

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 6:00 p. m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Vice Mayor Joseph Fawbush presiding.

Vice Mayor Fawbush advised that Mayor Mays will be a few minutes late due to a prior commitment.

24994

Present: Mark Caruso, Joseph Hunnicutt, Joseph Fawbush, and Terry Roop

Absent: William Mays

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

The invocation was given by Rev. John Ellington followed by the pledge of allegiance led by the J. I. Burton Girls' Basketball Coach, Mike Goforth.

24995

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

24996

At this time, the agenda was amended by Vice Mayor Fawbush to include an item entitled Special Recognition.

Councilman Roop asked that the members and coaches of the J. I. Burton Girls Basketball Team come forward. He then congratulated them on winning the Group A Championship this past week-end in Richmond, which was the first state championship won by a J. I. Burton Team since 1972.

24997

At this time, Mayor Mays took his seat on Council.

24998

Thanks were extended to all team members and coaches for attending tonight's meeting and they were given a standing ovation by those present.

24999

The second recognition tonight was to Colby Dean, a J. I. Burton sophomore, who won the State Wrestling Championship in the 145 pound class.

Mr. Dean and his coach, Shawn Dean, came forward and were congratulated by Council and they were given a standing ovation by those present.

25000

Council also was advised that the Deans are the first father/son State Champions in Single A History.

Mayor Mays expressed his appreciation to Vice Mayor Fawbush for conducting the meeting prior to his arrival.

25001

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

25002

A public hearing was held on A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of A General Obligation Sewer Facilities Bond of the City of Norton and Providing for the Form, Details and Payment Thereof.

Mr. Ward advised that this resolution will provide for the continuance of our rehabilitation of sewer structures and will be for Guest River Projects No. 3 and No. 4 and Benges Branch Project No. 2. The funding will be through the USDA Rural Development in the amount of \$5,186,000 of which \$3,889,000 is grant money and \$1,297,000 is low interest loan money at a rate of 2.375%. The resolution covers the loan portion (\$1,297,000) of the project.

There were no comments prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

There were no comments following the public hearing.

The City Attorney advised that all is in order on this resolution and that the bond counsel had done a good job.

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 Issuance and Sale of a General Obligation Sewer Facilities Bond of the City of Norton and Providing for the Form, Details and Payment Thereof. (Insert)

Mr. Mark Leonard, CEO of Norton Community Hospital, was in attendance and advised that he had a three part presentation. Mr. Leonard introduced several individuals accompanying him to Council. The first part of the presentation was from Dr. Jon Smith, an economics professor at East Tennessee State University, who had conducted an economic study. Mr. Smith then presented the conclusions of this study and advised he would be willing to answer any questions from Council.

The second part of this presentation was given by Mr. Leonard. He discussed health care reform and strategic initiatives that the hospital is facing. At the conclusion of his segment, Mr. Leonard advised he would be willing to answer any questions.

The third segment was handled by Mr. Leonard and two individuals involved with the Wings Air Rescue. They advised that they would like to house a helicopter at the Norton Community Hospital campus and operate within the City of Norton.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing Wings Air Rescue to operate within the City subject to compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations. (Insert)

Michele Knox, the City's Park & Recreation Director, presented Council with her annual report via a PowerPoint presentation. She then discussed the activities in the various areas of P&R such as activities held at the Community Center, Special Events, Environmental Activities, Recycling, Pool, Parks, and Flag Rock.

She advised that the Locust Avenue Park had been renovated as had the benches at the 11th Street Park. A five year average of revenue was also presented.

Following a brief discussion, Council thanked Ms. Knox for the work she is doing in the Parks and Recreation Department.

The item of a Proposed Sewer Agreement with Wise County was tabled as it was due to be discussed at Wise tonight. 25006

In their packets, Council had a request for funding in an amount not to exceed \$7,000 for the J. I. Burton High School Girls Basketball Team to help with the expenses incurred for the State Basketball Championship held in Richmond. 25007

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$7,000 from Unappropriated Reserves to help defray the costs incurred by the J. I. Burton High School Girls Basketball Team's participation in the State Basketball Championship games held in Richmond.

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Caruso, 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. 25008

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. 25009

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. 25010

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, 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)

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority to fill an unexpired term which will expire on June 30, 2011.

Councilman Caruso nominated William "Buzz" Witt to be appointed to this Authority.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease. 25011

Mayor Mays declared William "Buzz" Witt appointed to the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority to fill an unexpired term which will expire on June 30, 2011.

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

The City is receiving complaints on potholes. Currently the asphalt plants are not open and the City has used some cold patch. Hopefully, in approximately 30 days, the Public Works Department will be in a position to address as many of these potholes as possible.

Council members have received an invitation to attend a celebration honoring the J. I. Burton Lady Raiders on Monday, March 21st, at 11:15 a.m. in the School's auditorium. This will be followed by a luncheon.

2501

Councilman Roop did a good job tonight honoring the members of the Lady Raiders' Basketball Team and Mr. Dean, the winner of the State Wrestling Championship in his weight class.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

25012

In comments from Council, Mr. Roop advised Mayor Mays he had used a quote from him when he represented Council in sending the girls basketball team to Richmond to participate in the State Championship. He extended his appreciation to Mayor Mays for being an avid supporter of Norton's students.

25014

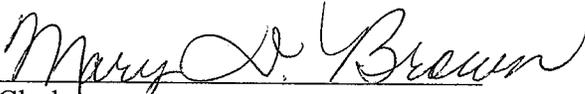
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk