

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. with Vice Mayor Joseph Fawbush presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, Joseph Fawbush, and Terry Roop

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt and William Mays

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

The invocation was given by Rev. John Ellington and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief Randy Mullins.

Vice Mayor Fawbush recognized Delegate Bud Phillips who addressed Council and issued a challenge to the City. He advised that there will be a Wise County Sewer Summit Meeting that will be held at UVA-Wise and he invited Council and representatives of the City to attend this meeting.

24234

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council.

24235

Delegate Phillips advised that Wise County, The Town of Wise, and the City of Norton could be the business triangle for the region in the areas of business, economic development, transportation, and education.

He then advised Council of other enterprises that will be coming to southwest Virginia and asked that the City, the Town of Wise, and Wise County combine forces and work together for the economic development future of the area. He further asked that Council appoint one or two individuals to a committee with Wise County and the Town of Wise to work toward improvement in the areas he discussed tonight. He has previously spoken to Wise County and will be speaking with the Town of Wise in the near future.

Vice Mayor Fawbush expressed to Delegate Phillips that regionalism is very important to the City of Norton and he cited several projects on which the City has worked on within the County, such as the Regional Jail Authority, water and sewer in the Esserville area, sewer in the Wise Shopping Center and the Wise Industrial Park. Water is supplied to the Blackwood Industrial Park, Appalachian Traditions (Country Cabin) and Josephine, and the City is currently working on the Josephine Sewer Project. Vice Mayor Fawbush also advised Delegate Phillips that Council will consider these appointments.

24236

Following this discussion, Council members expressed their appreciation to Delegate Phillips. The City Manager advised that the City Administration will work with the Town of Wise and Wise County to form this committee.

The Vice Mayor stated that District II does appreciate all that Delegate Phillips has done.

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the April 7, 2009 meeting as presented.

24237

During the Vice Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Brad Stallard of the Wise County/City of Norton Health Department advised of an upcoming rabies clinic to be held on May 9, 2009. Dr. Goins of Wise will conduct this clinic and the charge to citizens will be \$8.00. The Health Department has approved this clinic and City Council's approval is needed.

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve a Rabies Vaccination Clinic to be held in the City by Dr. Goins and sponsored by the Wise County/City of Norton Health Department.

Mr. Stallard advised that the Health Department will do a press release on this clinic.

Mrs. Connie Mullins, representing the John I. Burton Prom Committee, spoke briefly to Council asking for a donation to go toward the after prom party to be held on May 16th.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized a \$1,000 donation be made the John I. Burton Prom Committee to be expended on the After Prom Party with said funds to come from Contingency.

Vice Mayor Fawbush expressed Council's appreciation to the members of this Committee.

A public hearing was held on an amendment to the 2008-2009 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$43,929 and the Department of Social Services Budget in the amount of \$135,000 as pertains to funding for the Comprehensive Services Act.

The City Manager advised this was discussed at the previous Council meeting and he had been directed to advertise a public hearing on this. The public hearing has been duly advertised.

Prior to the public hearing, Councilman Roop advised that the funding needs to be increased in the Social Services Budget to meet their needs.

Vice Mayor Fawbush opened the public hearing.

Mr. Ken Taylor, a member of the Norton Community Policy and Management Team spoke briefly to Council in support of these budget amendments.

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

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a budget amendment to the 2008-2009 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$43,929 and an amendment to the 2008-2009 Department of Social Services Budget in the amount of \$135,000 as pertains to funding for the Comprehensive Services Act. These funds will come from Unappropriated Reserves.

Vice Mayor Fawbush recognized Mr. Ron McCall, Chairman of the Norton City School Board, and Dr. Lee Brannon, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools. Dr. Brannon gave Council members handouts regarding his budget presentation and proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation.

He gave Council a brief synopsis on their 2009-2010 budget which totals \$7,589,857 of which \$1,996,370 will be local funding.

Dr. Brannon advised the largest amount of the budget or 73% goes for salaries and benefits and discussed a 3.4% increase in health insurance. Also discussed were debt

service, the reductions they had made, capital projects, and the Textbook Fund. He then advised he would be willing to answer any questions from Council.

Councilman Hunnicutt advised that he appreciated the cuts being made before bringing the budget to Council. Vice Mayor Fawbush expressed appreciation for bringing a fair and workable budget to Council as did Councilman Roop.

The City Manager advised that he would like to have Council's authorization to advertise a public hearing on the 2009-2010 City of Norton School Board Budget.

It was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to advertise a public hearing to be held at the May 5, 2009 Council meeting for the 2009-2010 City of Norton School Board Budget.

Mr. Ward advised at the last meeting Councilman Caruso expressed an interest in the possibility of allowing fishing at the lower reservoir. Following a brief discussion, the City Manager was asked to bring a draft ordinance to Council authorizing this. In their packets, Council had this draft ordinance for their review and discussion.

The City Manager advised that the City's Water Plant Superintendent, Tommy Roberts, had concerns of watercrafts being permitted in the area of the dam.

24242

Following a brief discussion and upon the consensus of Council, the City Manager was authorized to advertise a public hearing on this Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Adding Article III to Section 20 of the Norton City Code and Repealing Section 20-8 as Pertains to Fishing in the Lower Reservoir with the deletion of the use of water crafts on the lower dam.

In their packets, Council had a request from First Bank and Trust Company requesting a Special Use Permit. The bank is planning on removing the fountain in front of their building and adding parking spaces. The permit is needed due to the fact that their sign will be moved and will encroach on City right-of-way 1 to 1-1/2 feet.

Mr. Ward advised that the City Administration recommends approval of this Special Use Permit.

24243

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized a Special Use Permit for First Bank and Trust Company to utilize a portion of City right-of-way for the encroachment of a sign 1 to 1-1/2 feet.

Mr. Ward advised that he is in receipt of information on a "Go Green" Initiative for the City.

The City Manager advised that he has previously talked with Councilman Roop regarding an energy policy for the City. He advised that if Council wished to proceed with this initiative, he will have a City representative attend the forum being held in Roanoke on May 8th. He advised he would answer any questions from Council and asked for direction on this.

24244

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to appoint someone to attend this forum.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, 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.

2424

Vice Mayor Fawbush declared Council in closed meeting.

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

24246

Vice Mayor Fawbush 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 Roop, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES - Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, NO – None, ABSENT – Mays, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

24247

Vice Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for nominations of an elected official to the Norton Community Management and Planning Team (CMPT) for a four year term which will expire on May 1, 2013.

Councilman Hunnicutt nominated Councilman Roop.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Vice Mayor Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

24248

Vice Mayor Fawbush declared Councilman Roop appointed to the Norton Community Management and Planning Team (CMPT) for a four year term which will expire on May 1, 2013.

Vice Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for an appointment to the C-N-W Regional Wastewater Authority for a four year term, which will expire on May 15, 2013.

Councilman Roop nominated Joseph Hunnicutt to be reappointed to this Authority.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Vice Mayor Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

24249

Vice Mayor Fawbush declared Joseph Hunnicutt reappointed to the C-N-W Regional Sewer Authority for a four year term, which will expire on May 15, 2013.

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

The City's budget workshop will be held on April 28th at 6:00 p.m. A packet will be sent out on Friday, April 24th.

24250

At the next Council meeting on May 5th, a public hearing will be held on the Conditional Rezoning for a City block between 11th and 12th Streets on Park Avenue. The Planning Commission, as required by law, held a public hearing on April 9, 2009 and unanimously recommended that City Council approve this request.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 2:00 p.m., he will have a sale on the steps of City Hall to dispose of the delinquent tax properties that the Circuit Court has authorized him to sell.

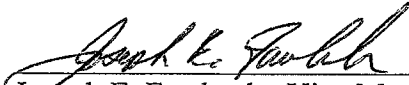
24251

In comments from City Council, Councilman Roop advised he wished to commend all the hard work done by both Mr. Ward and Mr. Ramey in the past several months.

24252

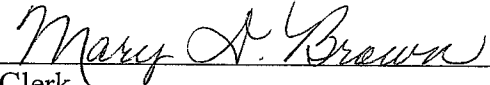
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



Joseph E. Fawbush, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk