

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 6, 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 Rev. John Ellington and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Lt. Randy Mullins of the Norton Police Department.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 20, 2007 meeting as presented.

21578

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Jack Peters of West Main Avenue spoke briefly to Council regarding a reoccurring drainage problem he has been experiencing for some years. He advised he had been to Council before on this problem and nothing has been done.

The City Manager advised that the City has responded to Mr. Peters' problem, but not to his satisfaction. The problem involves a stopped up pipe that was installed by the Corps of Engineers in the 1970s and they will have to be contacted for permission to work on this as the pipe goes to the creek.

21579

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manger to contact the Corps of Engineers to see what can be done to eliminate this drainage problem for Mr. Peters.

A public hearing was held to solicit public input on a proposed funding application to Rural Development for the Virginia Avenue Sanitary Sewer and Storm Drainage Project.

Mr. Ward advised the public hearing is required by Rural Development and further advised that the City is in hopes that at least a percentage of these funds will be grant funds. He is asking Council to allow the City Administration to proceed with the application.

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

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

21580

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

Mayor Raines advised that no action needs to be taken at this time and it is the consensus of Council for the City Administration proceed with the application.

The City Attorney had supplied Council with samples of ordinances from other cities in the Commonwealth regulating adult oriented businesses. This was in response to their request at the previously held meeting. Mr. Bradshaw then asked Council's guidance as how to proceed with the City's ordinance.

21581

Council briefly discussed these ordinances and it was the consensus that the ordinance from Fairfax was the one they would like to have the City Attorney modify to fit the City's needs.

Mr. Bradshaw advised that he will adapt this ordinance and incorporate some of the City of Norton Code into it. He will then present this ordinance to Council at the next meeting for the advertisement of a public hearing.

Members of the City of Norton Electoral Board, along with the City's Registrar, were present to discuss with Council the combination of voting precincts in the City.

Mrs. Gereva Hunnicutt, Chairman of the Electoral Board, gave the Clerk packets of information to be handed out to Council members. She then advised that the Electoral Board wants permission from Council to change the number of voting precincts from two to one. This one precinct will be located in the Council Chambers. She further advised that there are a number of rules to which they need to adhere. These are that City Council must establish the polling place by ordinance. This ordinance must be advertised twice before the meeting, and the Electoral Board must submit this request to the U. S. Department of Justice. Mrs. Hunnicutt stated this procedure must begin now as the Justice Department could take up to ninety days to act on this request.

21582

The only concern the Electoral Board has with this one location is the parking situation. They asked that City employees either be given the day off or asked to park away from the building leaving spaces for voters.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council that the City Attorney and City Manager draw up an ordinance covering this change in voting precincts and present it to Council for review and then advertise for a public hearing.

Mayor Raines thanked Mrs. Hunnicutt for her presentation.

Council had a request from the Pro-Art Association to apply for a matching Local Government Challenge Grant in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

Speaking to Council for the Pro-Art Association was Mr. Bob Isaac. He advised Council that this is an annual request that they ask the City to include in their budget. He spoke briefly on the financial problems that the association has incurred this year and advised that the Board has worked through these problems. In the future, the association will stay within their budget.

21583

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized a request for a matching Local Government Challenge Grant in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 through the Virginia Commission of the Arts.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Isaac and Mrs. Joyce Winston for their work with the Pro-Art Association.

Mr. Isaac thanked Council for their continued support.

In their packets, Council had a request for two sewer taps in the Wise County Industrial Park by the Industrial Development Authority of Wise County. This request is for the shell building located in this area.

Mayor Raines advised this request is for two businesses locating in this building and is being considered as an economical request wherein approximately 80 people will be employed at these two businesses.

21584

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve two sewer taps

in the Wise County Industrial Park for the Industrial Development Authority of Wise County by means of a Sewer Use Permit which will define the conditions that the City Manager deems appropriate for the protection of the City.

The City Manager is to notify Mr. Snodgrass of Council's action and to draw up the Permit.

In their packets, Council had been presented with a Resolution In Support of the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable, Incorporated Seeking Regional Affiliation from Keep America Beautiful, Incorporated.

Present tonight and speaking to Council in favor of the adoption of this resolution was Michele Knox, the City's Parks and Recreation Director. Ms. Knox advised that Wise and Buchanan Counties and the City of Bristol have already joined in the participation of being affiliated with the Keep America Beautiful. The only cost the City will incur is the annual fee which is approximately \$100.00.

21585

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, 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 In Support of the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable, Incorporated Seeking Regional Affiliation from Keep America Beautiful, Incorporated. (Insert)

Mayor Raines thanked Ms. Knox for her comments and advised her that Council appreciated her work with this organization.

Council had been presented copies of two checks in excess of \$100,000 for approval. The first of these is to the Norton Industrial Development Authority in the amount of \$122,004.25. The second check is to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$125,000.

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 \$122,004.25 made payable to the Norton Industrial Development Authority and a check in the amount of \$125,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

21586

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 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

21587

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

21588

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.

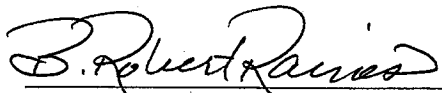
Upon a motion by Joseph Hunniuctt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

21589

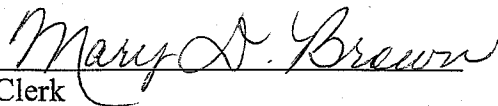
There were no comments from the City Manger or City Attorney.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk