

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, May 1, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Absent: 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 of allegiance led by Dr. Lee Brannon, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the April 17, 2007 meeting as presented.

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

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A public hearing was held on the 2007-2008 budget of the Norton City Schools which totals \$7,102,747, of which \$1,890,219 are local funds. There is an increase in the amount of local funding in the amount of \$126,620.

Representing the School Board at tonight's meeting were Dr. Lee Brannon, Superintendent, and Ms. Billie Harris, School Board Member.

Mayor Raines advised that Dr. Brannon had made a thorough presentation of this budget at the last council meeting and at that time, the City Manager was directed to advertise a public hearing on this budget.

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

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

Mayor Raines advised that action on the 2007-2008 budget of the Norton City Schools will be held at the next council meeting on May 15th.

At this time, Ms. Harris asked to speak briefly to Council and expressed her thanks and appreciation for the recent donation from the City for the Ricky Harris Athletic Complex at J. I. Burton High School.

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Reducing the Number of Voting Precincts from Two (2) to One (1).

Mayor Raines advised that this ordinance had been presented to Council at the last meeting and Council directed the City Manager to advertise a public hearing for tonight.

Ruth Woods and Laura Minor were in attendance representing the Electoral Board along with the City's Registrar, Marie Muir.

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Prior to the public hearing, Ms. Woods spoke briefly to Council advising that the Electoral Board fully supports this reduction in the number of voting precincts in the City.

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

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

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Fawbush, Raines, NO – NONE, ABSENT – Mays, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Reducing the Number of Voting Precincts from Two (2) to One (1). The City Administration and City Attorney were then advised to proceed with the next step in this process. (Insert)

At the previous Council Meeting, Dr. Brannon, Norton City Schools Superintendent, asked Council to allocate \$25,000 for pre-engineering work at Norton Elementary School for the additions and renovation of existing space. The City Manager was advised to place this item on tonight's agenda for consideration.

There were no questions or comments on this item from Council members.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve an expenditure of \$25,000 to the Norton City Schools for pre-engineering work at Norton Elementary School with said funds to come from Unappropriated Reserves. Mayor Raines asked the City Manger to keep a tab on this project for possible reimbursement.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, 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 the discussion with legal counsel of actual litigation as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (7) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, 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, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Mays, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for two (2) four year terms which will expire on May 10, 2011.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Mrs. Barbara Caruso and Mr. Robert Leonard to be reappointed to this Authority.

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

Mayor Raines declared Mrs. Barbara Caruso and Mr. Robert Leonard reappointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for four year terms, which will expire on May 10, 2011.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that in the past, the City annually appoints individuals to Policy Committees for the Virginia Municipal League. These appointments have come from selections done by the City Manager's office. This year, the Virginia Municipal League wants these appointments made by the City Council.

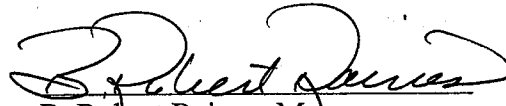
Mr. Ward advised that these are the committees and nominees for Council's consideration tonight: Environmental Quality, Tommy Roberts, Water Plant Superintendent; Finance, Jeff Shupe, Director of Finance; General Laws, E. W. Ward, City Manager; Human Development and Education, Roger Ramey, Director of Social Services; and Transportation, Steve McElroy, Director of Public Works.

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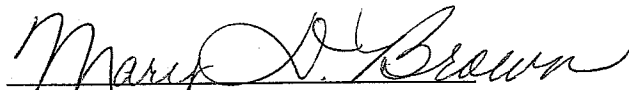
Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations for the above listed committees approved as presented by the City Manager.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned into a work session on the City's 2007-2008 budget.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk