

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers 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 Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Captain James C. Lane.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the minutes of the February 3, 2009 meeting approved as presented.

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There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors.

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Council had presented to them in their packets a revised draft of An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Sections 4-61 thru 4-72 of the Norton City Code as Pertains to Regulations Requiring Cats within the Confines of the City of Norton, Virginia to be Hereby Licensed and Prescribing a Fee Schedule for Both Cats and Dogs. Mr. Ward advised this was the third discussion Council has had on this topic and he had made the changes as directed by Council at their last meeting. He then advised he would answer any questions from Council.

Vice Mayor Fawbush advised that the three year fee for tags is a reduction in the cost of buying the tags for three individual years.

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Both Councilman Caruso and Roop stated that they feel this is a very good ordinance.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Terry Roop, seconded by Mark Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to advertise a public hearing on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Sections 4-61 thru 4-72 of the Norton City Code as Pertains to Regulations Requiring Cats within the Confines of the City of Norton, Virginia to Be Hereby Licensed and Prescribing a Fee Schedule for Both Cats and Dogs.

Councilman Caruso asked if the City could get this ordinance out for the public to see in order that citizens can be informed of its contents. He stated he had been approached by citizens who are concerned about this ordinance.

Mr. Ward advised this will be put on the City's website and also on the City's TV Channel 51.

Present tonight representing the Pro-Art Association was Ms. Bonnie Elosser and Mr. Robert Isaac. Ms. Elosser presented Council members with a handout and briefly updated Council on the Association. She further asked Council's favorable consideration on the submission of a Local Government Challenge Grant in the amount of \$5,000. This grant is a matching grant through the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Terry Roop, seconded by Mark Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized support for the submission of a Local Government Challenge Grant in the amount of \$5,000 for the Pro-Art Association.

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Ms. Elosser thanked Council for their continued support.

At the last meeting, Councilman Caruso asked for an update on the dilapidated properties within the City and also asked to be furnished with an inventory of these properties.

The City's Building Official, Winfred Collins, presented Council with a PowerPoint presentation showing pictures of some of the various dilapidated properties and various other problems on properties within the City. He advised that these are complex and difficult issues and that there are some mechanisms available to clean up some properties.

Mr. Collins proceeded to discuss the Virginia Maintenance Code General and the Virginia Building Maintenance Code General with Council. For the individual problems on City properties, he discussed with Council what the City could do by means of making changes on existing ordinances, adoption of new ordinances, or the utilization of some state codes.

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Following his presentation, Mr. Collins provided each member of Council with an inventory of dilapidated properties within the City and advised he would be happy to answer any questions Council members may have.

During this time, the City Attorney advised that the property located in the flood zone in the Ramsey area will be handled very soon. He is seeking authorization by the Court to sell this real estate; however, he advised that the trailers and vehicles on this property will have to be handled by the new owner, who can take action to get rid of them.

Following a discussion, it was the consensus for the City Manager, City Attorney, and Building Official to work on revising the ordinances in effect at this time and bring them back to City Council for review.

Mr. Ward advised Council that the City had been notified by the Virginia Department of Health that the City is the recipient of three grants for water system improvements. These grants are as follows: \$50,000 for water line improvements on Oak Street, \$50,000 for water line improvements on Craig Street, and \$200,000 for improvements to the Upper Reservoir Dam.

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Mr. Ward is asking Council for authorization to execute any paper work in connection with these grants from the Virginia Department of Health.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to execute all documents regarding the three grants from the Virginia Department of Health for water system improvements.

Council had been presented with copies of bank transfers made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$345,607.16 on the Norton Elementary School Project and \$160,000 to cover payroll and fringe benefits.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Terry Roop, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve two bank transfers made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$345,607.16 and \$160,000 as specified above.

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

The annual Chamber of Commerce Gala will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009 and the City has been asked to purchase a sponsor table in the amount of \$700.00. All Council members and their guest are invited to attend.

It was the consensus of Council to purchase a sponsor table.

A reception will be held on Friday, February 20th, at the Community Center from 2:00 to 3:30 to present Service Award Pins to 13 city employees. All Council members are invited to attend.

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Mayor Mays advised that there were a large number of years worked by these employees.

The annual CIP Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9th at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he will be filing three suits after April 1st for the purpose of collecting delinquent real estate taxes and that with respect to those properties that have been approved for sale, the City is targeting the first sale date as the first Saturday in May.

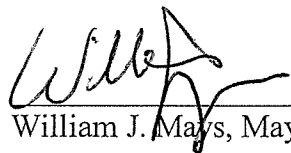
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There were no comments from Council members.

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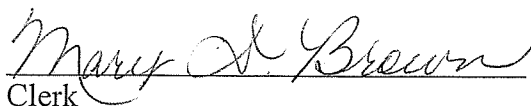
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk