

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 17, 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

Absent: 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 Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the June 3, 2003 meeting as presented.

20520

At this time, Mayor Raines amended the agenda to include Item 8-H-2 – Consideration of a Water Tap Outside the City.

20521

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

20522

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Regulating the Discharge of Firearms Within the City and Providing Exceptions and Penalties for Violations.

Mr. Ward advised this ordinance had been discussed at the previous two meetings and will make it illegal to discharge a firearm within the City except for the four exceptions listed in the ordinance. Mr. Ward advised that the City Attorney has reviewed and concurred that the ordinance is in order for consideration by City Council. He further advised that violation of this ordinance would result as a Class 1 Misdemeanor.

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.

20523

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Regulating the Discharge of Firearms Within the City and Providing Exceptions and Penalties for Violations. (Insert) This ordinance will be take effect in thirty (30) days.

Council had been presented with An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2003 Thru June 30, 2004 Appropriating Funds for all Contemplated Expenses of the City for the Fiscal Year and Placing Levies Upon All Real Estate, Personal Property and Bank Stock, Licenses, Fees, User Charges, and All Other Levies as Previously Imposed or Modified Herein

Mr. Ward advised that a public hearing was held at the last meeting. The budget includes a five cents per package tax on cigarettes sold in the City and a one percent increase in the Meals Tax. Adjustments, per Council's instruction, had been made on several line items and a 2.5% cost of living raise is included for all full time employees. Fund totals for this budget are: General Fund \$7,214, 688, Water/Sewer \$2,044,617, Social services \$924,065, and Norton City Schools \$5,609,180. Also included is a Storm Drainage Project in the amount of \$2,520,010.

20524

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for The City of Norton, Virginia for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2003 thru June 30, 2004 Appropriating Funds for all Contemplated Expenses of the City for the Fiscal Year and Placing Levies Upon All Real Estate, Personal Property and Bank Stock, Licenses, Fees, User Charges, and All Other Levies as Previously Imposed or Modified Herein. (Insert)

At this time, Mr. Ward spoke briefly on the storm drainage project. He advised that the engineering firm of Dewberry and Davis had been selected and the City Administration is in the process of proceeding to negotiate a contract. The anticipated start of construction is early 2004.

Included in Council's packets was A Resolution Prioritizing Projects in the Norton 2020 Transportation Plan.

Mr. Ward advised that Council at the last meeting had asked, at VDOT's request, that the Administration choose the top 3 projects out of the estimated 25 projects previously submitted to VDOT. He advised that this had been done in the form of a resolution and that the projects were grouped in three categories: Upgrade to Four Lane Status, New Signalization, and Other Priority Projects. He briefly discussed each of these with Council.

20525

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Prioritizing Projects in the Norton 2020 Transportation Plan. (Insert)

The City Manager presented to Council the 2003-2004 budget for the Norton Industrial Development Authority. Mr. Ward advised that, due to the Memorandum of Understanding between City Council and NIDA for the purpose of borrowing money for the Hotel Norton Project in 1994, the bank requires that City Council approve NIDA's budget annually.

20526

The amount of this budget is \$889,933. He advised the debt for the AT&T Relay Center is down from 1.5 million dollars to \$348,000 and the debt for the Hotel Norton Project is down to \$350,000 from \$850,000.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the Norton Industrial Development Authority's 2003-2004 budget as presented in the amount of \$889,933.

Council had a request from Robert Isaac for a sidewalk to be installed in front of his properties located at 819 and 825 Virginia Avenue. Mr. Ward advised that Mr. Isaac had agreed to pay two-thirds of the cost and the City will pay one-third of the cost.

Mr. Isaac was present and advised Council that he also needed curb and guttering at these locations. Also present and speaking to Council was Mr. Jeff Bays and Mrs. Barbara Collins, adjacent property owners to Mr. Isaac. They advised if this work is done on Mr. Isaac's property, this will put more drainage over on their properties.

20527

Following a discussion, it was the consensus of Council to table this item and the City Administration was asked to do a study on this situation and bring it back to Council for consideration. The property owners involved should be invited back at that time.

Mr. Ward advised Council that there are several items that need to be adopted by Council as a preliminary to receiving the \$730,000 block grant funds for the Laurel Trails Sub-Division in Hawthorne. These items are the Local Business and Employment Plan, the Nondiscrimination Policy, Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, and the Certification to Further Fair Housing.

A meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held on June 30th with the granting agency and these items need to be adopted prior to this meeting.

20528

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the Local Business and Employment Plan. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the Nondiscrimination Policy. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the Certification to Further Fair Housing. (Insert)

Included in Council's packets was A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Adopting a Five Year Capital Improvements Program.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Adopting a Five Year Capital Improvements Program. (Insert)

20529

There was a request for a budget transfer in the City's 2002-2003 General Fund Budget to reflect additional revenues that have been received through the year. These funds total \$93,817.00 and are as follows: FEMA Disaster Reimbursement \$32,776, Additional 911-Wireless funds \$19,575, Department of Criminal Justice Services Block Grant-Overtime \$9,999, and Department of Emergency Management \$31,467.

20530

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the 2002-03 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$93,817.00.

There was a request for a budget transfer to the 2002-2003 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$55,000.

Mr. Ward advised these transfers from the various budget categories is needed to reflect the increase in tipping fees from Wise County that went into effect on July 1, 2002 and to offset the increased costs this past winter in the Snow Removal Account.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a budget transfer to the 2002-2003 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$55,000.

20531

Council had a copy of a check made payable to R.S. Jones & Associates in the amount of \$233,967.80.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$233,967.80 made payable to R. S. Jones & Associates.

20532

Council had a request from Freddy B. Huff, 4604 Thackers Branch for one water tap.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve one water tap for Freddy B. Huff, 4604 Thackers Branch.

20533

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, 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.

20534

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

20535

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

20536

At this time, Mayor Raines advised he would be abstaining from any discussion or voting on the appointment to the ARCHS Head Start Board and would turn the meeting over to Vice Mayor Mays.

20537

Vice Mayor Mays opened the floor for an appointment to the ARCHS Head Start Board for a three year term, which will expire on May 31, 2006.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Mrs. Donna Raines to be appointed to this Board.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSTAIN – Raines, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Vice Mayor Mays declared Mrs. Donna Raines appointed to the ARCHS Head Start Board for a three year term to expire on May 31, 2006.

At this time, Vice Mayor Mays turned the meeting back over to Mayor Raines.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Duffield Development Authority for a four year term which will expire on June 30, 2007.

William Mays nominated Fred Ramey to be reappointed to this Authority.

20538

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

Mayor Raines declared Fred Ramey reappointed to the Duffield Development Authority for a four year term which will expire on June 30, 2007.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Community Corrections Board for a two year term which will expire on June 30, 2005.

Jack Wallace nominated Sam Mongle to be reappointed to this Board.

20539

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

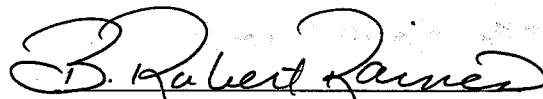
Mayor Raines declared Mr. Sam Mongle reappointed to the Community Corrections Board for a two year term which will expire on June 30, 2005.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that he will be out of town on vacation June 21st through June 28th.

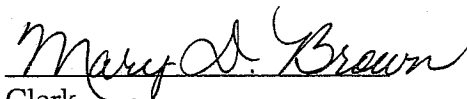
20540

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk