

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, Joseph Hunnicutt, William Mays, Joseph Fawbush, and Terry Roop

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge led by the City Attorney, Bill Bradshaw.

At this time, Mayor Mays amended the agenda to include under New Business - Item 1-A – A Resolution in Honor and Recognition of E. W. Ward for Thirty Years of Service to the City of Norton and Item 6-E - The discussion 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 No. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. 25320

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 21, 2012 meeting as presented. 25321

During the Mayor's call for visitors, D. C. Mullins, the Fire Chief of the Norton Fire Department, spoke briefly honoring Mr. Ward, the City Manager, who will be retiring on March 30th. Mr. Mullins thanked Mr. Ward for his support of the Norton Fire Department and presented him with an engraved bronze replica of an antique fire extinguisher, which was purchased personally by the individual members of the Department. Mr. Mullins, on behalf of his Department, gave Mr. Ward his best wishes for his retirement. 25322

Mr. Ward thanked Chief Mullins and the members of the Department for this gift.

At this time, Mayor Mays welcomed two guests to tonight's meeting: Mrs. Bridgett Hart and Ms. Vickie Wells, both members of the Forward Wise County Class. 25323

At this time, Mayor Mays read A Resolution In Honor and Recognition of E. W. Ward for Thirty Years of Service to the City of Norton.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, - No – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution In Honor and Recognition of E. W. Ward for Thirty Years of Service to the City of Norton. (Insert) 25324

Ms. Tamara Greear of Thrower, Blanton, and Associates, presented Council with a summary of the June 30, 2011 Audit for the City and also furnished a copy to each council member. She advised Council that the City obtained an unqualified or clean opinion. She briefly touched on some new definitions in that area being used due to

(GASB) 54. Mr. Ward advised Council that there is a resolution covering this on the agenda to be adopted tonight.

Following her presentation, Ms. Greear answered questions from Council and advised should they have more questions, they could feel free to contact her at her office.

At this time, Ms. Greear stated she appreciated working with Mr. Ward and his staff and wished Mr. Ward good luck on his retirement and she looks forward to working with Mr. Ramey.

Mr. William "Buzz" Witt expressed his good wishes to Mr. Ward on his retirement and then presented to Council Mr. Chuck Riedhammer, the Executive Director of the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority, who spoke briefly to Council and presented them with handouts for their review. He advised that their main goal is to acquire and develop trails, maintain these trails and to secure and market all trails in Southwest Virginia.

During Mr. Riedhammer's update on the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority, he advised that the television show, Fisher's Outdoor World on the Outdoor Channel, will be in the area on September 29, 2012 to tape a show and he would like to have as many trails open as possible by that time.

At this time, Mr. Riedhammer congratulated Mr. Ward on his retirement.

Mayor Mays, on behalf of Council, and Councilman Caruso thanked Mr. Riedhammer for his presentation. Councilman Caruso said there will be two major events upcoming – the dedication of the new High Knob Tower and the September 29, 2012 television show to be filmed, which will showcase our area.

Mr. Ward advised that Council had asked for Dr. Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, to bring back the issue of a new roof for the J. I. Burton High School.

Dr. Comer advised Council that Mr. Joe Hale of HDH Associates had expressed an interest in speaking again to Council on some new and more economical options for roofing at the school in the price range of \$300,000.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council that Mr. Hale return to Council with this new information.

Dr. Comer will get back to the City Manager as to what date Mr. Hale will be able to attend.

Dr. Comer then took this time to express his appreciation to Mr. Ward for being such a strong supporter of the school system and wished him a happy retirement.

Mr. Ward advised the Chairman of the City of Norton School Board, Mr. McCall, was present and there is a possibility of having another joint meeting with them next week. He inquired if Council would like to invite the Superintendent of the Wise County School System to attend this meeting. It was the consensus of Council to hold this meeting on Monday, March 26th, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers and to invite Dr. Perry, Superintendent of the Wise County School System, to attend. (Insert – Councilman Roop's Disclosure Form)

In their packets, Council had a copy of A Resolution Adopting Governmental Accounting Standard Board Statement (GASB) 54.

The City Manager advised this resolution contains the definitions as were discussed by Ms. Greear and him during the presentation of the City's audit tonight. By adoption of this resolution, the City will be in compliance. He asked for Council's favorable consideration of this resolution.

25328

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Standard Board Statement (GASB) 54. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO - None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt (temporarily left the building prior to the vote; returned to attend closed session), Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended and the discussion 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 No. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

25329

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting.

25330

Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk then 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 Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

25331

Mayor Mays opened the floor as to discussion of the City Manager.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Mayor Mays was authorized to execute a contract, on behalf of Council, with Fred Ramey as City Manager beginning April 1, 2012.

25332

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that:

The 58th annual Chamber of Commerce Gala will be held on April 14th at the Holiday Inn. A silent auction will be held at 5:30 followed by dinner at 7:00. Mr. Ramey will have tickets and council members should advise him if they need them.

25333

He is deeply moved at tonight's activity regarding his retirement. He stated that he appreciates Council, the City staff, and he feels very lucky to have worked for the City and for that he is thankful.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he has met with representatives of the other members of the C-N-W Authority-the Town of Coeburn,

Town of Wise, Wise County and the Wise County Public Service Authority. They have reviewed the new service agreement line by line; however it is not ready for public display at this point. They hope to have this agreement completed within the next couple of meetings.

25334

In comments from Council, Councilman Caruso commented on the Gang Report furnished to Council in their packets. He inquired if there is anything in our Code to cover the removal of gang propaganda. The City Attorney advised that he will be glad to research this and get input from other locales as to how graffiti removal is handled.

25335

He also commented on the presentation tonight by Mr. Riedhammer regarding the trail development. He feels this is a leap forward and huge to our economic development and that the City needs to put some resources to the planning for the tower redevelopment and the crew that will be coming here in September.

He was pleased to see that the sales tax revenue is the largest since the 2008-2009 timeframe. Mr. Ward advised that the latest figures show four consecutive months of increase. Councilman Caruso stated this shows that the City is doing something right and he attributes that to Mr. Ward and his staff.

Councilman Roop advised he would like to thank the Police Department for the reports supplied to Council. He appreciates receiving them.


25336

Mayor Mays advised that he has received two positive comments this past week on the Police Department patrolling neighborhoods.

25337

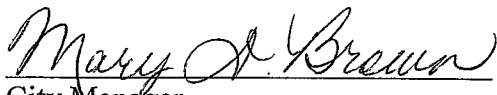
There being no further comments to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Mary A. Brown
City Manager