

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 in the Municipal Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor William Mays presiding.

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

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt

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

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

At this time, Mayor Mays amended the agenda to include Item 7-E-1 – A Proclamation Declaring October 7, 2011 as the third “International Walk to School Day” in the City. 2515

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the September 6, 2011 meeting as presented. 2516

There was no response to the Mayor’s call for visitors. 2516

Council was given an update on the Upper Norton Dam Reservoir Project and also given a report on the discussion of water reserves.

Mr. Ward advised that we have a total of 84.5 million gallons of water in reserves. He then showed Council, via a PowerPoint presentation, pictures of the work progressing at the upper dam. Mr. Dawson had conveyed to the City Manager that the goal now is to get to the top, then the City can fill the pool completely and have full capacity. Mr. Dawson will be at the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting to present Council with an update. Representatives from the USDA-Rural Development will be here tomorrow to look at the project. 2516

Mr. Jeff Cochran of The Lane Group presented Council with an update on the Fox Run Slide. He discussed with Council the three options they had considered to repair this slide and advised that the H-Piles Procedure is the most cost effective and timely solution for this project. The cost for this repair is approximately \$60,000. He further advised that some guardrail will need to be installed, the road will need to be built back up, and power lines will need to be relocated. These items are not included in the \$60,000 cost for repairs. 2516

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council. 2516

Mr. Cochran asked that Council authorize the City Manager to negotiate a contract with the contractor on the repair of the Fox Run Slide.

Following his presentation, Mr. Cochran answered questions from Councilman Caruso.

Councilman Roop advised that the main concern is to fix the problem and he agrees with the recommendation of Mr. Cochran.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to negotiate a contract with the contractor under this emergency situation on the Fox Run Slide.

Council discussed an amendment to the 2011-2012 General Fund Budget as pertains to the purchase of a new sweeper truck.

The City Manager advised that Councilman Roop, at the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, discussed the prospect of purchasing a new sweeper truck using the reimbursement of funds from FEMA in the amount of \$62,157. At that time, additional information was needed and Mr. Ward has included this in Council's packet.

The Director of Public Works, Steve McElroy, was present and answered questions from Council members as to the need of this piece of equipment.

Following a lengthy discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – Caruso, ABSTAIN – None, Council authorized the City Administration to move forward on the purchase of a new sweeper truck with the reimbursed FEMA funds to be applied to the purchase price of this new piece of equipment.

Mr. Ward advised that three members of Council, along with Mr. Ramey and himself, will be attending the annual Virginia Municipal League Conference in Richmond October 2<sup>nd</sup> through October 4<sup>th</sup>. October 4<sup>th</sup> is the regular meeting date of Council and he asked Council's direction on what their wishes are regarding this.

He also advised that he had been contacted by representatives of Hunton and Williams who advised that they are in the process of doing some refinancing on debt issued through NIDA and others and in some cases, issue new debt for Mountain States Health Alliance. They need to have a resolution adopted by each locality in which Mountain States Health Alliance has a facility and asked if Council would consider a special called meeting the week of October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to have the first meeting for the month of October on the 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

In their packets, Council had a copy of a transfer to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$281,500.00.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a transfer to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$281,500.00 covering payroll and fringes. (Insert – Councilman Roop's Disclosure)

Council had been given a copy of A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Establishing, By Joint Action of the Boards of Supervisors of the Counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Tazewell, Wise, and the City Council of the City of Norton, the Membership of the Regional Policy Board of the Alcohol Safety

Action Program (Southwest Virginia ASAP) to serve the Region Composed of Those Counties and City.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Establishing, By Joint Action of the Boards of Supervisors of the Counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Tazewell, Wise, and the City Council of the City of Norton, the Membership of the Regional Policy Board of the Alcohol Safety Action Program (Southwest Virginia ASAP) to serve the Region Composed of Those Counties and City. (Insert)

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Council had a copy of A Proclamation Declaring October 7, 2011 as the third “International Walk to School Day” in the City.

Mr. Ramey advised that Dr. Cantrell of the Wise County Health Department will be in attendance and speak at the kick-off. He further advised that Elijah Roop, Norton City Schools Coordinator for the Safe Route to School Program, had obtained a grant and will be purchasing tee shirts for the children to wear on the walk.

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Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Proclamation Declaring October 7, 2011 as the third “International Walk to School Day” in the City. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, 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 and the discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

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At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt advised that he will not participate in the first discussion in closed meeting as to the discussion or consideration of acquiring real property for a public purpose as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

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

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The Clerk polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with the following vote to be recorded: YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None – ABSTAIN – Hunnicutt.

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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 the following roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt (for the portion of the closed meeting he attended which dealt with personnel), Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSTAIN - None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Mays opened the floor for action on the acquisition of real property for a public purpose.

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSTAIN – Hunnicutt, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to enter into and perform, on behalf of the City of Norton, the purchase of real estate from the George Hunnicutt Marital Trust Fund for the price of \$7,000. This parcel is needed for the construction of a new sewer line which will be on Main Avenue next to the City Shop.

25174

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest VASAP Board to fill an unexpired term and serve an additional one year. This term will expire on December 2, 2012.

Councilman Caruso nominated James Lane to be appointed to this Board.

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

25175

Mayor Mays declared James Lane appointed to the Southwest VASAP Board for an unexpired term and an additional one year which will expire on December 2, 2012.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Tourism Board to fill an unexpired term which will expire on September 30, 2013.

Councilman Hunnicutt nominated Gordon Sandt.

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

25176

Mayor Mays declared Gordon Sandt appointed to the City of Norton Tourism Board to fill an unexpired term which will expire on September 30, 2013.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Tourism Board for a four year term which will expire on September 30, 2015.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Carol Caruso.

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by the following vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSTAIN – Caruso, Council moved that the nominations cease.

25177

Mayor Mays declared Carol Caruso appointed to the City of Norton Tourism Board for a four year term which will expire on September 30, 2015.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that The Lane Group is celebrating fifteen years in business and will be holding a cook-out on Friday, October 21, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at Flag Rock Shelter #2. Council members are invited and RSVPs should be made by September 30, 2011.

25178

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

25179

In comments from City Council, Councilman Caruso stated that we still need to keep in mind the national, state, and local economies as we move forward in our spending. He states he is concerned that we have not yet seen the bottom of our economic down turn.

25180

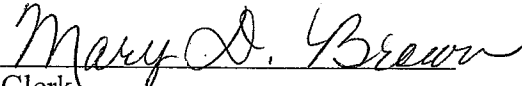
He further stated that we should take a hard look at what monies we expend and take a hard look at needs versus wants.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
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William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk