

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 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 the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by the Assistant Police Chief, Joe Baird.

At this time, Mayor Mays advised the agenda would be amended to include Item 6-1-A – A Resolution of the Local Governing Body Concurrence with School Division Electing to Pay the VRS Board-Certified Rate. 26215

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the June 24, 2014 meeting as presented. 26216

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 26217

Mr. Ramey introduced the new Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, Dr. Keith Perrigan and then advised Council that the Resolution of the Local Governing Body Concurrence with School Division Electing to Pay the VRS Board-Certified Rate (In accordance with the 2014 Appropriation Act Item 467(1) was adopted, in error, by the School Board rather than by City Council. By adoption of this resolution, Council would be concurring with the action of the School Board accepting the certified rate as per the 2014 Appropriation Act Item 467(1). This is the same resolution that Council adopted at its previous meeting for the City and by adoption of this resolution, the School Board is covered for a period of two years. 26218

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT - Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Local Governing Body Concurrence with School Division Electing to Pay the VRS Board-Certified Rate (In accordance with the 2014 Appropriation Act Item 467(1). (Insert)

Mr. Ramey provided a PowerPoint presentation showing the progress on the Safe Route to Schools Project advising this was the first update since May. Landscaping has begun and the next phase of landscaping will begin with the next fifteen days.

Fill work on the City's swimming pool has been completed with a little touch-up needed by grading and seeding. He also displayed aerial photos that the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) had taken throughout the project showing the progress. As of July 11<sup>th</sup>, 192 of the 450 loads of blocks had been brought to the site and 2,553 of 10,000 blocks have been installed. Also, 2,100 square feet of sidewalk has been

put in near the Community Center. Payment on this project comes from drawdowns from the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME ) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) once a month. To date, over one million dollars has been drawn down from DMME and \$240,000 from VDOT for a total of\$ 1.2 million.

The City Manager then answered questions from Council and advised that he has received quite a few positive comments on the wall.

26219

The project is running approximately a month behind and two crews are now working on it.

An update was given to Council by the City Manager via a PowerPoint presentation on the Phase III Water Improvement Project. Both Phase I and Phase II have been completed and Phase III is designed and ready for bidding. Phase III covers both residential and commercial properties in the areas of Virginia Avenue by 9<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets, downtown, up The Terrace, Highland, part of Chestnut Street, Virginia Avenue by City Hall, Park Avenue at the 7<sup>th</sup> Street intersection, 10<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Route 74 (by Fire Station #2), and a section of Market Street. This will also reroute the lines for the railroad that go underneath their tracks to Kentucky Avenue and eliminate going under these tracks.

Council authorized the City Administration to apply for this project on February 21, 2012. On August 10, 2012 the Virginia Department of Health made an initial offer on this project, which totaled \$879,445, which was a loan in the amount of \$483,695 for 30 years at 2.5% (a 55% loan) and a grant in the amount of \$395,750 (45% grant). After the City Administration sought a 50/50 funding package and was turned down, the City Council accepted the offer of 55% loan and 45% grant. The City Administration was advised to proceed with this. The project has been designed and the Virginia Department of Health has accepted the plans.

26220

Due to current economic conditions, he wanted to update Council and see whether they would want to proceed with this project. He did advise that this type of grant/loan financing is no longer available.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to proceed on this Phase III of the Water Improvement Project.

Per discussion at Council's last meeting, the City Attorney was asked to prepare a draft amendment to the City's Fishing Ordinance which would allow a three day permit to fish at the reservoir. This was due to a request made by Councilman Caruso. This draft amendment is included in Council's packet.

The City Attorney went over the changes in this draft amendment which included the deletion of subsection (a) (4) and substituting the addition of a resident or non-resident three day license for \$5.00 and changes in Section 20-55 that states the license shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance, except for the three day license set forth in Section 20-52(4).

26221

Following a discussion, Council also authorized the City Attorney to remove the permit requirement for fishing in the lower reservoir.

The City Attorney advised he will make the revisions mentioned tonight and bring them to Council at the next meeting.

Council had a request from Pathfinders Outdoor Adventures, LLC, a newly established business in the City, to amend their Special Use Permit with the City which allows them to use the City's firing range.

Councilman Caruso stated he would be abstaining from any discussion or vote on this request as he is the owner of this business. Any questions can be forwarded to his wife, Carol, who is in attendance at tonight's meeting.

The City Manager advised that he had supplied a copy of the existing Special Use Permit that was issued on July 30, 2009 setting the standards in order that Pathfinders could utilize this property. He also read to Council changes that they were seeking on this permit which included quarterly events and firearms classes at the City's firing range.

Council's main concern was that this would not cause any interference with the Police Department's use of the firing range.

26222

The City Attorney advised that the Special Use Permit will take care of this and a public hearing does not need to be held.

Following a discussion during which Mrs. Caruso answered questions from Council members and upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following roll call vote: Caruso – ABSTAIN, YES – Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to amend the Special Use Permit as requested by Pathfinders Outdoor Adventures, LLC as presented to them tonight.

Council had been presented with A Resolution Defining Signature and Access Requirements for Various City Accounts, Investments, and Certificate Storage for adoption.

Mr. Ramey advised that the need to change this resolution is to add the new Social Services Director on this document in order that she can sign checks pertaining to her department.

26223

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote, YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Defining Signature and Access Requirements for Various City Accounts, Investments, and Certificate Storage. (Insert)

In their packets, Council had been given a copy of a transfer to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$260,000 to cover employee fringe benefits and end of fiscal year bills payable.

26224

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a transfer to the Norton City Schools as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section 2.2.-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

26225

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

26226

The Clerk polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering yes. She then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. 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 the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

26227

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

A copy of the most recent Retail Sales Tax Report has been placed at each Council member's desk.

Council members have been invited to attend and participate in the Wise County Comprehensive Planning Process meetings. He encouraged members to attend a meeting.

The following items will be on the agenda for the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting:

Council will have the amendment to the Fishing License Ordinance and a representative of the Department of Game and Inland Fishery will be in attendance to talk on the topic of bears.

26228

The City has been notified that Comcast Cable is in the process of transferring the cable franchise.

The recommended Zoning Amendment for Fencing will be on the agenda again. Winfred Collins will be at the meeting to make his presentation and Council could authorize a public hearing to be held.

A ribbon cutting will be held on the High Knob Tower Project on Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. Rita McReynolds of this committee would like to have a representative of City Council to be there and speak. During this discussion, Mayor Mays advised he will be working that day and Councilman Caruso stated he would represent Council.

He will be out of town on vacation beginning Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

26229

In comments from Council, Councilman Caruso invited members of Council to visit his store on Park Avenue, Pathfinders Outdoors Adventures.

Mayor Mays extended wishes for a good vacation for Mr. Ramey stating it was a well deserved vacation.

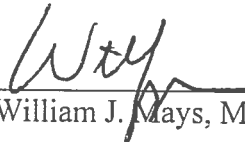
Councilman Fawbush advised he concurs with Councilman Caruso on the aspect of the Flag Rock Recreational Area. He also expressed thanks to the Norton Lions Club for participation in the July 5<sup>th</sup> parade and other activities. It was a well run event and there was a good crowd. Also thanks were extended to the Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation Department for the fireworks event.

26230

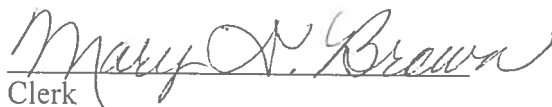
Councilman Roop wished the City Manager a great vacation and stated Mr. Ramey puts in lots of hours in a stressful position. He further stated he was happy to see from information in the packets where the City is going forward on dilapidated properties.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

