

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton city Council was held on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Robert Raines, and William Mays

Absent: Jack Wallace and Joseph Fawbush

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

Mayor Raines advised that Councilman Wallace is out of town due to a doctor's visit and Councilman Fawbush was working this evening.

Prior to the invocation, Mayor Raines asked for a moment of silence for the Virginia Tech community due to the tragic events which had taken place on Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. The invocation was given by Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Dr. Lee Brannon, Superintendent of the Norton City School System.

21610

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Sister Beth Jaspers spoke briefly to Council regarding two items. The first of these was for an annual allocation to the RAM activity which will be held in July of this year. She requested a donation from Council in the amount of \$2,000. Her second request was for a donation of \$700 to the Advocacy Center to help defray some of their expenses.

21611

Mayor Raines advised Sister Beth that these two items would be discussed at the upcoming budget workshop, which will be held on May 1, 2007.

Dr. Lee Brannon, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools and Ron McCall, Chairman of the Norton City School Board, were present at tonight's meeting. Dr. Brannon then proceeded to present to Council the 2007-2008 budget of the Norton City Schools.

Dr. Brannon gave a PowerPoint presentation and advised that most of the increase in this upcoming budget is for salaries and benefits.

This budget includes a 4.8% raise for teachers and 4% for all other personnel.

21612

The total request for additional local funds in this budget document is \$126,620 making a total of local funds of \$1,890,219. The total amount of this budget is \$7,102,747.

Dr. Brannon also advised that the School Board is expecting a projected 2006-2007 surplus based on student enrollment of \$44,770. He requested to council that the School Board be allowed to carry over \$44,207 of surplus monies to initiate a separate Textbook Fund. Mayor Raines advised that there is no way of knowing what the surplus will be and it would be best to come back and request these funds after the audit is completed.

Dr. Brannon answered questions from members of Council.

Mayor Raines thanked Dr. Brannon for his presentation and advised that a public hearing will be held on the School Board budget at the May 1<sup>st</sup> council meeting and adoption will be scheduled for the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Dr. Brannon gave Council an update on the John I. Burton Football Stadium Project. He advised that due to slope and stability problems with the wall on the Kentucky Avenue side, this project has been postponed for the 2007 season. The bid date has been suspended until late summer. The School Board is requesting a new budget planning document to compare the cost of the first design versus the new retaining wall design concept. The School Board hopes to move forward with a September bid date and mobilization for construction to begin the end of November. Before the football season begins this year, the stadium will be structurally evaluated.

21613

Dr. Brannon and the School Board requested that Council earmark funds previously set aside for construction of this project in the 2007-2008 budget year.

Mayor Raines thanked Dr. Brannon for this update on the Stadium Project.

Dr. Brannon advised Council that \$182,000 dollars has been accumulated for the Athletic Complex at J. I. Burton High School and a proposal from Mike Ball Construction has been accepted. Renovations will begin on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and contributions are still being accepted to meet the project goal of \$250,000.

21614

Dr. Brannon gave a brief synopsis on the Additions/Renovations to the Norton Elementary School. He advised that the School Board has an open end contract with Thompson and Litton on this project. He briefly went over the scope of services on this project and requested \$25,000 from Council for the continuation of the study for the elementary school project.

21615

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines advised that this allocation will be considered during the budget process and thanked Dr. Brannon for the information supplied to Council tonight.

Council had been given a copy of a draft Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia reducing the Number of Voting Precincts from Two (2) to One (1).

Mr. Ward advised that this draft ordinance is a result of a request from the City of Norton Electoral Board to reduce the number of precincts from two to one. This one precinct will be located in Council Chambers.

21616

In order for this change to take effect, an ordinance needs to be adopted and submitted to the State Electoral Board and the Justice Department. Mr. Ward advised if this ordinance is approved tonight by Council and the City Attorney, he will advertise a public hearing on it.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to advertise a public hearing to be held at the next meeting if possible on this ordinance.

Council had been given in their packets a copy of A Resolution for Amendment of Consortium By-Laws.

Vice Mayor Mays, who is Council's member on the CLEO Board, spoke briefly to Council advising that the purpose of this resolution is to change the by-laws to reduce the number of members from 39 to 33 on this Board. In order to do so, a resolution must be adopted by all eight participating localities. He further advised that he recommends the adoption of this resolution.

21617

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Mays, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Wallace, Fawbush, Council moved to adopt A Resolution for Amendment of Consortium By-Laws. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended and discussion with legal counsel as pertains to actual litigation as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (7) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

21618

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

21619

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

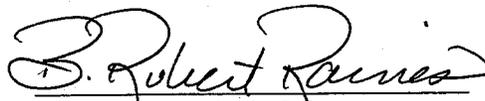
21620

There were no comments from the City Manager, City Attorney, or Council.

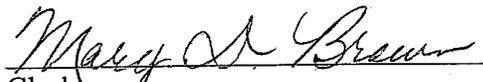
21621

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk