

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Robert Raines, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt and Jack Wallace

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

Mayor Raines recognized and welcomed Councilmen-Elect Terry Roop and Mark Caruso to tonight's meeting. He also expressed congratulations on their successful bids for City Council. 22082

The invocation was given by Rev. Ken Taylor and was followed by the pledge led by Police Chief Randy Mullins. 22083

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the October 28, 2008 meeting as presented. 22084

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Cecil Rutherford of Hoot Owl Hollow spoke briefly to Council expressing his need for assistance in getting City water to property he owns in this area. City water runs within 350 yards from his property and he asked Council if the City could run lines in order that he could connect to City water.

The City Manager advised that this is the area in Hoot Owl Hollow that was supplied with water during the Big Stone Gap Interconnect Program. The previous owner of this property had no interest in signing up on City water. 22085

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Administration to work with Mr. Rutherford to get water to his properties in Hoot Owl Hollow.

Mr. Rutherford expressed his appreciation to Council for their assistance.

In tonight's Looking Back Segment honoring Mayor Raines and Councilman Wallace, the City Administration's topic was Parks and Recreation.

Via a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Ward advised that Council, in the past twenty years, has had several accomplishments in this field. Two new parks, Clear Creek Park and Legion Park, were established as well as the development of a trail from Legion Park to Flag Rock. Council authorized the installation of electricity for camp sites at Flag Rock and the installation of a swimming pool liner.

The City owns and operates six parks with the signature park being the 11th Street Park. New playground equipment has been purchased for this park and a study has been done to completely renovate this park when funds are available.

The Flag Rock Park, which is the City's Mountain Vista, has 22 camp sites with electrical hook-ups, 2 large rental shelters with playground, 5 small non-fee shelters, an overlook of Norton and surrounding area, walking trails, and 3 bathhouses. Both

campgrounds and shelters have been rebuilt, roads have been paved, and the bathhouses have been renovated.

The Clear Creek Park was developed in 1993 and houses a no-fee shelter, a walking trail, ballfield, restrooms, and an outdoor classroom, which is used to educate and teach our children about the outdoors.

22086

The Legion Park was developed in 1994 at the site of the old American Legion Cabin. The Norton Kiwanis Club assisted the City in the development of this park.

A trail has been established from Legion Park to Flag Rock and the City wants to continue working on the trail system.

Also, during this timeframe, beautification efforts have been done by planting trees and flowers in various areas of the City and new welcome signs have been purchased for entrances to the City.

Mr. Ward advised that there are more challenges and opportunities that will be forthcoming in this area and briefly discussed these with Council.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Ward for this presentation.

An update on the City's water reserves was given to Council. As of today, we have a combined total of 51 million gallons of water. We continue to purchase an estimated 550,000 gallons of water daily from the Wise County PSA. Council will continue to receive updates.

At this time, Mr. Ward advised that the City was in receipt of a Water Fluoridation Quality Award for the year 2007 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

22087

Mayor Raines then presented this award to Tommy Roberts, Superintendent of the Norton Water Treatment Plant and expressed Council's appreciation to Mr. Roberts and his employees for the excellent job they are doing.

Mr. Roberts thanked Council for their continued support.

Council was in receipt of a letter from Mr. Don Castle, General Manager, of the Holiday Inn- Norton. They are seeking Council's issuance of a Dance Hall Permit for their facility. A public hearing is being held tonight on this agenda item.

There were no questions or comments from Council prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for public comment.

22088

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

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to issue a Dance Hall Permit to the Holiday Inn which will expire in one year from the date of issuance.

In their packets, Council had a request for an amendment to the 2008-2009 budget of the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$45,563.

Due to the fact that there was no representation from the School Board at tonight's meeting, Mayor Raines advised that he would like to table this request until the next meeting when Dr. Brannon can be present to discuss this with Council.

22089

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to table this item until the December 2nd meeting when Dr. Brannon can be present.

In Council's packets, Mr. Ward had sent them a memorandum regarding an award of funds for Project #1 on the Guest River Interceptor Line as outlined in the City's Comprehensive Sewer Study. This project has been identified as the replacement and upgrade of the Guest River Interceptor from the old Ramsey Sewer Plant to just below Glen's Finer Homes and entails the replacement of approximately 4,200 linear feet of sanitary sewer line. The funds being offered to the City are a \$1,514,370 loan at 0% interest through the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Revolving Loan Fund.

22090

Following a lengthy discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to accept the offer from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the \$1,514,370 loan at 0% interest through their Revolving Loan Fund for Project #1 for the replacement and upgrade of the Guest River Interceptor from the old Ramsey Sewer Plant to just below Glen's Finer Homes and authorized the City Administration to proceed on this loan. During the discussion on this item, Mayor Raines asked the two newly elected Council members what their comments were on this item. Both Councilman-Elect Roop and Councilman-Elect Caruso agreed that Council should proceed with the loan at 0% interest and begin work on the City's sewer problems.

Council had been given a copy of A Resolution Endorsing the Establishment of a Policy Board for the Southwest Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP) and also the appointment of Randy Mullins, Norton Police Chief, to their Policy Board for a period of three years which will expire on December 1, 2011.

Mayor Raines advised that, by the adoption of this resolution and the appointment of Police Chief Mullins, Council can eliminate the closed meeting portion of tonight's meeting.

22091

After a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Raines, Mays, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Endorsing the Establishment of a Policy Board for the Southwest Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP) and to appoint Police Chief Randy Mullins to a three year term on this Policy Board, which will expire on December 1, 2011. (Insert)

Council was in receipt of a copy of a memo from Commissioner of the Revenue Judy Miller, requesting a refund of personal property tax in the amount of \$68.10 for 2007 taxes erroneously assessed to Canon Financial Services.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a refund of erroneously assessed 2007 personal property taxes to Canon Financial Services in the amount of \$68.10.

22092

A request for the approval of the Police Department Investigative Budget for the fiscal year of 2008-2009 was received by Council. This budget is in the amount of \$45,000, which is the amount that the Police Department anticipates receiving.

Police Chief Randy Mullins was present and discussed each item on this budget with Council.

22093

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the 2008-2009 Police Department Investigative Budget in the anticipated amount of \$45,000. These funds will be processed through the City's audit as a Special Revenue Fund.

A copy of a bank transfer to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$275,000 was included in Council's packet for approval.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a budget transfer in the amount of \$275,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

22094

At this time, Mayor Raines and the City Manager explained to the newly elected Council members that some of our funding agencies require City Council approval on transactions over \$100,000 and advised that it also saves the City some money on bonding.

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

The legislative trip to Richmond that City officials annually attend will be Thursday, January 29, 2009 and the return will be on January 30, 2009. Any Council member who would like to attend is to advise him as the City has some rooms reserved.

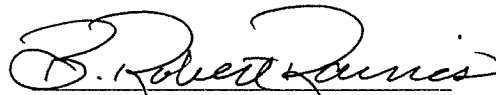
City offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday and Friday, November 27th and 28th.

22095

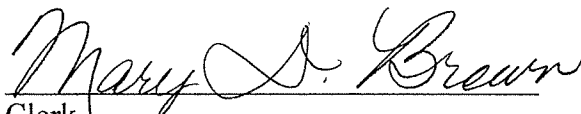
He was asked by Keith Strange, reporter for the Coalfield Progress, to advise Council of his leaving the Coalfield Progress and the area. Mr. Strange wanted to convey to Council his appreciation for working with them.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk