

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt and William Mays

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

The invocation was given by Rev. John Ellington and was followed by the pledge led by Police Chief Randy Mullins.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the August 19, 2008 meeting as presented.

22021

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

22022

During this meeting's segment of "Looking Back" of the Council careers of Mayor Raines and Councilman Wallace, the topic of utilities was discussed.

During the years of 1987-1988, the City faced several issues regarding utilities. Water accountability was well below 50%, a water supply problem was almost an annual problem, and the Water Plant was in need of an upgrade. The City was also under a Sewer Moratorium and Consent Decree issued by the Department of Environmental Quality.

During this timeframe, City Council negotiated an agreement with the Wise County PSA wherein the City can purchase up to 500,000 gallons of water per day from them should the need arise. Residential water lines in several key neighborhoods were replaced and a new 500,000 gallon water tank was installed at Hawthorne. An Interconnection Agreement with Big Stone Gap was initiated in 2000. The City also joined in with the Towns of Wise and Coeburn to form the Coeburn-Norton-Wise Regional Sewer Authority, which lifted the Sewer Moratorium and Consent Decree.

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

22023

Mr. Ward discussed the many other improvements made by Council. He then advised that so much had been done from 1987-1988 to the present; however, there remains a lot to be done such as the sanitary sewer issues, the upper and lower reservoir dams, and storm drainage.

Mayor Raines, on behalf of himself and Councilman Wallace, thanked Mr. Ward for this presentation.

The City Manager advised that, as of today, the City has a total capacity in both reservoirs of 80 million gallons, which is the same capacity we had on August 27th. The

City is holding its own and the City had received some rain. We continue to purchase water from Big Stone Gap and the Wise County Public Service Authority.

22024

Mr. Ward advised that he will continue to keep Council informed on the water situation.

Council had in their packets a request for an amendment to the 2008-2009 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$11,705.

Mr. Ward advised that Council had appropriated \$15,000 in this budget for the Hawthorne Corridor Study. The City has selected a firm to do this study; however their fee is \$26,705. Therefore, the City Administration is asking Council's favorable consideration on a budget amendment to cover the additional amount to pay for this study to Ramey Kemp Associates..

22025

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the 2008-2009 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$11,705 to cover additional costs on the Hawthorne Corridor Study with said funds to come Unappropriated Reserves.

In their packets, Council had a request for one water tap from the Family Crisis Support Services at 6312 Hatfield Road. This area is located in the County and is in the West Main Avenue area.

22026

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council approved one water tap for the Family Crisis Support Services at 6312 Hatfield Road.

Council had a copy of a check in the amount of \$122,004.25 made payable to the Norton Industrial Development Authority and a wire transfer of \$265,000 to the Norton City Schools to cover payroll and fringe benefits.

22027

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check to the NIDA and a wire transfer to the Norton City Schools in the amounts as listed above.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, 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. 2.1-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended and the discussion of the acquisition of real property as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

22028

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting.

22029

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as 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 Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Fawbush, Raines,

22030

NO – None, ABSENT – Mays, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

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

In the annual obtaining of bids for deicing salt, the City did not receive any quotations from the previous vendors that we had purchased from in the past. After contacting VDOT, we did receive a quotation of \$157.63 per ton for the City's annual allotment of 450 tons. Last year, we paid \$73.66 per ton.

The City has experimented with installing a slot drain in the 500 block of Park Avenue in front of the Pippin Law Office. It appears to be working well and this type drain may be used in other areas.

22031

The City has received proposals for the preliminary engineering on the Virginia Avenue Highwall Project, which is in conjunction with the Safe Routes to School Program, and is funded by DMME in the amount of \$100,000.

He will be on vacation beginning Saturday, September 6th and will be back to work on Monday, September 15th.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that Council, at its last meeting, advised him to research if anything can be done about trucks using jake brakes. He had found some authority in the Motor Vehicle Code which may be used. He has also polled other attorneys and has found out that no other entity in the Commonwealth has passed any action on this.

22032

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Bradshaw advised he will continue to research this.

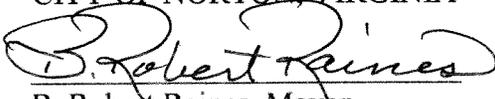
In comments from Council, Mayor Raines brought up the problem that the residents of Ramsey are experiencing with the old E. C. Mullins Trailer Park. This area has several old dilapidated trailers and he inquired if the City has any recourse on this problem.

22033

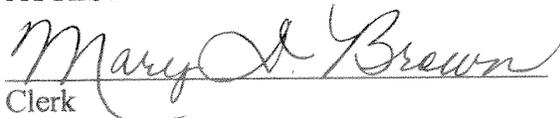
Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus to Council for the City Building Official to work with the City Administration on this problem. The City Administration will, in turn, work with the City Attorney to see if something can be done to get relief for the residents of this area from this problem.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk