

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: William Mays

Also Present: E. W. Ward, 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 Police Chief Randy Mullins.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, the minutes of the February 5, 2008 meeting were approved as presented.

21834

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Robert Isaac of the Pro-Art Association, spoke briefly to Council regarding the City's annual contribution of \$5,000, which is matched by the Virginia Commission for the Arts under the Local Government Challenge Grant dollar for dollar up to \$5,000.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a \$5,000 appropriation to the Pro-Art Association which will be matched by the Virginia Commission for the Arts under the Local Government Challenge Grant dollar for dollar up to \$5,000.

21835

A public hearing was held on an amendment to the 2007-2008 budget of the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$160,896 of which \$78,772 is for encumbrances, \$14,032 is for E-Rate Funds, \$67,145 is for School Construction Funds, and \$946 is for a Gear-Up Grant. Present representing the School Board was Ron McCall, Chairman and Steve McElroy, School Board Member.

There were no questions or comments from Council prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

There being no public comments, Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

Mr. McCall answered questions from Council.

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt abstained from voting on this item.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Wallace, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Mays, ABSTAIN – Hunnicutt, Council moved to approve an amendment to the 2007-2008 budget of the Norton City schools in the amount of \$160,896 of which \$78,772 is for encumbrances, \$14,032 for E-Rate Funds, \$67,145 for School Construction Funds, and \$946 for a Gear-Up Grant. The amount of \$78,772 covering encumbrances will come from Unappropriated Reserves. The remaining amounts are from grants.

21836

Mr. McCall advised Council that the School Board will be at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting to bring information back on the stadium project and again in April to present their budget. He then gave a brief update on the Locker Room Project at J. I. Burton High School.

Mayor Raines expressed appreciation to both Mr. McCall and Mr. McElroy for their work on the School Board.

A public hearing was held to solicit public input on local Community Development and Housing Needs in relation to Community Development Block Grant Funding for a project in the community.

Mr. Ward advised that this is the first of two required public hearings. He then discussed with Council past projects which have been funded by Community Development Block Grants.

There were no questions or comments from Council prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

There being no public comments, Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Ward advised the second public hearing will be held at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and at that time, the Administration will have a project to present to Council. The deadline for submitting an application is March 25<sup>th</sup>.

21837

The City Manager advised that City Council had instructed him to include funds in the 2006-2007 budget in the amount of \$15,000 to conduct a study of the City Shop facility. This study included an assessment of the existing facility and incorporates a recommendation to upgrade the facility.

Present tonight from The Lane Group is Bobby Lane and Mike Phipps who gave Council a preliminary architectural report.

Mr. Lane gave handouts to Council as Mr. Phipps conducted a slide show presentation on the existing facility. He stated that one of the main problems with the current facility is the creek that runs under a portion of it. To eliminate this problem, they propose to move the shop closer to the area where the salt shed is located and then relocate the salt shed. Also during their presentation, they advised that the current shop building be completely demolished and a new building erected. During the course of his presentation, Mr. Phipps advised that a smaller building would give more work space than the City is now utilizing in the shop, due to there being several areas that cannot be used for various reasons.

Mr. Phipps went over the cost estimates with Council and had a total project cost of \$1,413,884.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Phipps then answered questions from Council members.

Mayor Raines thanked both Mr. Lane and Mr. Phipps for their presentation tonight and advised that Council would look at this project during their upcoming Capital Improvement Meeting.

21838

Council had been presented a copy of a check in the amount of \$164,231.35 made payable to W-L Construction & Paving.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$164,231.35 made payable to W-L Construction & Paving. 21839

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss the disposition of publicly held real property as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. 21840

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting. 21841  
Mayor Raines 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 Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Mays, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert) 21842

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

Council members should be in receipt of an invitation to a reception being held on February 20, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. at the library honoring the Norton City Council and the Wise County Board of Supervisors. 21843

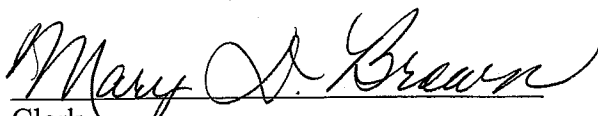
There will be some budget reductions from the state that will affect the City. It is looking like nothing will be spared – including education K-12.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk