

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

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

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt

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

The invocation was given by Rev. John Ellington and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief James C. Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 5, 2013 meeting as presented.

25691

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

25692

Ms. Bonnie Elosser, Director of the Pro-Art Association, was present to give Council an update on their activities. Her presentation began with a thank you to Council members for their continuing support of Pro-Art during their 30 plus years of working together. She advised that the Pro-Art Association was the winner of the Dominion Power "Shining Star" Award this year. She brought the award to show Council and advised it also came with \$5,000 award.

She then gave a brief summary of the past year's activities and performances and asked that Council consider the application for a Local Government Challenge Grant Application in the amount of \$5,000 which will be matched by the State.

25693

Mayor Mays thanked Ms. Elosser for her presentation tonight and also acknowledge Mr. Robert Isaac of Norton, who also serves on the Pro-Art Board of Trustees.

At this time, Mayor Mays recognized Mark Leonard, newly elected School Board Member, who was in attendance at tonight's meeting.

25694

Council was presented with information to consider a 2013-2014 Local Government Challenge Grant Application in the amount of \$5,000 which, if awarded will go to the Pro-Art Association and will be matched dollar for dollar by the State. The deadline for submitting this application is April 1, 2013.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to apply for a Local Government Challenge Grant in the amount of up to \$5,000 to be matched by the State with said funds going to the Pro-Art Association.

25695

In their packets Council was given a copy of a Resolution of Support for the Clinch River Valley Initiative. Present tonight representing this group is Mr. Skip Skinner.

Mr. Skinner advised Council of the five goals the Initiative has and stated they are focused on raising awareness about the Clinch River Valley's tremendous potential to become a cultural and outdoor destination. An economical impact study has recently been done. This resolution is being presented to all of the local governments that are in the Clinch River area asking for their support.

25696

Mayor Mays stated that it seems like an exciting program.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt a Resolution of Support for the Clinch River Valley Initiative. (Insert)

An update on the activities of the Lenowisco Planning District was presented to Council by Skip Skinner, Executive Director.

During the period 2008 through 2012, the City has provided funding to them in the amount of \$40,615. In turn, direct funding in the amount of \$305,000 has come back to the City through Lenowisco's Water and Wastewater Funds, which is a return of \$7.51 for every \$1.00 allocated to them by the City. Mr. Skinner advised that the last project on which they worked with the City was the Josephine Sewer Project.

25697

He further advised that they work with the Regional Transportation Plan/Urban Transportation Planning, and also commented on the Broadband Project on which they are working. Mr. Skinner stipulated that Lenowisco has an excellent working relationship with City staff and that he is willing to answer any questions Council may have.

Councilman Roop extended his thanks to Mr. Skinner and Lenowisco for the job that is being done by this Planning District.

Due to no representation at tonight's meeting by the Wise County Public Service Authority, Mayor Mays asked that Item 6-B be tabled.

25698

Ms. Tamara Greear, newly appointed partner and Audit Manager of Thrower, Blanton, and Associates was present to give Council a synopsis of the City's audit for the year ending June 30, 2012. A copy of the audit was given to each Council member.

Ms. Greear advised that the City received an unqualified or clean opinion, which is the highest rating an audit can receive. She then proceeded to go over several categories with Council and advised should they have any questions in the future, she will be happy to answer them.

During this synopsis, she advised Council that there were some areas in the financial books of the School Board that were in need of improvement and these had been discussed with the School Board at their last meeting. Improvements have already been implemented to change this situation.

25699

Following a lengthy discussion, Ms. Greear advised that her group is at the end of their current five year contract with the City. She stated that it has been a pleasure to work for the City; there is a good working relationship; and they hope to continue with the City's auditing services in the future.

Ms. Greear then answered questions from Council members.

Mayor Mays thanked Ms. Greear for tonight's presentation.

Council had been presented with a copy of a check made payable to McFall Excavating Co., Inc. in the amount of \$172,587.05 and a transfer to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$275,000.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check payable to McFall Excavating Co., Inc. and a transfer payable to the Norton City Schools in the amounts as stipulated above. Insert (Councilman Roop's Disclosure)

25700

At this time, Mayor Mays cancelled the closed meeting scheduled tonight due to the fact that no names have been submitted for the position of a student representative to the Youth Services Board.

25701

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

Encumbrances are ready for Council's review and he will schedule a public hearing for the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting if he has concurrence from Council to do so. Council advised Mr. Ramey to proceed with the advertisement of a public hearing for this purpose.

The deadline for Audit Proposals is February 22<sup>nd</sup> and Council needs to decide how to proceed with the review process. Mayor Mays, as well as the other remaining Council members, advised the City staff has handled this well in the past and should proceed as in the past. Mr. Ramey advised he will keep City Council updated on this process.

25702

The Capital Improvement Meeting will be held on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Inn at Norton. He asked council members to mark their calendars and advise him as soon as possible if they cannot attend.

He has been advised by the Department of Motor Vehicles that their mobile office, DMV-2-Go will be in Norton on February 21<sup>st</sup> in the Walmart parking lot which is located at the Norton Commons Shopping Center from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This has been advertised on the City's website and Facebook page.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

25703

In comments from City Council, Councilman Roop gave an update on the roof project at J. I. Burton High School and advised that is close to completion. At the request of Councilman Caruso, he also gave an update on the leak problem that recently occurred at the high school damaging the gym floor and other areas.

There were no comments from Councilman Fawbush.

Councilman Caruso again reiterated that everything will be on the table at the CIP Meeting and with tough times, all must understand they must be justified to get City funds and some organizations' appropriations may be cut.

He complimented Mr. Skinner and the Clinch River Initiative with helping to build infrastructure and services for tourism. This will help the City in the long term as this is where he believes our economy is going.

25704

He supports the new School Board on where they are going as to reorganization and seeing that there is going to be total accountability in moving our school, both

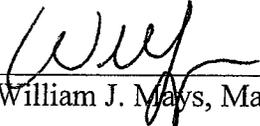
academically and administratively, forward to keep the school system neat, competitive, and keep it the best in the region.

He advised there are a lot of avid shooters in the area and he is one of them. For many years, individuals have been allowed to go the City Reservoir and shoot; however, he feels that with this area becoming a tourist friendly area with the influx of trails, bike trails, fishing, and a trail head, etc., there should be a posting at the reservoir that this is now a "Non-Shooting Area". He also feels that the City needs to find an alternate location where shooting can be done.

Mayor Mays advised there is an ordinance that stipulates the City Manager can designate a location in the City where citizens can go to shoot. Mr. Ramey advised he will work with the City Attorney on this and bring information back to City Council.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
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William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk