

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, April 17, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, William Mays, Joseph Fawbush, and Delores Belcher

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

Absent: Robert Fultz, Jr.

At this time, Mayor Mays asked for a moment of silence in memory of former council member Joseph "Huck" Hunnicutt, who passed away unexpectedly this week.

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

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following vote, YES – Mays, Fawbush, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – Fultz, ABSTAIN – Caruso, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the April 3, 2018, meeting as presented. 262683

There was no response to the Mayor's Call for Visitors. 262684

The City Manager said Benefit Program Supervisor Sherry Baker at Norton Social Services has reached a milestone in her career with the city. She has decided to retire after 32 years of service to the community and will be leaving her position in a few weeks. Mr. Ramey said he asked Ms. Baker to attend tonight's meeting so she could be recognized for her service. 262685

On behalf of Council, Mayor Mays presented Ms. Baker with an award recognizing her 32 years of service to the citizens of Norton.

After the presentation, Ms. Baker received applause and she thanked everyone for the honor.

The next agenda item for council's consideration was the authorization of city administration to apply for a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant to fund a school resource officer's position at John I. Burton High School for another year. Mr. Ramey explained the COPS grant is awarded in one-year increments. He said city administration would like to apply for another year of funding before the deadline. He noted that a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Norton Police Department and Norton City Schools is required before city administration can apply for the grant. Mr. Ramey said he had been notified that school administration requested some language changes to the MOU and that the school superintendent had discussed the changes with Police Chief Lane and the city's Director of Finance Mr. Jeff Shupe. Mr. Ramey said city administration has not received an updated MOU from the school system to present to council. 262686

It was the consensus of council to table Item 7A, the Authorization to Apply for a School Resource Officer Grant, and Item 7B, the Consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding with Norton City Schools for a School Resource Officer until council and the city's attorney have time to review the updated MOU from Norton City Schools.

Included in council's packet was a notice that the Wise County Public Service Authority (PSA) was ready to take over direct billing of the Josephine sewer customers that are currently billed by the city.

Mr. Ramey said the city received a grant in 2008 to construct sewer lines in the Josephine community. At that time, since the city was already billing Josephine residents for water, the city and PSA negotiated an arrangement for the PSA to manage the sewer system and for the city to continue billing PSA's sewer customers. Under this arrangement the city has been transferring the money for the sewer billing to PSA. The city has been notified by the Wise County Public Service Authority's Executive Director Alan Harrison that PSA will be ready to begin billing the Josephine sewer customers beginning FY 2018-2019.

262687

Council had been presented with a copy of the Cooperative Agreement between the City of Norton Police Department and the Wise County Victim/Witness Assistance Program.

Mr. Ramey said the city attorney has recommended that agreements between the city and various agencies be presented to council each year for council's authorization for city staff to enter into understandings with other agencies.

262688

Chief Lane added the services the police department is currently providing for the Victim/Witness Assistance Program would be provided whether an agreement is in place or not.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to authorize the police chief to execute the Cooperative Agreement between the City of Norton Police Department and the Wise County Victim/Witness Assistance Program. (Insert)

Mr. Ramey said a copy of the Cooperative Agreement between the City of Norton Department of Social Services and the Wise County Victim/Witness Assistance Program was also in council's packets for consideration. He said the agreement is the same as the police department's and it is time to renew the agreement between the two agencies.

262689

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to authorize the director of social services to execute the Cooperative Agreement between the City of Norton Department of Social Services and the Wise County Victim/Witness Assistance Program. (Insert)

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.

262690

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.

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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.

262692

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

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for a four-year term to expire May 10, 2022.

Councilman Caruso nominated Ethel Daniels to be reappointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for a four-year term to expire May 10, 2022.

262693

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

Mayor Mays declared Ethel Daniels reappointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for a four-year term to expire May 10, 2022.

In comments from the City Manager:

City Administration is advertising for audit services through fiscal year 2020. If any member of council would like to serve on the review committee, please let staff know.

The city manager said he would like to schedule another work session prior to the school board presenting their budget on May 1st. Council was in consensus to meet on Saturday, April 28th.

262694

He placed at each member's desk a copy of the letter from Lonesome Pine Regional Library thanking Councilman Fawbush for his remarks at the library's 60th Anniversary celebration on April 8th and for the plaque council presented to the Wise branch.

The latest pamphlet of the Local Government Officials' Guide to the Virginia Freedom of Information has been provided to council for reference.

Mr. Bradshaw thanked council for allowing him to be a member of the Local Government Association. He said the organization provides valuable information such as the Freedom of Information Guide provided to members.

262695

Mr. Ramey provided council with the April Retail Sales Tax Report. He provided council members with copies of activities planned for the rest of April.

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There were no additional comments from the City Attorney.

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The following comments were made by council members:

Councilman Fawbush asked those present to keep the families of Norton Industrial Development Board Member Glenn Teasley and former Councilman Joseph "Huck" Hunnicutt in their thoughts and prayers.

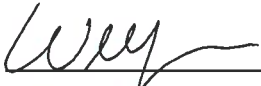
262698

Mayor Mays provided council members with a copy of John Ira Burton's last commencement address at John I. Burton High School.

262699

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council