

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, Robert Fultz, Jr., William Mays, Joseph Fawbush and Dee Belcher

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

The invocation was given by the Reverend Roger Sloce and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting as presented. 25787

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 25788

Michele Knox, Parks and Recreation Director, presented Council with her annual report via a PowerPoint presentation.

She discussed with Council the various classes and special events held for the 2014-2015 fiscal period as well as environmental activities, recycling efforts, Flag Rock Recreation Area, and various summer camps. She also gave an overview of the Norton Farmers Market and advised the Woodbooger statue was installed April 2015. 25789

Mayor Mays thanked Michele for her report and for the boards she serves on for the City.

Mr. Ramey, via a PowerPoint presentation, advised Council City Administration has advertised a public hearing for March 1, 2016 for the purpose of a potential property tax increase. Mr. Ramey shared with Council the financial impact various rates would have on the City's FY16 budget and surrounding localities property tax rates according to the Weldon Cooper Center. He advised City property owners had received a Notice of Reassessment in October indicating their previous reassessment at \$0.80 and the total real estate tax due in 2015 and the current reassessment at \$0.90 and the total real estate tax due in 2016 which is the rate Council had approved for the FY2016 budget. 25790

Mr. Ramey updated Council on the discussions with the City financial planners Davenport & Company and bond counsel Sands Anderson concerning opening a bank line of credit for periods of low cash flow.

Mr. Ramey, via a PowerPoint presentation, showed Council the need for opening a line of credit, trending of the City's fund balance and the availability of funds throughout the year, and recommending to Council to authorize City Administration to work with the City's financial planners to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) and to circulate to bank credit facilities. City Administration would like to have the line of credit in place by June 30, 2016. 25791

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize City Administration to work with Davenport & Company and Sands Anderson to prepare a RFP and to distribute to bank credit facilities to open a City line of credit to use during periods of low cash flow.

In their packets Council was given a Tentative Budget Calendar for the FY2017 fiscal budget.

Mr. Ramey asked Council to look at their calendars and advise if the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Meetings scheduled for February 27th and March 17th works with their schedules. Dr. Perrigan also advised the School Board would like to schedule a work session with City Council after their March 7th meeting to discuss the FY2017 budget.

Council advised Mr. Ramey that the two dates planned for the CIP Meetings were acceptable.

Mr. Ramey asked Council if they would like to schedule the work session with the School Board after their regularly scheduled Council meeting on March 15, 2016 as they had done previously.

Council was of consensus to schedule the work session with the School Board after the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2016.

Mr. Ramey advised the remaining dates on the Tentative Budget Calendar would be modified as needed.

In their packets, Council had one transfer to be confirmed. The transfer was to the Norton City Schools dated January 4, 2016 in the amount of \$167,852.50 to cover the interest payment due January 15, 2016 on the Series 2012 General Obligation bonds.

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

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, 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.

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.

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 Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

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

Vice Mayor Fawbush was recently selected to be the Chairman of the Southwest Regional Jail Authority.

Mr. Ramey handed out photos of the recent roof replacement on the farmers' market building for Council to review. He advised the contractor discovered the roof was not in as bad of shape as previously thought so there was a savings of \$9,000 on the project. 25797

The latest monthly financials had been placed at each member's desk.

He provided Council with the Heart of Appalachia's latest Visitor Guide. He advised the Tourism Committee worked with Wise County and placed a joint ad in the guide.

There were no comments from the City Attorney. 25798

In comments from Council:

Councilman Caruso thanked Council and citizens for contacting the state government and communicating their opposition with the recent revocation of reciprocity of concealed carry permits issued by other states. The recent executive order has been canceled.

Information provided in Council's packet indicated out of 15 localities Norton is the third highest with children in poverty. This statistic is concerning and goes back to our need to focus on economic development.

Councilman Caruso advised Delegate William Moorefield of Tazewell County presented a bill to the House of Representatives that will change the state code concerning ATV's, and this bill, if passed, will affect the City's potential ATV ordinance. He has contacted Mr. Moorefield's office to schedule a phone call to discuss his bill to get clarification on certain issues.

Councilman Caruso asked if the economic workshop will be part of the Capital Improvement Project meeting.

Mayor Mays advised it would be part of the CIP meeting due to the timeframe

Councilman Caruso advised Mr. Ramey had the Board Appointment Letter for citizens appointed to boards completed and he would like for Council to make a decision at their next meeting. 25799

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Norton Rescue Squad and the City expires in one year. He believes the MOU needs to be modified and with Councils' consensus he would like to work with Mr. Ramey and the Rescue Squad Board to update.

It was the consensus of Council for Councilman Caruso, Mr. Ramey and the Rescue Squad Board to modify the current MOU.

Council needs to continue discussion of the ATV ordinance after he resolves the questions with Delegate Moorefield's proposed ATV bill.

The City's retail sales have fallen \$50 million from its peak in 2008. He would like to see the City back to the 2008 numbers. He would like to address this at the workshop.

During the budget process he would like for Council to consider a 10 percent decrease in discretionary funding along with a 10 percent decrease in all departments.

The Town of Wise is following the City and will be allowing the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to stock their reservoir.

He asked what is the status regarding the potential horse park.

Mr. Ramey advised the City is evaluating their part of the potential project as requested. Neil Walker was supposed to supply his office with some information and he has not heard from Mr. Walker.

Councilman Caruso asked Council if they could direct Mr. Ramey to contact Mr. Walker to get this potential project moving forward.

Councilman Fultz asked to clarify the June 5th meeting date on the Tentative Budget Calendar.

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Mr. Ramey advised the correct date is Tuesday, June 7th not Sunday, June 5th as indicated in their packet.

Councilwoman Belcher thanked City employees, the Police Department, and the Rescue Squad for their work during the recent winter event.

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Councilman Fawbush had no comments.

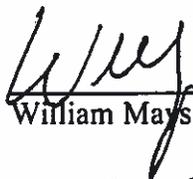
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Mayor Mays echoed Councilwoman Belcher's comments.

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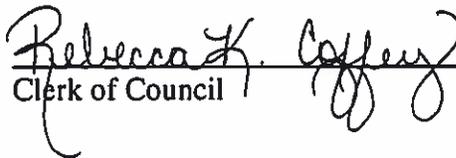
There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council