

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, December 5, 2017, 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 Delores Belcher

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Freddie Powers and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, ABSTAIN – Fultz, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the November 21, 2017, meeting as presented. 262521

There was no response to the Mayor's Call for Visitors. 262522

Mr. Ramey said the city assisted in the organization and planning of the Cloudsplitter 100 Ultra Trail Race held October 7th in Norton and on High Knob. He said the race was a 40 hour event and brought over 140 runners from 23 states and Canada to Norton. Mr. Ramey said he received positive feedback from the participants and an After Action Review with city staff and volunteers will assist the city in providing a better experience for runners next year. Mr. Ramey said he invited race organizer Susan Howell to provide an update on the race from her perspective.

Ms. Howell told Council that she could not have asked for anything more from the city and volunteers. The participants in the Cloudsplitter 100 thought High Knob was a tougher course than Pine Mountain, where the race was previously held. The runners talked about the warm welcome they received from the city, hotels, restaurants, and the people in this area. Ms. Howell said she and her husband Steve learned from this year's race that they will need to find a building in Norton to store the equipment and supplies for next year's race. She said the volume of supplies needed for the race is too much to bring from their home in Louisville, Kentucky. She noted a few other items that she will work on to make the race better in 2018 and said registration for next year's race, which will be held on October 13-14, 2018, will open December 1, 2017. Ms. Howell said the Cloudsplitter 100 is considered the second most difficult race in the eastern United States and 10th most difficult in the country. She pointed out that runners seek out different ultra trail races to accumulate points and finishing the Cloudsplitter 100 Ultra Trail Race on High Knob has almost as much altitude gain as climbing Mount Everest. Ms. Howell also noted that the Cloudsplitter 100 Ultra Trail Race is also the U. S. Track and Field (USTF) Championship for Virginia which means the winner of the Cloudsplitter 100 is the state champion as long as he or she is a registered member of USTF. She told Council she was very appreciative of everything the city did to ensure a successful event. 262523

Mayor Mays thanked Ms. Howell for her presentation.

Mr. Ramey said Mr. Travis Staton, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of United Way of Southwest Virginia (UWSV), was in attendance and he would like to provide an update on their IGNITE program that was implemented in the area.

Mr. Staton said United Way of Southwest Virginia received an anonymous gift two years ago with the instruction to implement any new program that was needed. Mr. Staton said after researching, it was determined a gap existed between learning and working. He said the IGNITE program bridges this gap by connecting students with employers and employees. Mr. Staton said the IGNITE program was originally piloted serving 1,000 students in three schools, Chilhowie Middle School, John I. Burton High School, and E. B. Stanley Middle School, but now the program is connecting over 29,000 students, 86 schools, and 78 employers. Mr. Staton went on to explain various programs available in the IGNITE program and said UWSV is investing another \$20,000 in the Norton Elementary and Middle School's (NEMS) Pre-K program.

After a brief discussion with council regarding the benefits of the IGNITE program and UWSV, Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Staton for his presentation.

Mr. Ramey introduced Ms. Lil Dupree, Executive Director of the Appalachian Community Action & Development Agency, Inc., (AppCAA), formally known as Rural Areas Development Association (RADA). Mr. Ramey said he had spoken with Ms. Dupree about the city's upcoming board appointment and he invited her to the meeting so she could provide an update on AppCAA.

Ms. Dupree gave council a quick overview of AppCAA and said the agency's primary goal is to combat poverty. AppCAA provides various programs to assist low-to-moderate income people in the region and the agency has currently spent \$10,004 in the City of Norton. She said the agency will shortly become a United States Department of Agriculture Rural Housing Loan participant and provide community assessment reports for localities. She advised that council appoints two representatives to the AppCAA board and that one appointment will be needed to fill the position of Bobby Cassell, who is resigning. Ms. Dupree told members she will make an annual report to Council on the agency's results in the region to combat poverty in the area.

After a brief discussion with Council, Mayor Mays thanked Ms. Dupree for the information and report on AppCAA.

Council was presented a Resolution to Name the Scott County Economic Development Authority (EDA) as the Organization to Succeed the Duffield Development Authority (DDA) that was comprised of Lee, Wise, and Scott Counties, and the City of Norton.

Mr. Ramey said the resolution was presented at the December 5, 2017 meeting and the purpose of the document is to formally authorize the Scott County Economic Development Authority as the successor organization to oversee the Duffield Industrial Park.

Mr. Bradshaw added that all the parcels in the DDA's industrial park have been developed and this resolution will allow Scott County Economic Development Authority to handle any land disputes that may arise from non-compliance with the protective land covenants that were created by the DDA.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwomen Belcher, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt the Resolution to Name the

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Scott County Economic Development Authority to supersede the Duffield Development Authority which was dissolved in the early 1980's. (Insert)

In their packets, Council had one transfer to confirm. The transfer was to Norton City Schools, dated October 30, 2017, in the amount of \$150,000.00, to cover October 2017 payroll expenditures.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Belcher, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to confirm the transfer to Norton City Schools stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous 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, as amended.

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Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

The city attorney left at this time.

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

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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.

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

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Cumberland Airport Commission for a four-year term to expire on October 31, 2021.

Councilman Fawbush nominated Christopher Starnes to be reappointed to the Cumberland Airport Commission for a four-year term to expire on October 31, 2021.

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

Mayor Mays declared Christopher Starnes reappointed to the Cumberland Airport Commission for a four-year term to expire on October 31, 2021.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Appalachian Juvenile Commission for a two-year term to expire on November 30, 2019.

Councilwoman Belcher nominated James Lane to be reappointed to the Appalachian Juvenile Commission for a two-year term to expire on November 30, 2019.

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

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Mayor Mays declared James Lane reappointed to the Appalachian Juvenile Commission for a two-year term to expire on November 30, 2019.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Appalachian Community Action Agency to fill the unexpired term of Bobby Cassell, who will resign December 31, 2017.

Councilman Caruso nominated Delores Belcher to be appointed to the Appalachian Community Action Agency to fill the unexpired term of Bobby Cassell whose term will expire on April 1, 2022.

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Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, ABSTAIN – Belcher, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Mays declared Delores Belcher appointed to the Appalachian Community Action Agency to fill the unexpired term of Bobby Cassell which will expire on April 1, 2022.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Community Services Board for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Councilman Caruso nominated Delores Belcher to be reappointed to the Community Services Board for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – None, ABSTAIN – Belcher, Council moved that the nominations cease.

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Mayor Mays declared Delores Belcher reappointed to the Community Services Board for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2021.

Councilwoman Belcher nominated Carlos Noaks to be reappointed to the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2021.

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

Mayor Mays declared Carlos Noaks reappointed to the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2021.

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

The FY 2017 audit is completed and Thrower, Blanton, and Associates will present the audit at the December 19, 2017 meeting.

The 2018 Regional Legislative Reception is scheduled January 25, 2018 in Richmond. If council plans to attend, please notify city administration as soon as possible so arrangements can be made for the reception.

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Mr. Ramey placed at each member's desk the November traffic counts for High Knob.

He said the Lonesome Pine Regional Library will hold a Community Christmas Event at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 12, 2017, at the library in Wise.

In comments from Council:

Councilwoman Belcher said she attended a combined Southwest Virginia Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEO) and Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board (SWVAWDB) meeting and members were presented information about the Community in Schools Program. She said the program provides a coordinator in the school system that works solely with at-risk drop-out students. Councilwoman Belcher said the program is currently in operation at the Bristol and Tazewell school systems. She stated she will be contacting U.S. Representative Morgan Griffith regarding this program and to request funds for the expansion of the program into our area.

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Councilman Fultz was pleased to hear the positive feedback on the Cloudsplitter 100 Ultra Trail Race.

He also wanted to commend city staff, Police Chief Lane, the city's Public Works Department, Marty Hagy, and others for organizing a great Christmas parade. The event was well attended and good for the community.

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Councilman Caruso applauded city staff and the city's Public Works Department for the appearance and beauty of downtown.

He said he wanted to thank and congratulate Norton Rescue Squad, and especially Chief Operating Officer Todd Lagow, for doing a good job.

Councilman Caruso said several people have asked him for a map that included the entire trail system in the region.

Mr. Ramey said this issue should be resolved with the completion of the High Knob Master Plan by combining all the databases for Scott County, the U.S. Forest Service, the city, and other localities.

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Councilman Caruso said David Hill visited him today and said he hopes to sign on and prepare the High Knob Master Plan.

Mr. Ramey said Mr. Hill attended a High Knob Master Plan meeting today and presented his approach timeline to area representatives and he anticipates they will be under contract with Hill Studios by the end of the year.

Councilman Fawbush said the Coeburn-Norton-Wise Regional Wastewater Treatment Authority (CNW) presented the User Agreement and the city's cost will be comparable to last year with an annual savings of \$8. He said Executive Director Mark Hollyfield told the CNW board that the plant is going into its fifth year and warranties are expiring so surpluses will not be as much in the future.

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He participated in an interview for an Assistant Superintendent at the Southwest Regional Jail Authority and the selected applicant will be announced shortly.

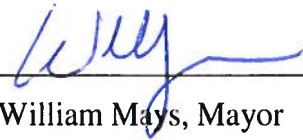
Councilman Fawbush said LENOWISCO has awarded a great number of grants to assist localities this year and he commended Executive Director Duane Miller for the work he is doing at LENOWISCO.

Mayor Mays had no 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