

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

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

The invocation was given by the City Manager followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief Kenneth Jackson.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the December 19, 2006 meeting as presented.

21534

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Tim Cassell, Treasurer of the Norton Little League, spoke briefly to Council asking for a special appropriation of \$2,000 to cover some of the expenses of the Junior Team's participation in the state tournament held in Covington. This team was coached by Councilman Hunnicutt. Also present at tonight's meeting was Mr. Sam Farmer, President of the Norton Little League.

21535

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSTAIN - Hunnicutt, Council moved to appropriate \$2,000 to the Norton Little League to help cover expenses incurred during the State Championship held in Covington. These funds will come from Contingency.

Mayor Raines advised Mr. Cassell and Mr. Farmer that Council very much appreciated their work with the youth of the City. They, in turn, thanked Council for their continued support of the Norton Little League.

Mr. Ward presented to Council the 2006 C-N-W Regional Wastewater Authority Audit and their proposed 2007-2008 budget.

Mr. Ward advised that the C-N-W received a clean audit and had an unqualified opinion. He further advised that the C-N-W is primarily funded by user fees from the three participating municipalities, which are the City of Norton, the Town of Wise, and the Town of Coeburn. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, the City contributed \$778,272 to the Authority for the fiscal year, which represents 48% of their total revenue and 35% of the City's Water and Sewer Budget. The long term debt as of June 30, 2006 is \$4,626,173. The original debt, issued in 1989-1990, was \$15,488,020. This debt will be retired in 2012. According to Mr. Hollyfield, Director of the C-N-W, the plant is in excellent condition.

21536

The proposed budget for 2007-2008 totals \$1,918,667, which is an increase of \$189,892 over the previous year. The City's contribution of this new budget is \$909,770, an increase of \$106,043 over the previous year. A public hearing on this budget will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Ward for this update on the C-N-W and stated that each locality should be commended for the payment of the 11million dollars on this \$15 million dollar debt, which should be paid off in 2012.

The City Manager gave Council an update on the 11th Street City Park Study. He advised that this park is the most utilized public facility in the City and is used all year round; however being twenty years old, it is showing its age. Prior to the meeting, slides were shown on the various areas that need to be refurbished in the park.

Working with architects from Thompson and Litton, the City has sought input from the general public by an extensive survey/questionnaire and a public meeting in November. There was a response of almost 500 questionnaires returned.

Michele Knox, Parks and Recreation Director for the City, was present and answered questions from Council. Mr. Ward then gave a brief synopsis of the results from the questionnaire and slides were shown of other facilities as examples of what can be done.

Mr. Ward advised that he will keep Council informed of the progress on this study. A meeting with architects will be held in the near future.

Mayor Raines thanked the City Manager for this update.

Council had been presented with a copy of a check in the amount of \$310,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$310,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

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

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 Joseph Fawbush, 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)

Mayor Raines advised that the Southwest Virginia Emergency Services Council has changed their by-laws and the City will now have only one member on this Council. They are also staggering terms in order that all reappointments will not have to be made at the same time; therefore the City needs to appoint a representative to this Council for a one year term.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated William Mays to be reappointed to this Board for a one year term.

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

21542

Mayor Raines declared William Mays reappointed to the Southwest Virginia Emergency Services Council for a one year term to expire January 2008.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the Financial Disclosure Forms are due January 15, 2007 and should be given to the City Clerk.

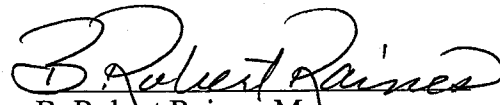
21543

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that the judge of the Circuit Court had signed the petition appointing the City's Litter Warden as the monitor for the City's Assign-A-Highway Program.

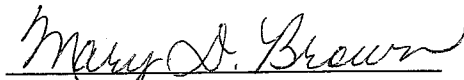
21544

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk