

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, William Mays, and Terry Roop

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt and Joseph Fawbush

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

The invocation was given by Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge led by Todd Lagow, the City's Emergency Services Coordinator.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 1, 2011 meeting as presented.

24971

Mayor Mays extended his apology to Council and those who were in Council Chambers on the 15th of February for Council's second meeting of the month. He was out of town and could not be present. A quorum was not present and the meeting could not be held.

24972

At this time, Mayor Mays advised he would amend the agenda and go directly to the Audience for Visitors.

24973

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

Mayor Mays proceeded with the next agenda item which is a public hearing to consider financial encumbrances for the year ended June 30, 2010 in the amount of \$468,808 for the General Operating Fund and \$48,970 for the Norton City Schools.

Mr. Ward advised that the lists of encumbrances are included in Council's packets and stated that Dr. Jeff Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City School System, is present to answer any questions Council may have.

24974

There were no comments from Dr. Comer prior to the public hearing.

There were no questions or comments from Council prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

24975

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

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt the financial encumbrances for the year ended June 30, 2010 in the amount of \$468,808 for the General Operating Fund and \$48,970 for the Norton City Schools.

24976

Mayor Mays advised that he would go back to Item No. 5 on Council's agenda, which is a Special Recognition.

The Mayor advised that two of our everyday heroes, who went above the call of duty, were present at tonight's meeting. He further advised that the Fire Department Assistant Chief, Marty Hagy and Officer Dave DuVal of the Norton Police Department were the individuals to which he was referring. On the night of December 20, 2010, the Fire Department, Police Department, and Rescue Squad responded to a fire alarm at the Norton Regency Towers. These two individuals responded, arrived at the scene within two minutes, and proceeded to the fourth floor where the alarm was coming from. At great risk to themselves and without protective equipment in place, both men entered the smoke filled apartment to locate the resident. Their initial search found no one. A second search was made and Assistant Chief Hagy located the occupant in a semiconscious state. Both men removed the occupant, who was transported to the hospital with second and third degree burns to her leg.

2497

Mayor Mays advised that it is the City's belief that without this intervention put forth by these two men at great personal risk, the resident would have likely perished from smoke inhalation. The City also believes that, due to the efforts of Assistant Chief Hagy, who has 35 years experience in the Norton Fire Department, and Police Officer Dave DuVal who went above and beyond the call of duty, a life was saved.

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

2498

The Mayor then asked former fireman, Councilman Fawbush, and current fireman, Councilman Hunnicutt, to help him present to Asst. Chief Hagy the City of Norton Award of Valor. Mayor Mays then presented Officer DuVal with his Award of Valor. Each gentlemen got a standing ovation from those present at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Hagy thanked Council for this honor and for being recognized and stated that he appreciated Officer DuVal for being there also.

2499

Fire Chief D. C. Mullins spoke briefly and thanked Council for recognizing and honoring these men. Police Chief Mullins also expressed appreciation.

Mayor Mays stressed the fact that our fire, police, and rescue personnel are everyday heroes.

Dr. Scott Hamilton, President of Mountain Empire Community College, introduced himself to Council and gave a brief update on MECC. He advised that enrollment is up and a lot of construction is being done including a second entrance to the college.

2490

Dr. Hamilton then advised he would be happy to answer any questions Council may have.

Mayor Mays thanked Dr. Hamilton for his presentation.

In their packets, Council had A Resolution Approving the Revised Emergency Operations Plan.

Mr. Ward advised that Mr. Lagow, the City's Emergency Services Coordinator, would handle this item as he has worked diligently on this plan.

2491

Mr. Lagow advised that the plan is not new; however there have been a lot of changes to it by FEMA, and he would continue to keep it updated. He advised he would be willing to answer any questions Council may have.

Councilmen Caruso and Roop thanked Mr. Lagow for his work on this plan advising it was well done.

Mayor Mays stated he had known Mr. Lagow for many years and that he is a devoted and dedicated individual.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Approving the Revised Emergency Operations Plan. (Insert)

Mr. Jeff Cochran of the Lane Group discussed with Council of a PAR (Preliminary Architectural Report) as pertains to the City's pool and community center.

He also had a PowerPoint presentation regarding three options for the pool/community center complex. He advised the pool and community center were built in 1975 and that age has taken its toll on the complex. He then gave a brief synopsis of these options with the projected cost on each.

He then answered questions from Council members.

24982

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Ward advised Council that no action needs to be taken on this tonight; however, it would be a good time to ask any questions they may have prior to the upcoming CIP meeting.

Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Cochran for his presentation tonight.

Council had been presented with A Resolution Authorizing the Submission of an Application to the Virginia Department of Health for a water project.

Mr. Ward advised that these funds, if awarded, will be used on 11th Street and in Dorchester to upgrade our system. The Lane Group did the Preliminary Engineering Report on these projects. The application is due on April 1st.

24983

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the Submission of an Application to the Virginia Department of Health for a water project. (Insert)

Council had been given information regarding a two year extension to the City's contract with Thrower, Blanton & Associates, P. C. for audit services. This contract would cover the years ended June 30, 2011 and 2012. By extending this contract, the City will not have to re-procure the services.

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to extend the audit contract for an additional two years to Thrower, Blanton and Associates which will covers the years 2011 and 2012.

24984

A request had been submitted to Council for a water tap for James Patrick Flanary of 4415 Flanary Cove Road, which is located in the County.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve one water tap to James Patrick Flanary at the above location.

24985

In their packets, Council had a copy of a transfer dated January 28, 2011 to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$110,800 to cover payroll, a check made payable to Boring Contractors dated February 2, 2011 in the amount of \$101,603.28 for a partial pay application # 9 for the Guest River Interceptor Project – Phase 2, and a check made payable to Boring Contractors dated February 2, 2011 in the amount of \$147,002.78 for a partial pay application #10 on the Guest River Interceptor Project – Phase 1.

24986

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the one transfer and two checks as stated above. (Insert – Councilman Roop’s Disclosure Statement)

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

24987

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

24988

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 read a Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, 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 Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

2498

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a five year term which will expire on February 18, 2016.

Councilman Roop nominated Andy Belcher to this Board.

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

24990

Mayor Mays declared Andy Belcher appointed to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a five year term which will expire on February 18, 2016.

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

The City belongs to the Virginia Rural Water Association and pays annual dues of \$225.00 dollars. Recently, their representative brought in some leak detecting equipment and found several leaks within the City. The repair of these leaks has resulted in a savings of 200,000 gallons of water a day.

The City has received the proposals on the property reassessment. In the past, the City Administration has ranked the proposals, scheduled interviews, and awarded a contract. He asked Council if this is the same procedure they wished to follow again. It was the consensus of Council for the City Administration to proceed as in the past.

24991

The annual Capital Improvement Meeting will be held on Friday, March 11, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. at the Inn in Norton.

On the next agenda, a draft Sewer Agreement with Wise County will be presented. Mr. Ward advised the City Attorney has worked on this. Mr. Bradshaw advised that it is a short and good agreement and it has been presented to the County.

At the next meeting, a public hearing will be held on a bond resolution to issue debt for/ the next phase of our sewer project which will include Guest River Phases 3 and 4 and Benges Branch Phase 2. This totals eight million dollars of work with six million in grant money and 1.2 million in debt.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

24992

In comments from Council,

Councilman Fawbush expressed his appreciation for the kindness and support he has received during the recent loss of his father.

24993

Councilman Caruso expressed thanks to the City Administration for all the work they are doing.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk