

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

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

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by Assistant City Manager Fred Ramey.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the January 20, 2003 meeting as presented.

20399

During the audience for visitors, Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, spoke briefly to Council commending the Norton City Public Works Employees for the wonderful job they had done in keeping the roads and school parking lots in good condition during the recent snows.

20400

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

Mr. Ward advised that this public hearing needed to be advertised at least seven days prior to the public hearing. Instead of being published on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, it was published on Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. He suggested to Council that this item be tabled until the February 18<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

20401

Council had been presented with A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Authorizing the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority to Form a Consortium and/or Partnership with Norfolk, Newport News, and Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authorities to Perform Project-Based Section 8 Inspections Throughout the State of Virginia.

Mr. John Black, Executive Director of the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority, was present and discussed this resolution with Council. All four entities are seeking approval to submit to the State a proposal for conducting Section 8 inspections throughout the Commonwealth. The Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority would be responsible for the inspections from Roanoke on throughout southwest Virginia.

20402

In order to submit this proposal, Mr. Black needs a resolution adopted by his Authority and also from the governing body, which is Norton City Council.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Re-

solution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Authorizing the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority to Form a Consortium and/or Partnership with Norfolk, Newport News, and Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authorities to Perform Project-Based Section 8 Inspections Throughout the State of Virginia. (Insert)

Mr. Bobby Lane of Lane Engineering was present and gave Council an update on the Water Line Replacement Project. Mr. Lane presented Council with a handout of his report, which states that the project is 47% completed on water lines and 41% complete overall, with 34% of the budget having been expended at this time. The expected completion date of this phase of the project is May of this year. He further advised that the East Park Avenue and Virginia Avenue portion of this project is near completion as to the water lines and should be finished in a few days. The West Main Avenue area is also nearing completion. Kentucky Avenue has not been started at this time.

Mr. Lane advised that the plans were finished on the Big Cherry Dam-City of Norton Interconnect Project and that they were working through permits with various agencies and that they hope to advertise this project in the spring or early summer.

Following a brief discussion during which Mr. Lane answered questions from Council, Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Lane and his staff for their work on this project.

Council had a request for a sewer tap for Environmental Monitoring, Incorporated, 5730 Industrial Park Drive, which is located in the county industrial park.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve a sewer tap for Environmental Monitoring, Incorporated.

Mr. Ward presented Council with an update on several issues. These issues were; the Cable Franchise Renewal, the Proposed Housing Project, the New Comprehensive Plan, and the new gymnasium and improvements at Norton Elementary School.

The Cable Franchise Renewal has been delayed due to the bankruptcy of Adelphia. Last month, the local managers met with representatives of Adelphia and Dave Harris, our coordinator on this franchise agreement and they were advised that the bankruptcy proceedings are 1-1/2 years in the future. The local committee has received a draft franchise agreement to review and this will be brought to the various councils in approximately 60 days.

The proposed housing project is moving forward. The City will be submitting an application for funding from the Department of Housing and Community Development. This application will be brought to Council for approval.

The new Comprehensive Plan is in the final draft form. The Planning Commission is going to review it again and then advertise a public hearing in March for adoption. This will come to City Council in April.

Proposals have been received by Dr. Sessoms on the new gymnasium and improvements at the elementary school. The committee will soon be evaluating these proposals.

Council had authorized a study for a new public safety facility for fire, rescue, and police. This study is now underway. The City should receive a report within 45-60 days and this report will be brought to Council for review and evaluation.

Council had a request for approval of a check in the amount of \$115,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$115,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

20406

Council had a request for approval of a check in the amount of \$145,639.85 made payable to R. S. Jones & Associates.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$145,639.85 made payable to R. S. Jones & Associates.

20407

Mayor Raines advised that no closed session would be held tonight.

20408

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the request for proposals for high speed wireless communications for the City and its residents has been completed and advertised and the deadline for proposals is February 19<sup>th</sup>.

20409

Mr. Ward advised that the annual CIP Meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 7, 2003 at the Holiday Inn.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

20410

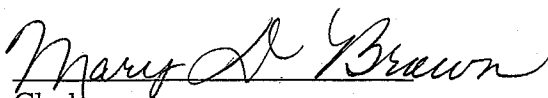
Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the meeting adjourn.

20411

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk