

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, William Mays, Joseph Fawbush, and Dee Belcher

Absent: Robert Fultz, Jr.

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Gary Hill and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the January 3, 2017, organizational meeting and the January 3, 2017 regularly scheduled meeting as presented. 26155

There was no response to the Mayor's Call for Visitors. 26156

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton Virginia Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as Pertains to Regulating Pawnshops in the City of Norton. 26157

Mr. Ramey advised that the City Attorney had researched and prepared a draft ordinance following downtown business owner David Fields' request on November 15, 2016, to expand his business to include pawn brokering.

At this time, Councilman Fultz took his seat on Council. 26158

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

There being no public input, Mayor Mays closed the public hearing.

There were no comments from Council.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Chapter 17 of the Norton City Code to allow regulation of a maximum three pawnshops in the City of Norton. (Insert) 26159

Mr. Ramey stated that David Hill of Hill Studio of Roanoke, Virginia, was in attendance to update Council on the Norton Downtown Revitalization Planning Grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Mr. Hill, via a PowerPoint presentation, presented Council with Hill Studio's strategy to design a planning project for the City's downtown. Mr. Hill stated his organization will be partnering with Thompson and Litton, Inc., of Wise and the firm of Arnett Muldrow of Greenville, South Carolina to provide services to the City as part of this grant. He said the planning project will allow the City to apply for an Implementation Grant. His company will also work on branding or developing an image for the City which will uniquely identify Norton. Mr. Hill said the area of revitalization will begin at Dairy Queen and 26160

include downtown to Legion Park on High Knob. He then went on to provide examples of branding and restructuring and how other towns have used revitalization grants to transform their downtowns. He advised a design meeting to solicit public input is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Thursday, February 2, in the Municipal Council Chambers.

Mayor Mays stated the February 2 meeting is very important to the successful transformation of the City's downtown and the City looks forward to working with Hill Studio to complete this project.

Councilman Fawbush thanked Mr. Hill and his staff for starting to work immediately on the planning project.

Council had been presented with A Resolution Establishing Fee Schedules for Pawnbrokers. Mr. Ramey said Council had previously proposed a \$200 application fee and a \$200 annual fee. Included in Councils' packets is a draft Application for a Pawnbrokers License that includes the proposed fee.

Mr. Bradshaw advised that an applicant must first petition the Circuit Court for permission to apply for a license, in addition to complying with federal regulations, prior to obtaining a license from the City.

26161

Following a brief discussion, and upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Establishing Fee Schedules for Pawnbrokers and the Application for a Pawnbrokers License as presented. (Insert)

Mr. Ramey said City Administration is requesting additional funding of \$12,500 for Norton Rescue Squad. He said a board of directors was established to ensure the stability of the organization and this move has been positive for the squad. In 2014, the City began contributing additional funding to Norton Rescue Squad and has provided funding each of the following years to guarantee continued emergency services to Norton citizens. As of the recent Memorandum of Understanding between the Norton Rescue Squad and the City of Norton (MOU), City Administration has begun providing payroll and accounting services. City Administration is asking for additional funding in the amount of \$12,500 for any documented need to be used during low cash flow periods.

26162

Councilman Caruso added reorganization has gone well and the board is reviewing the budget. The squad is billing for services and payment is slow from insurance companies making cash flow difficult.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSTAIN – Caruso, Council moved to amend the budget and appropriate \$12,500 from unappropriated reserves to be used for the Norton Rescue Squad as the City Manager deems necessary.

Council had one transfer to confirm. This transfer was to Norton City Schools, dated December 9, 2016, in the amount of \$155,352 to cover the General Obligation School Bond Series 2012 interest payment due January 5, 2017.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays,

26163

NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to confirm the transfer to Norton City Schools as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call 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 discussion or 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.

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Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

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Mayor Mays 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.

26166

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous roll call 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:

He placed at each member's desk a copy of the flyer for the Downtown Design Workshop and the latest Retail Sales Tax Report for Council's review.

Also, the City is featured in the 2017 Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful calendar for the month of May and a copy has been placed at each member's desk.

Council has been provided with a copy of an email from Mary Jo Fields of the Virginia Municipal League (VML) detailing a budget amendment that VML and the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) have promoted and that regional legislators are supporting. The budget amendment authorizes an adequacy study to see if the Standards of Quality (SOQ) reflects the cost of meeting state accountability standards.

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There were no comments from the City Attorney.

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In comments from Council:

Councilwoman Belcher stated that she is looking forward to the Design Workshop on February 2, and is thankful for the hard work of City employees.

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Councilman Fultz said Hill Studio had a good presentation on the downtown revitalization process.

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Councilman Caruso noted he was pleased with Hill Studio and it is apparent they are experienced in downtown revitalization. He wants the City to have a vision for the future and this process will lead to creating one.

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Mr. Ramey said Hill Studio will be developing a master plan for the City for the next 10 to 20 years and this document will be used during the City's capital budget process.

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Councilman Fawbush stated he is looking forward to working with Hill Studio, Arnett Muldrow, and Thompson and Litton Inc., on the City's downtown revitalization.

He also commended Mr. Ramey for keeping up with all the City's projects and for continuing to move forward with them.

26173


He commended the City's Police Department, Fire Department, and Norton Rescue Squad for taking the lead during emergencies.

He is optimistic for 2017 and he is hopeful that the City will be in a better position in 2018.

Mayor Mays said we live in a blessed community and are fortunate to have good employees.

26174

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rebecca K. Coffey, Clerk of Council