

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 19, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal 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 Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief Randy Mullins.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the June 5, 2007 meeting as presented.

21657

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

21658

Council had been presented in their packets a copy of the 2007-2008 budget of the Norton Industrial Development Authority. This budget was approved by NIDA at their June 5, 2007 meeting.

Mr. Ward advised that the Norton Industrial Development Authority has several Memorandums of Understanding with the City that involve the Authority borrowing money from area banks. Each agreement states that the NIDA must present their budget to City Council for approval or the loans will default.

The total of this budget is \$906,923 with \$75,000 being allotted for capital improvements. For the first time, there is a Contingency Fund in the amount of \$44,000.

Mr. Ward further advised that the first Powell Valley National Bank loan has been paid off and one of the loans to the Virginia Coalfield Development Authority has been paid.

21659

Following a brief discussion, the City Manager advised that the City Administration seeks Council's favorable consideration of this budget.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the 2007-2008 budget of the Norton Industrial Development Authority approved as presented.

The City Manager presented to Council information regarding the Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program.

Mr. Ward advised that this is a new program designed to distribute grants to areas throughout the "Southern Rivers" region and the General Assembly has allocated \$7,000,000 to be distributed in the first round of funding on a competitive basis according to the guidelines. The amount of funding for a project goes up to one million dollars. The guidelines were developed in consultation with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Health and other stakeholders throughout the "Southern Rivers" region. The deadline for the first round of funding is July 10, 2007.

Both Mr. Ward and Mr. Ramey had met last week with representatives from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and Wise County on this new program. The City Administration does not feel that the City can have a project ready to apply for the initial round of funding. Mr. Ward advised that the City is proceeding on the Comprehensive Sewer Study and he would like to continue on with this study and have a project ready to submit for the December 15th deadline of this program.

21660

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Administration to proceed with the Comprehensive Sewer Study and to have a project ready to be submitted for the deadline of December 15th.

Council had been presented with a copy of A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Adopting A Five Year Capital Improvements Program.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Adopting a Five Year Capital Improvements Program. (Insert)

21661

Council had a request to amend the 2006-2007 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$73,640. This amendment would increase two expense line items. The first of these is Legal Services in the amount of \$30,000 to cover additional attorney fees incurred during the year. The second item is Emergency Management Funds in the amount of \$43,640. These funds were expended as part of two granted projects for which the revenues were received last year, but much of the project and associated expenditures were not completed until this year.

21662

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the 2006-2007 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$73,640 as stipulated above.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia as amended.

21663

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

21664

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)

21665

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Virginia Community Corrections Board for a two year term which will expire on June 30, 2009.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Randy D. Mullins to be appointed to this Board.

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

21666

Mayor Raines declared Randy D. Mullins appointed to the Southwest Virginia Community Corrections Board for a two year term which will expire on June 30, 2009.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Mountain Empire Regional Business Incubator (MERBI) to fill an unexpired term which will expire on June 30, 2009.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Tyler Giles to be appointed to this Board.

21667

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared Tyler Giles appointed to the Mountain Empire Regional Business Incubator (MERBI) to fill an unexpired term which will expire on June 30, 2009.

At this time, Mayor Raines advised that the next City Council meeting is scheduled for July 3, 2007. With the holiday approaching and no pressing business as of now, he opened the floor for discussion of holding this meeting.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to cancel the meeting of July 3, 2007 meeting with the stipulation that should any pressing business need to be addressed, a meeting will be called.

21668

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

The local sales tax for the first complete year of the new Walmart Shopping Center for a cash basis is in and is up \$400,000 since the new shopping center was built. The amount of the local sales tax for the year 2006-2007 was \$1,880,000. Prior to the new shopping center being built, the sales tax was leveling off.

The Comprehensive Sewer Study is continuing and beginning next week the City will start smoke testing the entire City. Notices will be sent out next week. The City will have someone available to respond should there be a problem. Also in July, nine monitoring stations will be set up throughout the City to see where the worst problems are located.

21669

The annual Virginia Municipal League Conference will be held October 14 - 16 and will be held in Williamsburg to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Williamsburg.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he had been in Court on Monday and defeated a major land owner's request to have a 2004 real estate tax rescinded.

He had also met with the Police Chief and two officers today pertaining to preparing paper work to present to City Council, hopefully at the July meeting, to seek the appointment of a Special Conservator of the Peace, who will enforce game and fish laws, litter, and animal control laws.

216

There were no comments from City Council.

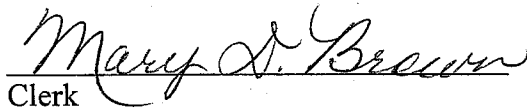
There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:



Mary D. Brown
Clerk