

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Vice Mayor Joseph Fawbush presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, Joseph Fawbush, and Terry Roop

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt and William Mays

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

The invocation was given by Rev. John Ellington and was followed by the pledge led by Tommy Roberts, Superintendent of the City of Norton Water Plant.

At this time, Vice Mayor Fawbush amended the agenda to include Item No. 7-C.1 – A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for a Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant. 24383

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the September 1, 2009 meeting as presented. 24384

There was no response to the Vice Mayor's call for visitors. 24385

The City Manager advised that as of September 10th, the City had a combined water reserve total of 95,617,000 gallons out of 124,000,000 capacity. He further advised that the City Administration is confident that we will not experience a shortage of water this fall; however, the City is still asking its citizens for conservation. This will continue to be monitored and Council will be updated. 24386

Council had been provided in their packets a copy of a memorandum from Jeff Shupe, Director of Finance, regarding the Utility Deposit Refund Policy. This memo brings up several questions. Mr. Ward briefly went over each of the six questions and advised that he had prepared a draft Utility Deposit Refund Credit Policy for Council's review.

After this discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to redraft this policy to cover all City residential homeowners who live at the property, along with other requirements, and to eliminate the requirement of a deposit for water service. 24387

Vice Mayor Fawbush advised, as discussed at the last meeting, that Council needs to review the amount of deposit for renters and businesses during the next budget process.

Mr. Ward gave Council an update on the Josephine Sewer Project advising that the City Administration feels positive about the outcome of their efforts. This plan began two years ago when the City learned that there were 100% grant funds available for sewer projects that would enhance, improve, and provide Community Development benefits. The project chosen by the City was the Josephine Sewer Project. In order to do this, the City would need to upgrade the line that would handle Josephine, which is the

interceptor line from Brownie's Café on West Main Avenue to the old Josephine Pump Station.

Funding has been secured from a grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development in the amount of \$1,000,000, a \$1,000,000 grant from the Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement, a \$500,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, and a \$200,000 grant from Lenowisco.

Mr. Ward then discussed with Council all of the various items that had to be completed in order to submit before the September 30, 2009 deadline. Out of 114 total buildings, there are 97 occupied in Josephine. The City has received 91 Income Surveys and 88 User Agreements from the residents there. He further advised that those who are not interested or refused to participate will be sent letters advising that the deadline is here and if they wish to participate, now is the time to do so if they wish to have free hook up services.

Councilman Caruso advised that a lot of hard work had been done on this project.

Vice Mayor Fawbush commended the City Manager and his staff for the work done during the past two years on this project, which will cut down on the I/I problems the C-N-W is experiencing and improve the quality of life for our neighbors in the Josephine section of Wise County.

Mr. Ward advised that 88 out of 97 households want and deserve this service. He further advised Council that he will keep them updated on this project.

Council had been presented with a copy of A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation for the Safe Routes to Schools Project.

Mr. Ward advised that the City had applied for and has been granted \$500,000 in funds to improve a walking and bicycling route from the Dairy Queen intersection of Park Avenue to the Norton Elementary School from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). By adopting this resolution, the City states that it does adopt and abide by the covenants contained in the agreements, documents, and forms which are required to be executed and that the City Manager is authorized to execute such documents. The City had earlier obligated the remaining \$500,000 for this project from City funds. This project is being partnered by the Park Avenue Highwall Project.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Roop, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Mays, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation for the Safe Routes to Schools Project. (Insert)

Vice Mayor Fawbush expressed Council's appreciation to the City Administration for their diligence in working on this project.

In their packets, Council had been presented with A Proclamation declaring October 2, 2009 as International Walk to School Day.

Mr. Ward advised that this will be the kick-off of the Safe Routes to School Program and that the Assistant City Manager, Mr. Ramey, is working with the School System on this project.

Mr. Ramey advised that participants will walk from the 11th Street Park to the Elementary School on this day beginning at 7:30 a.m. He further advised that the City of Norton is only one of twelve communities in the Commonwealth of Virginia participating in this project.

24390

Councilman Roop advised that he appreciated Mr. Ramey's efforts on this project.

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Proclamation Declaring October 2, 2009 as International Walk to School Day. (Insert) Mr. Ramey further advised that a rain date of October 9, 2009 has been selected.

The City Manager had presented Council members with a copy of A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for a Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant. This resolution authorizes the City to apply for Highway Safety Improvement Program grant funds from the Virginia Department of Transportation to be used to assist with the Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Project. By adopting this resolution, the City Manager is authorized to execute any agreements or documentation required by VDOT.

24391

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Roop, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Mays, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for a Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant. (Insert)

Council had a request from Bob Spera, President EAA Chapter 1416, Wise County Chamber of Commerce seeking financial support from the City for the "LET FREEDOM RING – A Salute to American Veterans" to be held October 8 – 11, 2009 at the Lonesome Pine Airport. This educational event is free to all and will help everyone know and remember the sacrifices that were made by American Veterans to preserve our freedom. This activity will commemorate the 65th anniversary of D-day and the 60th anniversary year of the Berlin Airlift.

24392

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to allocate \$1,000 from Contingency for the "LET FREEDOM RING – A Salute to American Veterans" activity to be held October 8 – 11, 2009 at the Lonesome Pine Airport.

Council had a request to approve a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$280,000 covering payroll and fringe benefits.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$280,000 covering payroll and fringe benefits. (Insert – Councilman Roop's Disclosure)

24393

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 and Investment of Public Funds for Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements as Per Section 2.2.-3711 (A) (6) of the Code of Virginia, as amended and Consideration of the Acquisition of Real

24394

Property for a Public Purpose as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Vice Mayor Fawbush declared Council in closed meeting.

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

Vice Mayor Fawbush 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.

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

Vice Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Tourism Board for staggered four year terms.

Councilman Caruso nominated Joyce Payne and Kim Gibson for three year terms and Marty Hagy and W. C. Witt, Jr. for four year terms.

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

Vice Mayor Fawbush declared Joyce Payne and Kim Gibson appointed for three year terms and Marty Hagy and W. C. Witt, Jr. for four year terms to the City of Norton Tourism Board.

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

Bids had been received on the Guest River Phase I Project with the low bid of \$1,442,000 going to Boring Construction. This is over our engineer's budget and they are working to modify it in order to get closer to our budget. In conjunction with this, there will be a public hearing held at our next meeting on this topic. If Council should have any questions, they can contact him.

Tax tickets have been mailed out.

The City has received two complimentary season passes for this year's Pro-Art activities. Any Council member who would like to use these passes, please contact Mrs. Brown.

He will be on vacation beginning September 18th and will return to the office on September 28th.

He has sent a message to Mr. Roberts that Council members and he will be at the Water Plant in 10 minutes for their tour of this facility.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

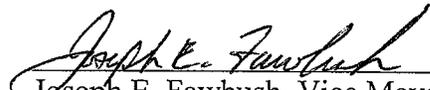
In comments from City Council, Councilman Roop advised Mr. Ward that he is well deserving of a vacation.

Vice Mayor Fawbush advised that the City Administration has been extremely busy and Council appreciates all of their efforts and the citizens of Norton are better off for these efforts.

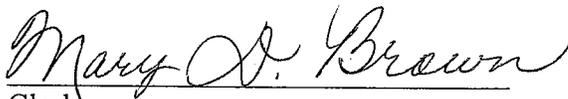
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There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


Joseph E. Fawbush, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk