

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, Robert Fultz, Jr., William Mays, Joseph Fawbush, and Dee Belcher

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

The invocation was given by City Manager Fred Ramey, Jr., and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Fire Chief Todd Lagow and members of Norton Fire Department.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the September 20, 2016, meeting as presented.

26043

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

26044

The City Manager advised Code Section 8-38 of the Norton City Code requires Council's approval of working officers for the Norton Fire Department. He stated that Fire Chief Todd Lagow was in attendance to present these appointments for Council's consideration.

Chief Lagow presented Council with his recommendations for the department's working officers and introduced each member that was present. He then asked Mayor Mays to come forward and assist him in presenting badges to the new officers. Chief Lagow and Mayor Mays, assisted by the Mayor's granddaughter Ella Mays, presented insignias to new officers Captain Billy Mays and Lieutenant Greg Mays. Chief Lagow then thanked Council and the citizens of Norton for their support of the Norton Fire Department.

26045

Upon a motion by Mayor Mays, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the list of working officers for the Norton Fire Department for fiscal year 2016-2017, as presented by Fire Chief Lagow. At this time, the firefighters received a standing ovation and a round of applause.

Councilwoman Belcher thanked each member for their service to the City, as did the other councilmen.

At this time, Mr. Ramey asked Assistant Fire Chief Marty Hagy to come forward to recognize Norton Fire Department members who have reached 25 years of service.

Assistant Fire Chief Hagy provided a history on the tradition of the fire department of honoring personnel who have reached 25 years of service by having a formal portrait taken to display on the "Wall of Fame" in the Fire Hall. He stated, currently 21 fire department members have earned the distinction of having their portrait displayed on the "Wall of Fame," and five members will be recognized tonight for their years of service. Those present and receiving portrait service awards were: Zac Roberts, 30 years; Earl "Buddy"

26046

Cash, 28 years; Chris Jones, 26 years; Steve McElroy, 25 years; and Fire Chief Todd Lagow, 26 years.

After the presentation of these awards, these firemen were honored with applause and a group picture was taken with Council.

The City Manager advised that Dr. Perrigan was in attendance to discuss the Supplemental Appropriation Request for Norton City Schools in the amount of \$255,570 to carryover 2015-2016 state funds.

Dr. Perrigan stated that, according to Superintendent's Memo 130-16, he is requesting a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$255,570 to carryover 2015-2016 state funds.

After fielding several questions from Council regarding the intended use of the carryover state funds, current enrollment, and balancing next year's budget, Dr. Perrigan advised that due to decreased enrollment and the governor's repeal of the 2 percent compensation supplement, it is his recommendation for the School Board to use the carryover funds to balance the 2016-2017 budget, along with absorption of two positions and additional cuts the school system is making. Regarding next year's budget, Dr. Perrigan stated the School Board is already planning for FY 2017-2018 and that unless there is an increase in enrollment or a change in state funding, the school system will absorb positions as employees leave through attrition. He said the School Board has a plan for current enrollment and a backup plan should enrollment continue to decline to 760 students.

26047

At this point, Dr. Perrigan said the decline in enrollment across the region has sparked school systems in the area to organize a Coalfields Equity Summit to establish one regional voice to address funding issues in the Coalfield counties. He invited Council to attend the summit, which will be held at 6:00 p.m., October 13, 2016, in the Convocation Center Lakeview room at the University of Virginia's College at Wise.

Mayor Mays stated that City Council and the School Board need to schedule joint meetings to discuss the upcoming FY 2017-2018 budget.

Dr. Perrigan said he would add the joint meeting request to the School Board's next agenda.

Councilman Fawbush asked Dr. Perrigan if the school system anticipates coming back to Council this fiscal year for additional funding.

Dr. Perrigan said an additional local funding request is dependent on enrollment. He noted that the School Board has a plan for 764 students; but, if enrollment falls below that number, the division may have to ask Council for additional funding.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to approve the Supplemental Appropriation Request from Norton City Schools up to \$255,570 to carryover 2015-2016 state funds.

Councilman Fawbush asked Dr. Perrigan to spend the supplemental appropriation wisely and asked for a printed copy of the school's itemized budget.

Dr. Perrigan advised that the school system has reduced budget line items and are looking for cost savings in utilities. He said he would provide Council with an itemized copy of the budget.

Dr. Perrigan then thanked Council for consideration and action on the School Board's request.

In their packets, Council had copies of the following documents pertaining to the City of Norton Police Department: Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the Southwest Virginia Children's Advocacy Center of Mountain Empire Older Citizens (CAC MEOC) and Wise County Department of Social Services; an Agreement for Asset Forfeiture Sharing with the Commonwealth's Attorney for Wise County; and an MOU with the Regional Narcotics Task Force 4M.

Mr. Ramey explained that MOU's and Agreements between the Police Department and area agencies are required to be updated or new MOU's and Agreements are created to meet new guidelines of the Department of Criminal Justice. He said these documents have been reviewed by the City Attorney and must be presented to Council for approval.

Mr. Bradshaw advised that the Police Chief does not have the authority to contractually bind the City and these documents require City Council's approval; and it is his recommendation that the City Manager and Police Chief sign the MOU's and Agreement. 26048

After a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager and the Police Chief to endorse the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Norton Police Department and the Southwest Virginia Children's Advocacy Center of Mountain Empire Older Citizens; a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Norton Police Department and the Wise County Department of Social Services; an Agreement for Asset Forfeiture Sharing between the City of Norton Police Department and the Commonwealth's Attorney for Wise County; and a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Norton Police Department and the Regional Narcotics Task Force 4M.

Council packets contained a request from the Commissioner of Revenue to refund erroneously assessed 2016 public service real estate taxes to: AT&T Corporation, in the amount of \$288.90; MCI Communication Services, Incorporated, in the amount of \$1.07; and MCI Metro Access, in the amount of \$0.36. 26049

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve refunds for erroneously assessed 2016 public service real estate taxes to: AT&T Corporation for \$288.90; MCI Communication Services, Incorporated for \$1.07; and MCI Metro Access for of \$0.36.

Council had one check to confirm. This check was to Coeburn/Norton/Wise Regional Wastewater Authority, dated August 11, 2016, in the amount of \$139,484 to cover the City's portion of June and July 2016 wastewater treatment.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to confirm the check to the Coeburn/Norton/Wise Regional Wastewater Authority as stated above. 26050

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting for discussion or 26051

consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publically 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 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

26052

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.

26053

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

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ramey advised the following:

Mr. Ramey provided Council member's with a sample ballot for the upcoming November election, and stated that he has asked the Electoral Board and Registrar to demonstrate the new voting equipment at the next Council meeting. City staff has produced a video that demonstrates the voting process on the new equipment, and the video will be airing on the City's municipal access channel (NMAC51), as well as on Facebook.

A financial report on the 9 & 10 Year Old Girls Softball State Tournament Trip to Bridgewater, VA, was placed at Council's desks.

Mr. Ramey advised an AmeriCorps team is expected to arrive October 26.

The next Virginia Municipal League supper is scheduled for 6:00 PM, on Wednesday, November 4 at the Scott County Vocational Center in Gate City.

26054

The 2016 International Walk to School Day is set for Friday, October 7, and Council is invited to participate.

The annual Halloween Bash in the City Park is scheduled from 4-7 p.m., Saturday, October 22.

The 5k Glow Run is Saturday, October 22.

The City and Dairy Queen will hold the 2nd Annual Turkey Day 5k on Thursday, November 24.

Family Preservation Services will conduct the Santa Fun Run 5k on Saturday, December 3.

The 2017 Hellbender 10k has already been scheduled for Saturday, October 7. There was a record number of participants for this year's race.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

26055

In comments from Council:

Councilman Caruso stated the Norton Rescue Squad will continue to provide emergency services to the community. The Rescue Squad Board is updating the Squad's By-laws and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Norton Rescue Squad and the City of Norton. He thanked Councilwoman Belcher for attending the board meeting and advised that the Board is going to ask the City to provide accounting and auditing services. Mr. Ramey is going to provide an electronic copy of the City's Personnel Manual and the Rescue Squad's management practices will emulate City policies in the near future.

26056

Councilman Caruso provided each Council member with a copy of the October Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine and advised that there would be an article about the Norton trail system in either the November or December issue.

Councilman Caruso thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their hard work during tough economic times.

Councilman Fultz echoed Councilman Caruso's comments regarding the Police and Fire Departments and stated the representation of the Norton Fire Department at the meeting tonight displayed integrity, service, and commitment to the community.

He advised that at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, October 27, John I. Burton High School will have a homecoming parade. In conjunction with the homecoming parade, Ms. Cassandra Butler, Norton City Schools' Band Director, is having an alumni/parent band. Burton alumni or parents of current Burton band students that are not Burton alumni can participate in the alumni/parent band.

26057

Councilman Fultz stated that he is continuing to look ahead for a brighter future despite the area's current economic situation.

Councilwoman Belcher stated that last week she had to use the emergency services of the Norton Rescue Squad, with the addition of several firefighters, and they responded quickly and were very professional. She thanked all emergency personnel for their service.

26058

Councilman Fawbush was in agreement with fellow Council members regarding emergency services for the City of Norton. He said the longevity of volunteer service is remarkable and the collective effort between the Police Department and Fire Department is immense. He stated Council has been able to provide good equipment for the City's emergency personnel and needs to continue delivering up-to-date equipment to those who protect the City.

26059

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Woodbooger Festival is scheduled for Friday, October 14 and Saturday, October 15 at Flag Rock on High Knob and he invited everyone to attend the event.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
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William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk of Council