

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

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

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

The invocation was given by Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by the Assistant Chief of Police and Captain Roger Cooke of the Norton Police Department. 25528

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the August 21, 2012 meeting as presented. 25529

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 25530

Mr. Ramey advised that as of August 28, 2012, we had a total capacity in both reservoirs of 64.8 million gallons, which was down from our previous reading of 72.9 million gallons as of August 14, 2012. At the present time, we are not purchasing water from Big Stone Gap or the Wise County PSA; however if we do not receive significant rainfall, we will begin purchasing water from the Wise County PSA by the end of the week.

An update was given, via a PowerPoint presentation, to Council on the Upper Dam Project. Mr. Ramey advised that, due to better weather conditions, two of four pours have been done and hopefully another will be done by week's end. It continues to go well and completion is anticipated by the end of the month. A fall stocking of fish at the reservoir remains uncertain. 25531

The City Manager advised he would be happy to answer any questions from Council.

Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Ramey for this information and also for the update on the Upper Dam Project.

In their packets, Council had been presented with a copy of A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia which approves the issuance of bonds by the Wise County Industrial Development Authority on behalf of Norton Community Hospital/Mountain States Health Alliance.

Due to the City's pending seven and one-half million dollar bond issue, the City was unable to help Norton Community with this bond issue; therefore the Wise County Industrial Development Authority did so. The City of Norton, being the host jurisdiction is required, to adopt a resolution in support of this bond issue. 25532

Present representing Norton Community Hospital was Robert Leonard, a long time member of the hospital board, Mark Leonard (no relation to Robert Leonard), CEO of Norton Community, and Steve Sawyer, Finance Director of Norton Community Hospital.

Mr. Mark Leonard gave a brief synopsis of the project including the development of the old Magic Mart Shopping Center into a medical mall.

Mr. Leonard then answered questions from Council members.

Council was advised by the City Attorney that all documentation is in order, all public hearings had been held, all actions have been taken, and bond counsel had done a good job. He further advised that the City is taking no responsibility on this bond issue.

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 of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Approving the Issuance of Bonds by the Wise County Industrial Development Authority on behalf of Norton Community Hospital/Mountain States Health Alliance. (Insert)

After an update on the Josephine Pump Station was given by the City Manager, Mr. Ramey gave a brief history on this station and advised that it is now operated by the C-N-W Regional Wastewater Authority and that will be will be transferred to the City on July 1, 2013.

Being a twenty year old facility and with the problems being incurred at present, the City Manager advised that a replacement for this facility would cost approximately \$125,000. He further advised that the C-N-W Authority is working on the problem of the station going down and the City is working with them on a plan to replace the pump station.

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Mr. Ramey advised Council that he wanted to keep them informed on this situation.

Councilman Fawbush commended Mark Hollyfield, Executive Director of the C-N-W Regional Sewer Authority for the fast action taken to get this station back in operation.

The City Manager had presented A Resolution in Council's packets, which calls on Governor McDonnell to eliminate local aid to the Commonwealth. He advised that the Virginia Municipal League had called upon its members to send letters and resolutions to the Governor and local officials asking for an end to this.

In the fiscal year of 2012, the City paid \$27,404 to the Commonwealth and another \$23,313 is the City's share of local aid to the Commonwealth for fiscal year 2013.

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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 to eliminate local aid to the Commonwealth. (Insert)

Council had been presented with a copy of one transfer in the amount of \$100,000 payable to the Norton City Schools for debt service and a copy of a check payable to the Norton Industrial Development Authority in the amount of \$122,004.25 to cover a quarterly payment to the Powell Valley National Bank debt.

25535

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the transfer and check as stipulated above. (Insert – Councilman Roop's Disclosure Form)

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, 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. 25536
Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to back into open meeting. 25537
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.

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, ABSESNT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert) 25538

The Mayor opened the floor for an appointment to the City of Norton Department of Social Services Advisory Board for a four year term which will expire on August 5, 2016.

Councilman Caruso nominated Ethel Daniels to be reappointed to this Board.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease. 25539

Mayor Mays declared Ethel Daniels reappointed to the City of Norton Department of Social Services Advisory Board for a four year term which will expire on August 5, 2016.

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

Bids on the Phase II Water Project were opened on August 28th and the Administration is in the process of analyzing the low bid looking for ways to save money.

Some of the items on the next Council agenda will be: A Virginia Public School Association Public Hearing for up to ten million dollars. If approved, it could be up to 10.5 million dollars giving the School Board the extra 2.5 million dollars for capital projects. Davenport and Company will make a presentation on the City's financial analyses. A draft should be received and a copy will be sent to Council for review prior to the meeting. An approved list of additional projects that the additional funds, if any, would cover will be presented to Council by the School Board. If approved, both the School Board and Council will have to adopt resolutions on this. 25540

On Sunday, September 9th, the City will be co-sponsoring with the Norton Kiwanis Club, the 11th annual Benges Revenge Cycling Challenge.

The Treasurer has advised him that all information has been sent to the printers for the personal property and second half of real estate taxes and they should be out in approximately two weeks.

In comments from the City Attorney, he advised that the Treasurer has forwarded him information pertinent to another tax sale. On Friday, September 7th, a sale will be held on the steps of City Hall for a piece of property within the City.

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In comments from Councilman Fawbush, he advised that he has reviewed the receipts for the Girls Softball League, who recently participated in a State Tournament. He advised twelve players and two or three coaches participated in this event and they used fourteen motel rooms. He is of the opinion that the City needs to adopt some type of formula as to the number of individuals in a room and set an amount to be spent for food for each day. He would like to have Council give the City Manager authorization to do a funding policy on donations. Also, these requests need to come from the head of an organization and not members. Councilman Caruso stated he liked the idea of a formula. It was the consensus of Council for Mr. Ramey to follow up on this and bring back his ideas to Council at a future date.

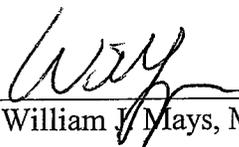
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In comments from Mayor Mays, he stated he wished to thank everyone for the support he has received during the last year. It had been a tough year for him, especially during the last month when he lost, not only his Mother, but a niece as well.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

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ATTEST:


Clerk

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