

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, May 6, 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

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Norton Police Chief Randy D. Mullins.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the April 15, 2008 meeting as presented.

21900

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

21901

A public hearing was held on the 2008-2009 Norton City Schools budget. The total of the operational budget is \$7,648,742 of which \$1,922,278 is from local funds. The total Capital Budget is \$7,568,301, which is broken down as \$7,500,000 for the Norton Elementary School Project and \$68,301 for the purchase of a school bus. The Textbook fund is \$55,742 and the total of the History Grant Program is \$331,000. Mayor Raines advised the budget was presented to Council at its last meeting and the public hearing has been duly advertised.

21902

There was no representation from the School Board at tonight's meeting.

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, Mayor Raines advised that action will be taken at the next Council meeting on the School Board's budget.

Council had tabled a request at the last meeting from the Freedom of Worship Church for a refund of real estate taxes paid in 2007 by the church for property located at 308 Coeburn Avenue. The request was tabled in order for the City Attorney to research and see if the amount paid of \$2,997.13 for 2007 real estate taxes could be refunded legally.

Mr. Bradshaw advised that he has researched this and finds that there is no way that Council can authorize a refund of these 2007 taxes.

21903

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to write a letter to the Church explaining why these taxes cannot be refunded.

The City Manager presented to Council an update on the City's proposed 2008-2009 Municipal Budget.

He advised that Council, at the work session following the last Council meeting, had advised him to reduce the proposed Cigarette Tax from 15 cents per pack to 10 cents per pack, reduce the Cost of Living Adjustment for City employees from 5% to 3-1/2%, add

the cost of one-half of a school bus which is approximately \$35,000, add in amounts to be distributed to RAM, the Advocate Center, Brain Injury Services, and the Food Bank, and discuss the discrepancy in the School Budget presentation with the Superintendent. With regard to the school bus, the City Manager felt that the entire cost of the bus, \$72,000, should be included in the proposed budget to avoid potential accounting issues.

He discussed with Council that, in order to accomplish the changes requested, which results in a net increase in expenditures, he has reduced and/or eliminated several items in the revised budget. These items are: Eliminate funding for the 11th Street Park in the amount of \$75,000, reduce equipment leases by \$10,000, reduce Contingency by \$5,000, and reduce the Employee Christmas Luncheon Account by \$1,500. He further advised that he had talked with the School Superintendent regarding the discrepancy in their presentation of the school operational request increased by \$13,033 when they had stated they were asking for level funding.

With the reductions Mr. Ward discussed tonight, the total proposed General Fund Budget totals \$9,369,059. This amount represents an increase of 2.3% over the previous year's budget.

Mr. Ward further advised that this proposed budget included no funding for several capital projects and discussed those with Council.

He then discussed with Council a Budget Adoption Schedule which includes two special called meetings in June. This schedule is contingent upon the Board of Equalization meetings which are scheduled for May 7th and 8th.

Mayor Raines asked the City Manager if the \$75,000 in the current budget for the new City Shop Project could be used to get a design done. Mr. Ward advised that it could.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to use the \$75,000 allocated in the current budget to be used for design work on the City Shop Project.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Ward for the adjustments made on the City's budget as Council requested during the work session.

Council had a request from LENOWISCO to adopt A Resolution Supporting and Approving Amendments and Changes to the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission Charter.

Mr. Ward advised this is mostly housekeeping changes and discussed them with Council.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Supporting and Approving Amendments and Changes to the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission Charter. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended and to discuss the disposition of publicly held real property per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

21904

21905

21906

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

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

21907

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)

21908

Mayor Raines opened the floor for two appointments to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for four year terms which will expire May 10, 2012.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Mr. William Sturgill and Mr. Byron Cantrell to be reappointed to this Authority.

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

21909

Mayor Raines declared Mr. William Sturgill and Mr. Byron Cantrell reappointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for four year terms, which will expire May 10, 2012.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for an appointment of a Citizen Representative and a Student Representative to the Youth Services Board for four year terms which will expire on May 2, 2012.

William Mays nominated Stephanie Cassell to be reappointed as the Citizen Representative and Alexander Rickman as the Student Representative to the Youth Services Board.

21910

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

Mayor Raines declared Stephanie Cassell reappointed as the Citizen Representative and Alexander Rickman appointed as the Student Representative to the Youth Services Board for four year terms, which will expire on May 2, 2012.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the City parks opened on May 1st. The Police Department will be assisting in the collection of fees and the enforcement of regulations for the Parks and Recreation Department.

21911

In comments from Council, Vice Mayor Mays advised that the City looks great and extended appreciation to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mayor Raines advised that the litter control pick-ups are working and making a difference.

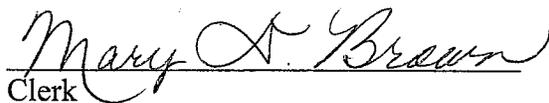
21912

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk