

A special called meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 24, 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

The pledge of allegiance was led by Jon Rockett.

Mayor Raines requested that the agenda be amended under item 5-A Public Hearing to include consideration of purchases of supplies and equipment from the Police Department's Investigative Fund in the amount of \$12,530.62.

21961

On behalf of the City Council, Mayor Raines presented Jon Rockett with a plaque recognizing his 23 years of dedicated service to the Norton Board of Zoning Appeals and 22 years to the Norton Planning Commission. Mr. Rockett thanked City Council and said he was proud of his service and the City's accomplishments during this period.

21962

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

21963

A public hearing was held on an amendment to the 2007-2008 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$114,375 which represents interest expense on the Norton Elementary School/Gymnasium Project.

Mr. Ward advised that the interest expense was a result of the \$7.5 million school loan. The interest expense of \$114,375 will be offset by the \$121,946.89 in interest income and the budget will be amended on both the revenue and expenditure sides of the budget.

In addition, Mr. Ward explained the purpose of the Police Investigative Fund was to purchase needed supplies and equipment above and beyond those funds included in the budget, as those funds become available. During the current budget year, \$12,530.62 were used for these purposes.

At this time, Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

There being no public comment, Mayor Raines closed the public hearing

21964

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$114,375 for interest expense and \$12,530.62 for supplies and equipment for the Police Department.

Council had been presented with An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton 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 members had been working on the upcoming budget since February. A public hearing on the budget was held at the last meeting as required.

Mr. Ward explained that this ordinance would adopt the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 thru June 30, 2009 which includes over \$20 million for all of the various funds including General, Schools, Social Services and Water/Sewer. The advertised budget included all changes of rates and assessments including a real estate tax rate of \$.80 per \$100, a cigarette tax increase from \$.05 to \$.10 per pack, an increase of the In-City water rate from \$3.00 to \$3.50, an increase of the Out-of-Town water rate from \$6.00 to \$7.00, and an increase in the sewer transmission fee from \$.55 per 1,000 gallons to \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons. All other fees remained the same. Mr. Ward explained that he hoped that this budget would allow the City to continue to meet the service demands despite the reduced state funding and existing economic situation.

Councilman Fawbush noted he had reviewed the budget and said that \$5,384 per capita for the City Budget and \$7,180 per capita if including the schools budget will be expended and he complimented the City Administration for its work on the budget to keep the expenses low. He further noted it was his belief that the citizens receive services that far exceed what they spend for them.

21965

Upon a motion by Joe Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance Adopting The Budget for the City of Norton 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. (Insert)

Council had been presented with A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Adopting A Five Year Capital Improvements Program for the fiscal year of July 1, 2008 thru June 30, 2009.

Mayor Raines explained that the adopted budget includes \$811,401 for capital improvement projects.

21966

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joe Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Adopting A Five Year Capital Improvements Program for the fiscal year of July 1, 2008 thru June 30, 2009. (Insert)

Mr. Ward explained that the purpose of the proposed transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund was to keep the fund with a positive cash balance at year end. Failure to do this could result in an audit finding. The potential deficit budget balance was due primarily to the need to purchase additional water from the Wise County Public Service Authority as a result of the extreme dry conditions last year which resulted in purchasing \$382,000 of water with a budgeted amount of only \$95,000. Mr. Ward further noted that he was anticipating a \$50,000 reimbursement for a completed water project and if that is received by the City prior to June 30th the transfer would only need to be approximately \$50,000.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by a unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to transfer up to \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund with the understanding that the \$50,000 reimbursement expected will be deposited back in the General Fund. 21967

Mayor Raines discussed the option of cancellation of the July 1, 2008 meeting. Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by a unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to cancel the July 1, 2008 meeting. 21968

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. Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting. 21969

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, 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. 21970

The Acting Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the certification of closed meeting with each answering yes. The Acting 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) 21971

Mayor Raines opened the floor for an appointment to the Norton Planning Commission for a four year term which will expire June 30, 2012.

William Mays nominated Randy Stidham to be appointed to this Commission.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease. 21972

Mayor Raines declared Randy Stidham appointed to the Norton Planning Commission for a four year term which will expire June 30, 2012.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for a nomination to the Board of Zoning Appeals to fill the unexpired term of Jon Rockett whose term will expire June 2, 2010.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Larry Coeburn to fill this unexpired term.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease. 21973

Mayor Raines declared Larry Coeburn nominated to the Wise County Circuit Court to fill the unexpired term of Jon Rockett on the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term which will expire June 2, 2010.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for an appointment to the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority for a three year term.

Jack Wallace nominated Mark Caruso to be appointed to Southwest Regional Recreation Authority.

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

Mayor Raines declared Mark Caruso appointed to the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority for a three year term.

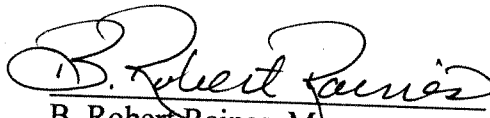
Mayor Raines opened the floor to Steve Childers who wanted to approach City Council. Mr. Childers was approaching City Council as President of the Norton Youth Football and Basketball Leagues. The purpose of Mr. Childers' visit was to request additional funding for the two leagues. Mayor Raines explained that the 2008-2009 Fiscal Budget was just adopted earlier in the meeting and that any additional funding request would have to be approved by Council from its unappropriated reserves. Mayor Raines suggested that Mr. Childers meet with the City Administration to document their need and this will be reported to Council at some point in the future.

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

He had recently been informed that Vice Mayor Mays has received the 2008 Excellence In EMS Award for the 13 county region.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Acting Clerk