Transfer in Excess of \$100,000.
- E. Closed Meeting for Personnel as Per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia as Amended and Section 2.2-3711 (A) (3) Discussion or Consideration of the Acquisition of Real Property for a Public Purpose, or of the Disposition of Publicly Held Real Property, Where Discussion in an Open Meeting Would Adversely Affect the Bargaining Position or Negotiating Strategy of the Public Body.
1. Appointment to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a Five-Year Term; Currently Mike Ball whose Term Expires 1/17/22.

To 1/17/2027
 2. Appointment to the Norton Redevelopment & Housing Authority for a Four-Year Term; Currently Roger Sloce Whose Term Expires 1/28/2022.

To 1/28/2026
 3. Appointment to the Department of Social Services Advisory Board for a Four-Year Term; Currently Frank Gravely Whose Term Expires 1/31/2022.

To 1/31/2026
 4. Appointment to the Highway Safety Commission for a Two-Year Term; Currently James Lane Whose Term Expires 1/31/2022.

To 1/31/2024

5. Appointment to the Highway Safety Commission for a Two-Year Term; Currently Frank Gravely Whose Term Expires 1/31/2022.

To 1/31/2024

6. Appointment to the Highway Safety Commission for a Two-Year Term; Currently David Daniels Whose Term Expires 1/31/2022.

To 1/31/2024

7. Appointment to the Highway Safety Commission for a Two-Year Term; Currently Mark Conner Whose Term Expires 1/31/2022.

To 1/31/2024

8. Appointment to the Southwest Virginia Health Authority for Two-Year Term; Currently Debbie Ward Whose Term Expires 12/31/2021.

To 12/31/2025

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

10. Adjournment.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Joseph Fawbush presiding.

Present: William Mays, Robert Fultz, Jr., Joseph Fawbush, and Sarah Davis

Absent: Mark Caruso

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager and Interim City Clerk

Prior to the invocation, Mayor Joseph Fawbush informed council that the community had lost a very important and active member of the community, longtime Editor and Publisher of The Coalfield Progress Jenay Tate, who passed away January, 15, 2022.

The invocation was given by Rev. Freddie Powers, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Norton Police Department First Sergeant Greg Mays.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by the following vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Davis, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, ABSTAIN – None, council moved to adopt the minutes of the December 7, 2021, council meeting as presented.

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

A public hearing was held to consider an amendment to the 2021-2022 General Operating Fund Budget in the amount of \$794,069.50 for additional revenues associated with grant funding from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD) for the LENOWISCO Regional Small Business Recovery Assistance Project.

The city manager, via PowerPoint, provided council with an overview of the LENOWISCO Regional Small Business Recovery Assistance Project. He said council held a public hearing on July 21, 2020, on the proposed \$1.7 million grant application (\$500,000 each for Scott County and Lee County, and \$300,000 each for Wise County and the City of Norton). On August 18, 2020, council approved an interagency agreement related to management of the funding, and council approved the program application and design documents on September 1, 2020. He noted that over 150 small businesses in Lee, Wise, and Scott counties and the City of Norton benefitted from the first round of funding.

Mr. Ramey advised that council held a public hearing May 18, 2021, on the proposed second grant application in the amount of \$640,000. On June 15, 2021, council approved a \$1.7 million budget amendment related to the funds. The city manager said the FY2021 audit documented that only \$1,545,930.48 had been expended by June 30, 2021, resulting in \$154,069.52 being carried over to the FY2022 Budget. The purpose of tonight's public hearing was to consider the FY2022 Budget amendment in the amount of \$794,069.52 (\$154,069.52 carry over from FY2021 and \$640,000 in FY 2022 grant funding).

The city manager explained that the VDHCD program grant had ended and the program audit requires documentation of the funding carryover to the city's FY2022 Budget. This amendment will allow VDHCD to close out the grant with the city.

Mayor Fawbush opened the public hearing.

Receiving no public comments, the mayor closed the public hearing.

There were no comments or questions concerning the amendment from council.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous vote, YES – Mays, Fultz, Davis, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, ABSTAIN – None, council moved to amend the 2021-2022 General Operating Fund Budget in the amount of \$794,069.50 for additional revenues associated with grant funding from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the LENOWISCO Regional Small Business Recovery Assistance Project.

A public hearing was conducted to solicit public input on the Proposed Use of Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funds from the Federal Highway Administration Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division.

Via PowerPoint, the city manager presented details of the proposed Federal Lands Access Program projects. He said the city applied for a \$3.5 million FLAP grant in November 2016 and council approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on November 21, 2017, for a \$2,865,000 grant. Proposed FLAP projects include: (1) the High Knob Destination/Visitor Center; (2) a Multi-use Trail connecting downtown sidewalk to the High Knob Destination Center; (3) Trail Master and Environmental Plan for the proposed High Knob Tower Trail from the Destination Center to the High Knob Tower; (4) US 23 Wayfinding Signage; and (5) a Route 619 Safety Assessment.

The city manager advised that the public hearing was advertised in the local newspaper.

Mayor Fawbush opened the public hearing.

There being no public input, the mayor closed the public hearing.

Mayor Fawbush asked if there were any comments or questions from council.

Councilman Mays commended the city manager, City Engineer Stephen McElroy and Finance Director Jeffery Shupe for their work on the FLAP projects. He said this team works well together on any project, but they have certainly worked well together on this project.

The city manager thanked Councilman Mays for his comments.

Councilman Fultz said the projects are positive projects for the community and the region.

The mayor added that these projects have been a long time coming and involved a great deal of planning.

Under old business, the city manager asked for council consideration of a Resolution Approving the City of Bristol, Virginia, Becoming a Member of the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority.

Mr. Ramey said the item had previously been on the council agenda in November and December 2021, but the Virginia Resources Authority (VRA) which holds the jail authority bond had not completed its review of all documentation associated with the addition of Bristol to the jail authority, so council consideration was postponed until tonight.

The city manager recognized Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority Superintendent Stephen Clear who was in attendance at tonight's meeting to answer questions from council.

He reminded council of the historical background of the regional jail authority and the terms for Bristol joining the authority.

The city manager said the authority board unanimously approved a resolution in October 2021 with service and support agreements accepting Bristol into the regional jail system. Acceptance of Bristol into the regional jail system requires 100 percent approval by all participating authority jurisdictions.

Mr. Ramey shared resolution and terms of agreement highlights with council. The City of Bristol will pay a premium of \$2.75 on a guaranteed 200 inmates for 10 years. A premium

amount of \$200,750 per year will be paid directly to each of the member localities at the year-end reconciliation and will help offset Norton's share of the debt service.

Mr. Ramey noted that if any member chooses to leave the authority, all member jurisdictions must unanimously agree and the departing entity must continue to pay its share of the debt service until the debt is paid in full.

At this time, the city manager asked Mr. Clear if he had anything to clarify or add.

The jail authority superintendent noted Mayor Fawbush's involvement through the years as a jail authority board member and explained that this is the fourth time Bristol has requested to join the regional jail authority. He said twice Bristol City Council voted not to join the regional jail authority and once the Virginia Resources Authority determined that the City of Bristol was not financially secure enough to join the regional jail authority. He said the financial security of the City of Bristol has improved, VRA has approved the joinder, as has Bristol City Council. He said after tonight, eight participating jurisdictions will have approved the resolution with two remaining.

Mayor Fawbush asked if council had any questions.

Councilman Mays said he thought Bristol joining the regional jail authority is a positive move for the region.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilwoman Davis, and passed by the following unanimous vote, YES – Mays, Fultz, Davis, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, ABSTAIN – None, council moved to adopt a Resolution Approving the City of Bristol, Virginia, Becoming a Member of the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority.

The mayor and the city manager thanked Mr. Clear for attending the council meeting and for answering questions pertaining to the resolution.

Under new business, Ballad Health Vice President and Chief Executive Officer for Wise, Dickenson and Lee Counties Shannon Showalter provided council with a Ballad Health update.

The city manager introduced Mr. Showalter, noting that he is new to the position and is a resident of Norton.

Mr. Showalter briefly discussed Ballad Health's facilities and reported that Ballad COVID-19 statistics as of January 18, 2022, showed 353 hospitalized patients and seven pediatric patients. He said the number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients had increased since Thanksgiving, but he was hopeful the number was reaching its peak. The percent of population fully vaccinated in the Ballad Health service area as of January 13, 2022, was 47.7 percent.

Mr. Showalter said hospital staffing is a national healthcare concern and Ballad Health is addressing these staffing issues by changing staff models to incorporate nursing extenders, using traveling staff, providing 20 percent pay increases during the pandemic, as well as annual adjustments and other employment incentives. There is also an effort to create interest in healthcare professions at area colleges and universities.

He also discussed Ballad Health's \$9 million investment in Lonesome Pine Hospital and provided an operational update.

The CEO asked if council had any questions.

Councilwoman Davis asked if the behavioral health services would only be for employees and if the services would include drug addiction services.

Mr. Showalter said the behavioral services will only be available to Lonesome Pine Hospital employees, but would hopefully expand to hospitals within the Ballad system and eventually to the community. He said the behavioral services do not include drug addiction/detoxification services.

Councilman Fultz welcomed Mr. Showalter to Norton and the region and said he appreciated the work Mr. Showalter does. Mr. Fultz noted that healthcare is important and is something investors look at when deciding to locate to an area to open a business. He suggested that Ballard explore the development of possible partnerships with the Wise County school system and Wise County Vocational School, as well as other area schools, to attract students to pursue careers in healthcare.

The CEO explained that COVID had halted many of these partnership/internship efforts from taking place and the hospital system is having a difficult time finding applicants for healthcare career programs.

The city manager and council members welcomed Mr. Showalter to the community and thanked him for the Ballard Health update.

Included in packets for council consideration was a supplemental appropriation request from Norton City Schools for a security grant match in the amount of \$24,262.

The city manager said Dr. Gina Wohlford, Norton City Schools superintendent, could not attend the council meeting and told council the security grant would be used for cameras in areas where there are dead spots, access control on exterior doors, ballistic film on all windows to make the windows bullet and storm/debris resistant, tint windows to prevent visibility into classrooms, new handheld radios in the office areas, two-way radios for all buses, and a new digital repeater at Norton Elementary and Middle School.

City Finance Director Jeff Shupe confirmed the security grant was a 75 percent grant with a 25 percent local match.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by the following unanimous vote, YES – Mays, Fultz, Davis, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, ABSTAIN – None, council moved to approve a supplemental appropriation request from Norton City Schools for a security grant local match from unappropriated reserves in the amount of \$24,262.

Also, in packets for council review and consideration was a Memorandum of Understanding for the Wise County Adult Abuse Multidisciplinary Team which will include representatives from the Norton Department of Social Services and the Norton Police Department.

Mr. Ramey explained that the Wise County Adult Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) provides participants with an efficient, expedient forum for staffing cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of at-risk adults with a versatile team of professionals able to make decisions and take immediate action to better protect the victims and contain the offenders.

The city manager said City Attorney William Bradshaw advised that memorandums of understanding between agencies should be brought before city council to keep council informed. He said that agencies receiving grant funding are required to have memorandums of understanding and the city attorney had reviewed the document.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following vote, YES – Mays, Fultz, Davis, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, ABSTAIN – None, council moved to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding for the Wise County Adult Abuse Multidisciplinary Team, as presented.

Updating council on the status of the Project Intersection Earthlink, LLC, Facility, the city manager advised council that a component of this project effort is an application for financial assistance from the Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund. Mr. Ramey requested authorization from council to enter into an administrative agreement between Earthlink, LLC,

and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority related to the Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund and the Earthlink Project Intersection Facility.

The city manager reminded council that on September 14, 2021, Earthlink, LLC, announced plans to invest \$5.4 million to establish a major customer support center in Norton that is expected to create 285 jobs.

Mr. Ramey explained that the State wants the city to be involved and the city's primary obligation, as a party to this agreement, will be to provide the State with information on the assessed value of real estate owned or leased by Earthlink and the local revenue derived by the city from Earthlink each year. He said the certification will be due annually on April 1st for the prior year and will include taxes, license fees, assessed values of Earthlink's assets in the city with Earthlink waiving confidentiality for the city to provide this information to the State.

The city manager explained that this agreement will help EarthLink qualify for grant funding going forward. He noted that the city attorney had reviewed the agreement and found no issues.

There were no questions from council.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by the following vote, YES – Mays, Fultz, Davis, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, ABSTAIN – None, council moved to authorize the city manager to enter into an administrative agreement on behalf of the city between Earthlink, LLC, and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority related to the Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund and the Earthlink Project Intersection Facility.

The next agenda item was a request to authorize the city manager to serve as the fiscal agent and apply for an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant on behalf of the Forest Recreation Outdoor Group (FROG).

The city manager said FROG was formed in 2019 as a collective of local governments and other engaged stakeholders invited by the United States Department of Agriculture's Clinch Ranger District to assist the district in building a sustainable recreation program. He said FROG is at a point where the group is applying for grant funding. The EDA grant will establish a program that would build on previous regionally supported planning efforts such as the High Knob Regional Initiatives Master Plan, focus on improving, maintaining and expanding the region's recreational infrastructure, and cultivate a youth ambassador program to create more opportunities for the region's youth to be exposed to outdoor activities and education. Another goal of the program is to develop a plan to recruit outdoor recreation-based manufacturing and other types of businesses to the area. The grant would also establish two salaried grant-funded positions that could possibly be housed in the Destination Center.

Mr. Ramey advised that FROG is writing the grant, but cannot apply for the grant because the group is not a formal entity. The city manager will serve as fiscal agent and applicant for the grant and will work with LENOWISCO Planning District Commission in managing the grant if funded.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following vote, YES – Mays, Fultz, Davis, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, ABSTAIN – None, council moved to authorize the city manager to serve as the fiscal agent and apply for an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant on behalf of the Forest Recreation Outdoor Group (FROG).

Authorization to refund erroneously assessed personal property taxes was also on the agenda. Mr. Ramey said Norton Commissioner of Revenue Judy Miller determined that 2020/2021 personal property taxes for Kelly Lynn Stapleton were erroneously assessed, so a refund in the

amount of \$168.61 is due to Ms. Stapleton. The Commissioner of Revenue also determined that 2021 personal property taxes for Christiana Robinette were erroneously assessed and a refund in the amount of \$324.69 is due to Ms. Robinette.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Davis, and passed by the following unanimous vote, YES – Mays, Fultz, Davis, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, ABSTAIN – None, council authorized refunds to Kelly Lynn Stapleton for erroneously assessed 2020/2021 personal property taxes in the amount of \$168.61 and to Christiana Robinette for erroneously assessed 2021 personal property taxes in the amount of \$324.69.

Via a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Ramey provided council with COVID-19 case trends from July 2021 through January 18, 2022, for the City of Norton.

LENOWISCO Health District COVID-19 case statistics for Norton reported: July 2021 cases totaled 15 (6 were 0-18 years); August 2021 - 58 (22 were 0-18 years); September 2021 - 73 (26 were 0-18 years); October 2021 - 53 (17 were 0-18 years); November 2021 - 46 (8 were 0-18 years); and December 2021, 87 (18 were 0-18 years); and Jan. 1-9, 2022 - 34 (7 were 0-18 years).

The city manager shared 2020 and 2021 COVID-19 case and death statistics reported by Bristol Herald Courier that showed Norton's cases totaled 169 for 2020 and 585 for 2021, which was a 246.1 percent increase. Norton's COVID-19 deaths for 2020 totaled one, while 2021 deaths were 19, showing an 1,800 percent increase. The city manager noted that Norton's death rate increase was the highest listed for the Southwest Virginia/East Tennessee region.

Mr. Ramey advised that Ballad Health COVID-19 statistics as of January 12, 2022, showed 299 hospitalized COVID-19 patients (270 unvaccinated or 90 percent and 29 vaccinated); 80 patients in intensive care units (76 unvaccinated or 95 percent and four vaccinated); and 60 patients on ventilators (58 unvaccinated or 97 percent and two vaccinated).

The city manager reported the following Virginia Department of Health (VDH) COVID-19 statistics for Norton as of January 14, 2022: Cases (878), 661 as of Dec. 3, 2021; Hospitalizations (38), 35 as of Dec. 3, 2021; Deaths (20), 17 as of Dec. 3, 2021; Increase in Cases Over 7-Day Period (69); and 7-Day Average Number of Daily New Cases Reported (5).

Updating council on the status of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and projects, Mr. Ramey told council that city administration has received the Interim Final Rule from the United States Treasury and he was looking forward to discussing the rule with council at the January 22 work session.

The city manager asked for council consideration of the 2022 Fourth of July fireworks and Independence Day Celebration. He advised council that July 4th is on a Monday this year and the city has two possible dates (Friday, July 1st, or Sunday, July 3rd) for consideration for the fireworks display. The rain date for the fireworks would be Tuesday, July 5th. Following a brief discussion about the need to coordinate the parade and fireworks on July 1st, the consensus of council was to have the fireworks display on Friday, July 1st.

Included in packets for council consideration was a check to Atlantic Emergency Solutions, dated November 21, 2021, in the amount of \$738,861.00 for the purchase of the new city fire truck.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following roll call vote, YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Davis, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, council moved to confirm payment to Atlantic Emergency Solutions, as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Davis, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, 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; for Discussion or Consideration of the Acquisition of Real Property for a Public Purpose, or of the Disposition of Publicly Held Real Property, Where Discussion in an Open Meeting Would Adversely Affect the Bargaining Position or Negotiating Strategy of the Public Body as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (3); and for Discussion Concerning a Prospective Business or Industry or the Expansion of an Existing Business or Industry Where No Previous Announcement Has Been Made of the Business's or Industry's Interest in Locating or Expanding its Facilities in the Community as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (5).

Mayor Fawbush declared council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilwoman Davis, and passed by the following unanimous vote, YES – Mays, Fultz, Davis, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, council moved to go back into open meeting.

Mayor Fawbush declared council back in open meeting.

Mr. Ramey polled each member of council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering yes. The city manager then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Davis, and passed by the following unanimous vote, YES – Mays, Fultz, Davis, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Industrial Development Authority to fill the unexpired term of Bryan Lewis whose term expires May 10, 2024.

Councilman Mays nominated Adam Smith to be appointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority to complete the unexpired term of Bryan Lewis.

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

The mayor declared Adam Smith appointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority to fill the unexpired term of Bryan Lewis whose term expires May 10, 2024.

The mayor opened the floor for nominations to the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority for a two-year term to expire January 16, 2024.

Councilman Mays nominated Fred Ramey, Jr., to be reappointed to the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority for a two-year term to expire January 16, 2024.

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

The mayor declared Fred Ramey, Jr., reappointed to the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority for a two-year term to expire January 16, 2024.

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for nominations to the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority for a four-year term to expire January 16, 2026.

Councilman Mays nominated Joseph Fawbush to be reappointed to the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority for a four-year term to expire January 16, 2026.

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

The mayor declared Joseph Fawbush reappointed to the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority for a four-year term to expire January 16, 2026.

The mayor opened the floor for nominations to the Ninth District Development Financing, Inc., for a two-year term to expire January 31, 2024.

Councilman Mays nominated Carol Caruso to the Ninth District Development Financing, Inc., for a two-year term to expire January 31, 2024.

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

The mayor declared Carol Caruso appointed to the to the Ninth District Development Financing, Inc., for a two-year term to expire January 31, 2024.

In comments from the city manager:

Mr. Ramey advised that after each U.S. Census congressional and state legislative districts are redrawn to adjust for population changes. He said the city has one voting district, so the assumption was that the district would not change. Following review of current legislation, City Attorney William Bradshaw recommended that the city schedule a public hearing to amend Section 6.1 of the City Code to include a map of the city's election district for the record.

It was the consensus of council to allow the city manager to advertise a public hearing for the February 1st council meeting to amend Section 6.1 of the City Code to include a map of the city's election district.

Mr. Ramey said council at the November 16, 2021, council meeting approved the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds to purchase a small ambulance for Norton Rescue Squad and committed up to \$9,000 for the match for the purchase of a new cot for the ambulance. He advised council that the local match requirement was less than expected, so the cost of the ambulance will be \$128,698 plus \$4,049 for the cot for a total cost of \$132,747.

The city manager said the Clear Creek Park Project should be completed by spring.

He informed council of two Project Intersection funding announcements - \$500,000 from the Virginia Department of Economic Development and \$500,000 from the Virginia Tobacco Commission. Press releases of the announcements were distributed to council.

Mr. Ramey provided council with a 2021 Expo Center Activities Report. He said there were 45 events held at the center in 2021 and three events have already been held at the center for the first month of 2022.

The city manager said the High Knob Beach Restoration that was completed by the Norton Industrial Development Authority was included in the Friends of Southwest Virginia Annual Report. He shared the High Knob Beach Restoration excerpt with council and showed a short video highlighting the project.

Mr. Ramey told council the University of Virginia College at Wise recently featured the Woodbooger and City of Norton in a Facebook post and sticker.

The 2021 Year in Review was distributed to council members and city administration.

The city manager reminded council that financial disclosure statements must be completed and submitted by February 1, 2022.

Mr. Ramey provided council with the latest financials, January 2022 Retail Sales Tax Report, as well as traffic counts for High Knob and Flag Rock.

The consensus of council was to schedule a council work session for 8 a.m., Saturday, January 22, 2022, in council chambers.

The following comments were made by council members:

The mayor and council members expressed their condolences for the passing of Jenay Tate.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:

Fred Ramey, Jr., Interim Clerk of Council

Employee Service Pins**February 1, 2022****10 Years****Brian Fleming – Public Works****Melissa Jackson – Police Department – 911****15 Years****Wes Ward – Water Treatment Plant****Rusty McReynolds – Police Department****Scott Craft – Water Treatment Plant****25 Years****Jason Hill – Public Works Department - Parks****James Lane – Police Department****Shelby Shortt – Department of Social Services****Kelli Willis – Department of Social Services****Harold Huff – Department of Social Services****30 Years****Judy Miller – Commissioner of Revenue****Kim Taylor – Police Department - 911****Tim Boardwine – Sheriff's Department**

**ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REENACTING SECTION 6.1 OF THE CODE OF THE
CITY OF NORTON RELATING TO RECORDING OF THE CITY'S
REAPPORTIONMENT ORDINANCE**

Be it enacted by the City Council of the City of Norton:

1. That Section 6.1 of the Code of the City of Norton be amended and reenacted as follows:

Section 6.1. – Boundaries

There shall be one (1) election district and voting precinct, whose boundaries shall be the City limits of Norton, Virginia. A description of the boundaries and a map showing the boundaries of the election district shall be prepared and recorded in the official minutes of City Council.

2. The Clerk shall send a certified copy of this ordinance, including a description of the boundaries and a Geographical Information System (GIS) map showing the boundaries of the district to the local electoral board, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Department of Elections and the Division of Legislative Services.
3. This ordinance shall take effect thirty days from its date of adoptions.

Adopted this 1st day of February 2022.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

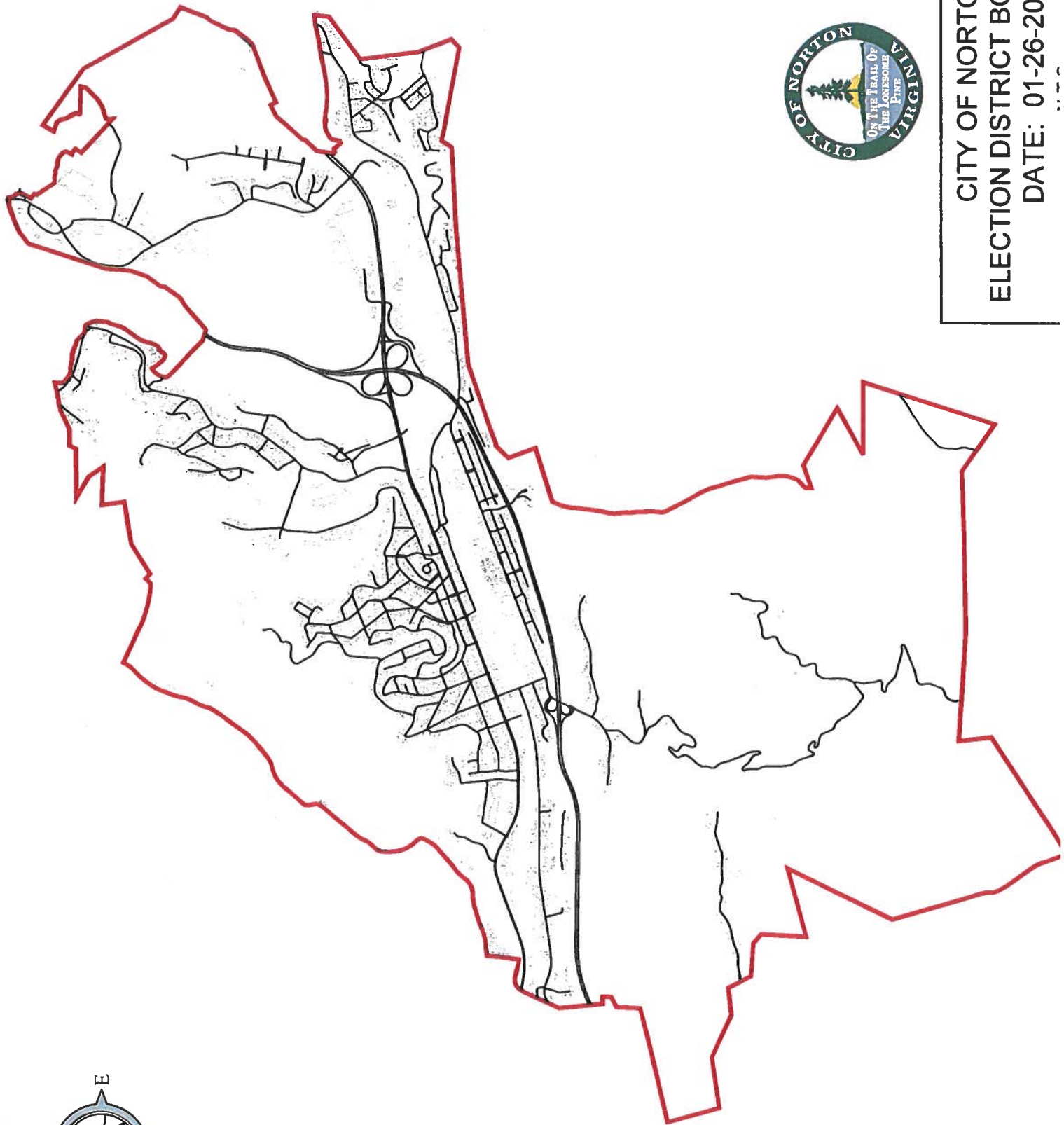
Joseph Fawbush
Mayor

ATTEST:

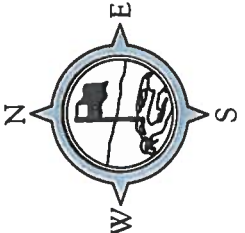
Acting Clerk

Boundaries of the City of Norton

The boundaries of the City of Norton shall be as described in § 1.3 of Chapter 565 of the Acts of Assembly of 1954 as modified by decrees of the Circuit Court of Wise County, Virginia, in the annexation proceedings styled *City of Norton, Virginia vs. Wise County, Virginia*, Case No. 22042, by an order dated October 10, 1962; in the annexation proceedings styled *City of Norton vs. Wise County*, Case No. 20,000 by an order dated December 28, 1974; in the annexation proceedings styled *Boco, Ltd., et al. vs. City of Norton, et al.*, Case No. C83-134 by an order dated April 19, 1984, and in the order establishing a new boundary line between the *County of Wise* and the *City of Norton* by order dated January 9, 2004, as the same from time to time may be amended.



CITY OF NORTON
ELECTION DISTRICT BOUNDARY
DATE: 01-26-2022





January 19, 2022

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the Municipal Council Chambers located at 618 Virginia Avenue, N.W., Norton, Virginia. The purpose of the hearing is to solicit input on a proposed amendment to Sec. 6.1 of the City Code related to recording of the City's reapportionment ordinance.

Information regarding the proposed amendment is Available for Inspection Monday through Friday between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. in the City Manager's Office or available at www.nortonva.gov. Attendance and Comments at the Meeting are Encouraged and Welcome.

Fred L. Ramey, Jr.

City Manager

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

TO THE COALFIELD:

Please run in the Friday, January 21st and Friday, January 28th editions of the Coalfield Progress.

City of Norton



Inter-Office Memo

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager *FR*
CC:
Date: January 28, 2022
Re: 2022 Calendar of Events & Activities

The City's Special Projects Coordinator Katie Dunn will be at the City Council meeting to provide a Calendar of Events/Activities Planned for 2022.

Thank You.

City of Norton



Inter-Office Memo

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager *FR*
CC:
Date: January 28, 2022
Re: Fair Housing

When undertaking a Community Development Block Grant project, localities are required to conduct at least one fair housing activity each year. For this year's activity, I will review past Fair Housing actions.

Thank You.

City of Norton



Inter-Office Memo

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager *FR*
CC:
Date: January 28, 2022
Re: COVID-19 and American Rescue Plan Act

At this meeting, the City Administration will provide a brief update on COVID-19 statistics and the City's share of the American Rescue Plan Act's Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF).

Thank You.

SCHOOL BOARD

Cody McElroy, Chairperson
Dr. Wes Campbell, Vice-Chairperson
Carol Caruso
Cheryl Redman
Mark Sturgill



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

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

DATE: November 24, 2021

Norton City Schools requests a deposit of City Funds in the amount of \$100,000 to cover November 2021 payroll expenditures.

Thank you!