

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Vice Mayor Joseph Fawbush presiding.

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

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager, and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

Absent: William Mays

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 Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 20, 2018, meeting as presented. 262624

There was no response to the Mayor's Call for Visitors. 262625

Dr. Kris Westover, President of Mountain Empire Community College (MECC), provided an update on activities at the college. Prior to the meeting, she handed out a flyer on the new Power Lineman Program and a postcard on the Never Stop Learning Program available to seniors age 60 and over. She discussed student enrollment and said the highest program participation is the arts and sciences programs or transfer programs. She mentioned she is very excited about the college's new website because it allows users to have real time market data about current jobs within a 100-mile radius. She said this will provide students with insight into the type of major or occupational field they should select to start their college course work or job training. Dr. Westover informed council that MECC was chosen as one of Aspen Institutes "Top 150 Colleges in the Nation" and that just being selected is a great honor. She said the "Top 150 Colleges" are narrowed down to the "Top 50 Colleges" then there are a series of interviews and an application that must be completed in order to be considered for the Aspen Institute's "Top College in the Nation" and the \$1,000,000 prize. She said MECC made the "Top 50" cut and has completed these requirements and is awaiting the results. 262626

Mr. Ramey asked Dr. Westover to speak about the Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board's initiative to make each locality in the area a certified "ACT Work Ready Community." He also inquired if she would be willing to attend a joint meeting between Wise County and the City of Norton as an advocate for the program in order to educate governmental and high school leadership about the importance of a "Work Ready Community."

Dr. Westover said MECC is a test site for the Work Ready certification and that the endorsement means that localities have job candidates with proven Work Ready skills. She said participants who receive the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) drive economic development and assist in attracting and developing a skilled workforce that companies are looking to hire. She said she would be happy to attend the joint meeting between the city and Wise County to discuss the value of a "Work Ready Community."

Council expressed their appreciation to Dr. Westover for her update.

The City Manager advised that City Parks and Recreation Director Michele Knox was present to update council on the department's 2017 activities.

Ms. Knox, via a PowerPoint presentation, gave council an overview of the various events held during 2017. She said numerous classes, camps, and special activities were held for adults and children throughout the year and participants enjoyed a wide range of activities, classes, and events. Some of the activities and classes included: Oil Painting Classes, Healthy Living Classes, Senior Exercise Classes, Karate Classes, the Best Friend Festival, Summer Water Inflatables, the Christmas Parade, Environmental Classes, Youth Basketball Camps, Halloween Bash in the Park, Fourth of July Independence Day Fireworks and Parade, Pottery Camps, Engineering Camps, and several other activities. She noted the Parks and Recreation Department received a \$6,038 grant from the Department of Environmental Quality for litter prevention and recycling programs and she purchased trash receptacles and garbage bags for cleanup throughout the city. Ms. Knox said the recycling efforts of plastic, aluminum, paper, and cardboard resulted in 37,290 pounds or 18.50 tons of recyclables being collected for the year. Also, campers at Flag Rock Recreation Area last year represented 14 states and 264 camp sites were rented.

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Vice Mayor Fawbush thanked Ms. Knox for her update on the 2017 Parks & Recreation activities.

Council had been presented in their packets with a Proclamation Declaring March as American Red Cross Month.

Mr. Ramey stated he was asked that the city considering recognizing Red Cross and the three members and 196 volunteers that work for the city during times of crisis. He said they are trying to remind citizens that they provide training in first aid, water safety, and other lifesaving skills and to donate to the American Red Cross.

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Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the Proclamation Declaring March as American Red Cross Month. (Insert)

Council had one check to confirm. The check was to BB&T Governmental Finance, dated July 1, 2017, in the amount of \$120,935.11 to cover debt payment for work on the viaduct bridge.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to confirm the check to BB&T Governmental Finance as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous 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, and to consult with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel as per Section 2-2-3711 (A) (8) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

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Vice 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. 262631
Vice 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. 262632

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

Vice Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority to fill the unexpired term of Margaret McAfee whose term expires January 28, 2021.

Councilman Fultz nominated Stephen Collins to be appointed to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority to fill the unexpired term of Margaret McAfee. 262633

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

Vice Mayor Fawbush declared Stephen Collins appointed to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority to fill the unexpired term of Margaret McAfee whose term expires January 28, 2021.

In comments from the City Manager:

The city received 11.46 inches of rainfall during the month of February.

The Wise County/City of Norton Chamber of Commerce is holding a ribbon cutting ceremony for United Grocery Outlet (UGO) at 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 7. 262634

The second budget/capital work session is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Saturday, March 10, in council chambers.

There were no comments from the City Attorney. 262635

The following comments were made by Council Members:

Councilman Caruso had no comments. 262636

Councilman Fultz asked what date the reservoir would be stocked with fish.

Councilman Caruso advised Councilman Fultz to check the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) website for stocking information. He said the DGIF would publicize the month of stocking but not the exact date. 262637

Councilman Fultz said it is good to witness the entrepreneurial spirit happening downtown and that he hopes the recent openings of four businesses within the city will encourage other entrepreneurs to start businesses.

At this time, Councilman Caruso said he met with the Entrepreneur Club at John I. Burton High School and he suggests the city invite the students to the Entrepreneurial Challenge this year.

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Councilwoman Belcher concurred with Councilman Fultz.

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Vice Mayor Fawbush said Norton Quick Lube is open in the old Jerry's Service Center location and the owner will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony at a later date.

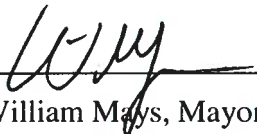
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He confirmed that the budget/capital meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, March 10, in council chambers.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to adjourn the meeting.

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CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council