

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal 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 and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by Mark Caruso.

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, 2008 meeting as presented. 21947

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council. 21948

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the special called meeting of June 16, 2008 as presented. 21949

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 21950

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2008 Thru June 30, 2009 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.

Mayor Raines advised that Council had been working on this budget document since the Capital Improvement Meeting in February. At the special called meeting held on June 16th, Council had set the tax rate at \$.80 per \$100 of valuation effective July 1, 2008.

Mr. Ward presented Council with a brief synopsis of the budget stating the biggest highlight is that it is a workable budget. The tax rate remains at \$.80 per \$100 of valuation and the cigarette tax rate increases from five cents per pack to ten cents per pack. A 3-1/2% cost of living raise is included for City employees. 21951

According to State Code, action cannot be taken on this budget until seven days after the public hearing is held. Therefore, Council will hold another special called council meeting on June 24th to consider the adoption of this ordinance.

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.

There were no questions or comments from Council following the public hearing and Mayor Raines expressed appreciation to Mr. Ward, his staff, and department heads for the work they have done on this budget document.

Council had been presented with a copy of the budget for the Norton Industrial Development Authority (NIDA) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Mr. Ward advised that due to requirements contained in a Memorandum of Understanding from the Powell Valley National Bank, the City Council must approve NIDA's budget annually.

The budget totals \$967,923 and was approved by NIDA at their June 2nd meeting. A copy of the detailed budget is included in Council's packets.

There were no questions or comments from Council. Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the 2008-2009 budget of the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

In their packets, Council had a request to amend the 2007-2008 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$58,000 to cover increases in some items which had not been anticipated. These items are \$18,000 for increased legal services which covers expenses incurred for a bond issue, legal fees for on-going litigation, and costs to the City Attorney covering tax sales. The second item is an increase to Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance line items in all departments in the amount of \$40,000 due to increased fuel costs.

During a brief discussion, Mr. Ward advised that there was a close-out on the Rural Development Grant/Loan. As approved by Council, this money was deposited in the Enterprise Fund Account.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council approved a budget amendment request for the 2007-2008 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$58,000 to cover the two items listed above.

The City Manager advised Council that this fund may still end up with a negative balance at the end of the fiscal year due to the purchasing of water from the Wise County PSA during last year's drought situation. Mayor Raines asked that he bring back some figures to Council at the next meeting so that this can be discussed.

Council had been presented with a check in the amount of \$125,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

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 \$125,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, 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.

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush 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 Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, 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)

21957

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Mountain Empire Community College Advisory Board for a four year term which will expire on June 30, 2012.

William Mays nominated Robert Isaac to be reappointed to this Board.

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

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Mayor Raines declared Robert Isaac reappointed to the Mountain Empire Community College Advisory Board for a four year term which will expire on June 30, 2012.

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

Camping fees at the Flag Rock area for the period through June 8th versus last year is up by \$500.

The annual Virginia Municipal League Conference will be held October 19 through October 21 in Norfolk. Any member of Council wishing to attend should contact him in order that he can make room reservations.

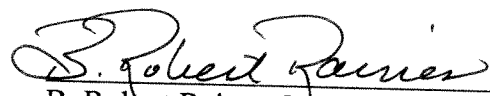
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In comments from Council, Mayor Raines inquired as to attendance at the pool. Mr. Ward advised that attendance appears to be up there also.

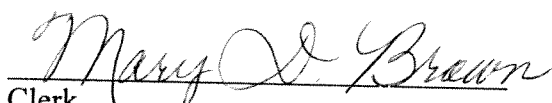
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There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk