

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Vice Mayor Joseph Fawbush presiding.

Present: Mark Caruso, Joseph Fawbush and Terry Roop

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt and William Mays

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

The invocation was given by Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Dr. Jeff Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the April 16, 2013 meeting as presented. 25785

Upon a motion by Councilman Roop, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the April 23, 2013 special called meeting as presented. 25786

There was no response to the Vice Mayor's call for visitors. 25787

Dr. Jeff Comer, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, presented Council with their 2013-2014 budget. He advised the budget for this year totals \$7,968,627 and includes a 2% raise for employees. 25788

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council. 25789

Dr. Comer advised the previous budget had a surplus of approximately \$209,000 of which \$91,982 will be needed to meet the additional required local effort in the next year's budget. The School Board will discuss the prior year's surplus at Monday night's meeting and will come back to Council to ask for the surplus because it has been a part of the school's operational budget the last two years and Council has not had to come up with new money.

After Dr. Comer's presentation, Vice Mayor Fawbush thanked Dr. Comer and stated that he wished some school board members were here but he was sure that Dr. Comer could answer any questions Council may have. He asked that Dr. Comer share with his board that Council would like to have them present at future budget presentations. 25790

Councilman Roop pointed out that basic school aid from state and federal sources had decreased again this year. In addition, funding from the City for operations has decreased from last year which he thought shows the schools has done well in management.

Councilman Caruso suggested that City Council and the School Board have quarterly meetings or at least a meeting in January so that issues and questions could be addressed earlier.

After several questions and comments from Council and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote

(Councilman Hunnicutt was absent during vote), Council moved to authorize the City Manager to advertise the 2013-2014 Norton City Schools budget. (Insert – Councilman Roop’s Disclosure Form)

Vice Mayor Fawbush once again stated to Dr. Comer to please advise your board that we expect them to be here during the budget presentation to field questions from Council. Dr. Comer stated he would pass along that request to the Board.

In Council’s packet was a request for an additional appropriation for Fiscal Year 2013 as pertains to the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA).

Dawn Gilbert, Chairperson of the Community Policy and Management Board and Roger Ramey, Director of Norton Social Services came forward and requested \$7,821.41 which is their best estimate for the remaining fiscal year, they advised Council that CSA is made up of several groups which pool their money to serve at-risk youth.

25791

After a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to advertise a public hearing to be held at the next meeting to amend the General Operating Fund budget to incorporate local money in the amount of \$7,821.41 and include the additional \$16,621 to be received from the state for a total amount of \$24,442.41.

The City Manager advised Council that he had recently received a request from Councilman Caruso to add an agenda item to an upcoming meeting to discuss hunting in the Conservation and Recreation Zone within the City. The Conservation and Recreation Zone includes areas on both sides of Route 619. Mr. Ramey had prepared a graphic for Council which indicated the Conservation and Recreation Zone. Councilman Caruso also requested an overlay on the map which indicated a 300’ clear zone in the area which, if approved, could restrict hunting in the zone.

25792

Councilman Caruso advised Council the purpose of the discussion was for Council to consider some sort of rules to manage the area as hiking, biking, riding horses and hunting do not mix. If Council is going to support tourism some sort of safety margin must be put in place.

After a discussion, Councilman Hunnicutt suggested the City Manager get a hunting pamphlet and it will show what hunting ordinances are in effect.

Vice Mayor Fawbush said Council will take this discussion under consideration.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

25793

Vice Mayor Fawbush declared Council in closed meeting.

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

Vice Mayor Fawbush declared Council back in open meeting.

25794

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

25795

Vice Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for appointments to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for a four year term which will expire on May 10, 2017.

Councilman Hunnicutt nominated Charles Graham and Glenn Teasley to be reappointed to this Authority.

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

Vice Mayor Fawbush declared Charles Graham and Glenn Teasley reappointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for four year terms which will expire on May 10, 2017.

25796

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

The City Manger handed out a revised budget which reflects the vehicle decal license fee changed from \$15 to \$20 and this increase has been moved over to contingency.

The City Attorney had researched the possibility for Council to enact a Vehicle Decal License that included a dual rate, one for Owners of Real Estate and another for Non Owners of Real Estate and concluded basically that it was unconstitutional according to Virginia law.

25797

Mr. Ramey will be working on a draft ordinance of the Vehicle Decal License for City Council to review at the next meeting.

The City will be holding the Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, May 18th, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Magic Mart Parking Lot.

The VDH Phase I Water Improvement Project will be advertised for bids beginning this Sunday, May 12, 2013.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

25798

In comments from Council:

Councilman Caruso proposed budget reductions in an email sent to each Council Member. He asked that Council consider the request before the next meeting.

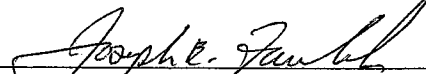
Councilman Roop advised he had been looking at the requests and would like the City Manager's opinion on the reductions as well. He further stated he would like to thank Charlie Graham and Glenn Teasley for their service on the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

25799


Vice Mayor Fawbush advised Mayor Mays could not be in attendance tonight due to some medical tests and he requested Council to continue to keep Mayor Mays in their thoughts and prayers.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


Joseph Fawbush, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:


Acting Clerk