

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 in the Municipal Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

Mayor Raines welcomed all those in attendance at tonight's meeting.

The invocation was given by Rev. Ken Taylor and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by the Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, Dr. Lee Brannon.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the May 6, 2008 meeting as presented.

21913

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

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A public hearing was held on amending of the 2007-2008 budget of the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$156,079 which represents additional state revenues as a result of increased student enrollment.

Dr. Lee Brannon, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, advised Council that these funds represent an increase in student enrollment from 740 students to 779.62 students. Dr. Brannon answered questions from Council members.

Mayor Raines advised that this public hearing had been duly advertised and opened the public hearing.

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

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

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, City Council moved to amend the 2007-2008 budget of the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$156,079 which represents additional state revenues as a result of increased student enrollment.

Included in Council's packets was a copy of the 2008-2009 budget of the Norton City Schools.

Mayor Raines advised that the School Board has held a public hearing and has adopted their budget. The City Council held their public hearing on the Norton City Schools' budget at the last meeting and action can be taken tonight.

21916

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt the 2008-2009 budget of the Norton City Schools. This budget has a total operational budget of \$7,648,742 of which \$1,922,278 is from local funds. The Capital Budget is \$7,568,301 of which \$7,500,000 is for the Norton Elementary School Project. The Textbook Fund is \$55,742 and the total of the History Grant Program is \$331,000.

The City Manager presented Council with an update on the proposed 2008-2009 City of Norton Municipal Budget.

Mr. Ward advised that the budget process hinged on the Board of Equalization completing their work following the recent reassessment. This work was completed recently and we are now in a position to start the process of advertising for a public hearing to reference the reassessment. The City needs to advertise the public hearing for the proposed real property tax increase per the Code of Virginia. The City is not increasing the rates; however the reassessment is such that it is going to require the City to advertise in the manner to which he explained to Council. There will need to be two special called council meetings held. One special called meeting will be held on June 16<sup>th</sup> and a public hearing will be held on the property tax general reassessment increase. Council's regularly scheduled meeting will be held on June 17<sup>th</sup> and a public hearing on the City's budget will be held then. The second special called meeting will be held on June 24<sup>th</sup> for the adoption of the City's budget.

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Mr. Ward then explained to Council that the computation of the percentage of increase in the 2008 assessment is 7.98%. In order to maintain the current tax rate of \$ .80 per one hundred dollars of value, there will be an increase of 5.2 cents in the real estate tax rate. He then advised Council he would answer any questions.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to proceed to advertise for the 2008-2009 City of Norton Municipal Budget.

Present tonight and speaking with Council on the Establishment of a Southwest Regional Recreation Authority was Mr. Jack McClanahan, who is serving as the Temporary Chairman of the Southwest Virginia Regional Multi-Use Trail Committee or the Southwest Virginia Regional Recreation Authority. This entity is being formed to establish trails in southwest Virginia in the Lenowisco and Cumberland Planning Districts. These trails will be established on private property. He then discussed with Council the success this venture had in West Virginia with the Hatfield-McCoy Trail Authority. This group is working with the Southwest Virginia Regional Recreation Authority.

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After discussing the intent of this organization, Mr. McClanahan asked Council to proceed with a letter of support for this organization, funding, and the appointment of a member to this Authority.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to prepare a letter of support. Mayor Raines advised Mr. McClanahan that Council was in the midst of the budget adoption process and would consider funding at that time. An appointment to this Authority will be considered in the near future.

Mr. McClanahan thanked Council for their consideration of these requests.

Council had a request for one water tap in the county for Crystal McNew of 5166 Spotswood Road. Council was advised that water was available and that the McNews would have to install approximately 1,000 feet of line.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve one water tap

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for Crystal McNew of 5166 Spotswood Road . The approval for this tap will expire in one year.

Council had been presented A Proclamation Designating Emergency Medical Services Week in the City of Norton for the period of May 18 – 24<sup>th</sup>.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Proclamation Designating the Week of May 18 – 24 as Emergency Medical Services Week in the City. (Insert)

21920

In their packets, Council had been presented with A Resolution of the Norton City Council Approval of Submission of Virginia Tobacco Commission Application.

Mr. Ward advised that he wished to apply for \$500,000 funding from this Commission to fund the Water Tank Project for the Norton-Big Stone Gap Interconnect Project. In order to do so, this resolution must be adopted.

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Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Norton City Council Approval of Submission of Virginia Tobacco Commission Application. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, 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 and the disposition of publicly held real property per Section 2.2.-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia as amended.

21922

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting.

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Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk then 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 William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO - None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

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Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Community Service Board for a two year term which will expire on May 1, 2010.

William Mays nominated Sarah Davis to be reappointed to this Board.

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Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared Sarah Davis reappointed to the Community Service Board for a two year term which will expire on May 1, 2010.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations of an independent auditor. Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to enter into contract negotiations with Thrower Blanton and Associates as an independent auditor for the City.

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

The City is in receipt of a letter from the Department of Housing advising of the City's being awarded the one million dollars from the Southern Rivers Water Shed Enhancement Grant. These funds will be used to upgrade the Benges Branch Interceptor which runs from the Josephine Pump Station to the the Brownies Café area. The City is still hoping to receive a one million dollar grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development which will be used for the Josephine Sewer Project.

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The City will begin work on the exterior of City Hall in the next couple of weeks. This will cause some disruptions; however, it is hoped that they can be kept to a minimum.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

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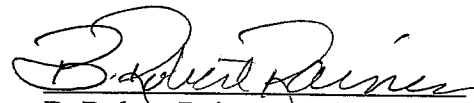
In comments from City Council, Mr. Fawbush extended appreciation to those responsible for the work done on the Norton Municipal Access Channel and the City's website, nortonva.org. He stated he had heard a lot of positive comments on this.

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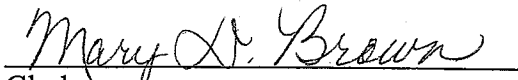
Mr. Ward advised that Mr. Ramey was responsible for the work done on both of these.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk