

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Robert Fultz, Jr., William Mays, Joseph Fawbush, and Delores Belcher

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

Absent: Mark Caruso

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

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following vote, YES – Fultz, Mays, Fawbush, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 20, 2018, meeting as presented.

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

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A public hearing was held to receive public input on the purchase of two emergency vehicles using a loan/grant package from the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDA/RD) for the police department.

Mr. Ramey advised city administration applied for the USDARD grant last year and was recently informed the city will be awarded a \$25,000 grant and a \$30,000 loan package for the purchase of two emergency vehicles.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, Council moved to adopt a resolution to purchase two emergency vehicles for the police department using a loan/grant package from the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and authorizing the necessary signatures by the mayor and city manager. (Insert)

The next agenda item was a presentation by a representative from the Pro-Art Association.

Ms. Jan Zentmeyer, Executive Director of the Pro-Art Association, gave an update on the organization's activities for the past year and what programs are planned for 2018. She advised that the Local Government Challenge Grant is now called the Creative Community Partnership Grant and that the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) will match the city's contribution. Ms. Zentmeyer thanked the city for continued support of Pro-Art.

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Council members thanked Ms. Zentmeyer for her presentation.

Mr. Shawn Lindsey, Executive Director of Spearhead Trails, gave an update on the organization's contributions to the City of Norton for the past year. He noted that

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Spearhead Trails was instrumental in moving the Cloudsplitter 100 Ultra Trail Race to High Knob and that Spearhead staff worked many hours clearing trails and providing volunteers to work the race which directly benefited the city. Mr. Lindsey said Spearhead Trails is currently blazing the trails because several runners got lost last year and they are about to complete that process. Mr. Lindsey stated Ms. Patty Bates was supposed to be in attendance, via Facetime, but she was unable to participate in tonight's meeting due to work. He said that the Spearhead Trails Board of Directors wanted to present Norton resident Ms. Patty Bates with the Spearhead Trails Leadership Excellence Award for promoting outdoor recreation in the City of Norton and the region. Mr. Lindsey noted Ms. Bates worked numerous hours clearing the trails for the Cloudsplitter 100 Ultra Trail Race as well as volunteering to work other outdoor activities. He said he would see that Ms. Bates received the plaque for her volunteer service. Mr. Lindsey then handed out the Virginia 2018 Travel Guide which features Spearhead Trails on the cover, a Spearhead Trails brochure, the Spearhead Trails Economic and Fiscal Impact Study provided by the Institute for Service Research at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), and an Adventure Trail Activity Booklet on all-terrain vehicle safety for youth. Mr. Lindsey said the future is bright for outdoor recreation and that Spearhead Trails is asking the city for a \$4,000 contribution for FY 2018-2019. He said that number equates to \$1 per city resident.

After fielding questions from council members, Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Lindsey for the update.

Included in council's packets for consideration was a Continuity Plan Memorandum of Agreement between Wise County Department of Social Services (Wise DSS) and the City of Norton Department of Social Services (Norton DSS).

Mr. Ramey said the agreement is basically placing in writing what each department will do in an emergency or disaster. He added the two agencies have a good working relationship.

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Norton Social Services Director Sara Ring said the departments actually had an incident where Wise DSS had to operate out of the Norton office for several weeks because of an ice storm. She noted that the agencies work well together.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to authorize the Director of Norton DSS to execute the Continuity Plan Memorandum of Agreement between Wise County Department of Social Services and the City of Norton Department of Social Services.

Council had been presented with A Code of Conduct related to a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDARD) for the purchase of two emergency vehicles for the police department.

Mr. Ramey said the city is certifying there are no conflicts of interest, real or apparent, that are supported by USDARD funds.

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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, ABSENT – Caruso, Council moved to adopt A Code of Conduct for the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDARD) for the purchase of two emergency vehicles for the police department. (Insert)

In their packets, Council had been presented with A Proclamation Recognizing the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wise County Public Library.

Mr. Ramey stated council was invited to an anniversary program at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, April 8, 2018, at the Wise County Public Library. He said a proclamation recognizing the library and how the library was established is presented for council's consideration. Mr. Ramey also noted he provided members with a condensed version of the proclamation that has been placed on a plaque for Councilman Fawbush to present to the library at the program on Sunday.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Proclamation Recognizing the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wise County Public Library. (Insert)

Council was presented A Resolution Proclaiming the Month of April 2018 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Social Services Director Sara Ring spoke briefly to council stating that Norton DSS is teaming up with Wise DSS to hold a carnival on April 14, 2018, at Zion Family Ministries in Wise. She said their hope is to draw the public out and to bring awareness to child abuse and to the prevention of child abuse.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt a Resolution Proclaiming the Month of April 2018 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. (Insert)

A Proclamation for the National Public Safety 9-1-1 Telecommunicators Week of April 8-14, 2018, was presented for adoption.

Mr. Ramey said each year the city recognizes dispatchers for their service. He said last year Norton operators answered 4,269 emergency 9-1-1 calls and 24,389 non-emergency calls. He stated Police Chief Lane will recognize dispatchers during the week by providing lunch.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt a Proclamation for the National Public Safety 9-1-1 Telecommunicators Week of April 8-14, 2018. (Insert)

Council had one transfer to confirm. The transfer was to Norton City Schools, dated March 20, 2018, in the amount of \$125,000 to cover March 2018 payroll expenditures.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to confirm the transfer to Norton City Schools as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fultz, 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.

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Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

The city attorney left at this time.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, 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.

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

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Appalachian Community Action and Development Agency, Inc., (AppCAA) to fill the unexpired term of Ethel Daniels whose term expires April 1, 2022.

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Councilman Fawbush nominated Jeff Shupe to be appointed to AppCAA to fill the unexpired term which expires April 1, 2022.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Mays declared Jeff Shupe appointed to the Appalachian Community Action and Development Agency, Inc., (AppCAA) to fill the unexpired term of Ethel Daniels whose term expires April 1, 2022.

Mayor Mays asked if there was a motion to approve Mr. Ramey's recommendations to the 2018 Virginia Municipal League Policy Committees.

Councilwoman Belcher made a motion to approve the following: Fred Ramey, Jr., on the Community and Economic Development Committee, Andrew Greear on the Environmental Quality Committee, Jeff Shupe on the Finance Committee, William Bradshaw on the General Laws Committee, Gina Wohlford on the Human Development and Education Committee, and Steve McElroy on the Transportation Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote. Council moved that the nominations cease.

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Mayor Mays declared the individuals listed above to serve on the 2018 Virginia Municipal League Policy Committees as noted above.

In comments from the City Manager:

Weather permitting Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, borings will be drilled near the Ridge Avenue wall to ascertain the stability of the wall.

The City of Norton received the Green Locality Award from the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable for exceptional projects that benefit the environment.

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Council is invited to attend the Lonesome Pine Regional Library's program at 3 p.m., Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Wise County Library to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wise branch.

He placed at each member's desk the Parks & Recreation Department's activities for the month of April.

The following comments were made by council members:

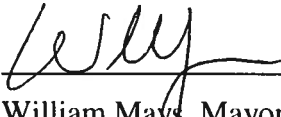
Councilman Fultz said the city's representative on the Wise County/City of Norton Youth Services Board will be graduating and that the school system will be providing council with another student recommendation to serve on this board. 262681

He handed out invitations to council members for John I. Burton High School's prom scheduled at the Hotel Norton on Saturday, April 21, 2018.

Councilwoman Belcher noted that city employees perform a great deal of work that goes unrecognized and she appreciates all the work they do for the citizens of Norton. 262682

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