

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 17, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers 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

The invocation was given by Father Tim Drake.

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

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The pledge of allegiance was led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2004 meeting as presented.

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During the Mayor's call for visitors, Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of Norton City Schools, spoke briefly to Council regarding the dangerous situation that took place at the Norton Elementary School parking lot on March 2nd. Two parents got into an altercation and one parent pulled out a gun, which discharged during the scuffle. No one was injured. He verbally recognized Sheriff Carlos Noaks, Deputy Sheriffs Donna Hutchinson and Tim Boardwine, members of the Norton Rescue Squad, and members of the Norton Fire Department. He also presented letters of appreciation and commendation to Police Chief Sam Mongle, who, in turn, presented commendation letters to Lt. Dennis Brummette and Officers Joe Baird and Roger Cooke. Also to receive a letter of commendation was Sgt. Randy Mullins, who was not in attendance at tonight's meeting.

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Police Chief Sam Mongle stated that the handling of the situation was a joint effort between the schools and the Police Department in handling this situation.

Mayor Raines also expressed appreciation to all involved for their efforts.

Also during the Mayor's call for visitors, Fred Ramey, Assistant City Manger and one of Council's representatives on the UVA-Wise's 50th Anniversary Coordinating Council, spoke briefly to Council and presented each of them with a 50th anniversary lapel pin as a token of their appreciation of City Council's continued commitment and support of UVA-Wise.

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A public hearing was held on consideration of an amendment to the 2003-2004 budget of the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$80,085.

The City Manager advised that Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of Norton City Schools, was present and would give Council an update on this request. Dr. Sessoms advised that these funds cover technology and technology items.

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There being no questions or comments from Council prior to the public hearing, Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the 2003-2004 budget of the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$80,085.

A public hearing was held to solicit public input on the City's intention to file an application with Rural Development for funding for the Storm Drainage Project.

Mr. Ward advised that Mr. Jeff Cochran of Lane Engineering was present to give Council a brief overview of this project.

Mr. Cochran advised Council that the City is seeking 2.6 million dollars to combat storm drainage problems in three areas. These areas are 7th Street, Chestnut Street, and 10th Street. He advised that the main trunk line will hold a 25 year event and the smaller lines will hold a 10 year event. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2005 and will run for one year. Also, they have scheduled public meetings in order that residents may attend and see how the project is progressing.

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

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Cochran for his presentation.

Council had been presented in their packets an update on the Norton Commons Shopping Center Project. He advised that as of last Tuesday, March 9, 2004, the closing had been done on approximately 90 acres of property. This land is now in the hands of the Commonwealth Company or NIDA.

Present tonight representing Commonwealth Company was Mr. Tim Scoggin and Mr. Guy Scoggin. Mr. Tim Scoggin spoke briefly to Council and thanked them for five years of hard work on this project. He advised that a tremendous amount of time was spent on this and every challenge was met. He showed Council a couple of slides which showed an architect's drawing of the Wal-Mart building. Dirt should start to being moved within the next few days as infrastructure improvements have to be made. This shopping center should be a regional center and he thanked Council for allowing them to work with us. He further stated that he hoped this was just the beginning or Phase 1 of this project. Depending on weather, the shopping center should be open in approximately one year.

Mr. Scoggin advised that he would be willing to answer any questions from Council.

Mayor Raines advised that he agreed with Mr. Scoggin and expressed his appreciation to Mr. Ward, City Council, the City Attorney, and especially to Mr. Ramey. He further thanked Mr. Scoggin for his confidence in the City.

Council was presented with an update on the Water Line Replacement Project, which is essentially completed. Mr. Ward advised this was a \$1,450,000 project. Funds were obtained in a \$1,000,000 loan and a \$450,000 grant to replace more than 20,000 linear feet of main water lines.

Present to give Council this update was Mr. Bobby Lane of Lane Engineering. Mr. Lane advised that this project was originally scheduled to cover the West Main Avenue

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area, Kentucky Avenue area, Park Avenue area, and the Route 74 area. With some areas running under budget, additional areas were able to have some lines replaced. Therefore, there was a total of approximately 26,000 linear feet of water lines replaced. From all areas, it seems that this project has been a successful one.

Mr. Lane advised that the Public Works Department had advised of another area that needs line replacement in the Dorchester area. He advised Council that he would like to submit an application to the Virginia Department of Health for a \$50,000 Small Projects Grant for the Frog Level Water Line Replacement Project. The deadline for this project is early April. Mayor Raines advised that this item would be put on our April 6th agenda.

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Mr. Lane advised that he would be willing to answer any questions Council may have. Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Lane for this update.

Council had in their packets an amendment to the water contract with the Wise County Public Service Authority. This amendment stipulates that the PSA can purchase an additional 30,000 gallons of water per month and that they can service customers in the Central Drive-In Area of Blackwood. They also agree to construct a new 6 inch main supply to receive any water to be sold outside the Blackwood Industrial Park. All other provisions of the original contract will remain the same.

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Mr. Ward advised that the City Attorney had prepared this contract amendment.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt the Amendment to the Water Purchase Contract with the Wise County Public Service Authority as prepared by the City Attorney. This amendment stipulates that the Authority can purchase an additional 30,000 gallons of water per month and modifies the restriction for them to be able to serve customers outside of the Blackwood Industrial Park, namely in the Central Drive-In Area.

Council had been given an application for a sewer tap for Linda Isaacs of 7916 Hunter Road.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve one sewer tap for Linda Isaacs of 7916 Hunter Road.

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In his comments, Mr. Ward advised that:

The City's annual Capital Improvement Meeting will be held Friday, March 19th, at noon on the 6th Floor of the Hotel Norton.

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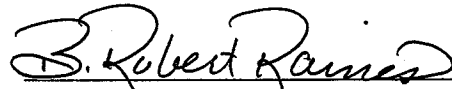
He further advised that a state budget has not been approved by the General Assembly. If this is not done, it is going to cause problems for the both the City and the School Board in preparing our individual budgets.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he has filed a petition with the Circuit Court for the appointment of the City's members to the Board of Equalization. As soon as the oaths and bond are taken care of, the Board will be in place.

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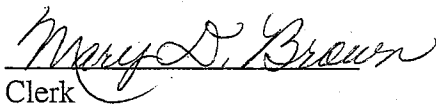
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk