

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

Present: Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, and William Mays

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt 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 Norton City Sheriff Carlos Noaks.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the June 19, 2007 meeting as presented.

21671

Mr. Ward gave Council a brief update on the Laurel Trails Housing Project. He gave a PowerPoint presentation and advised that there are eleven homes under roof and several additional lot sales pending. He further advised that he would like some direction from Council as how to sell and dispose of the three lots owned by the City.

21672

At this time, Councilman Fawbush took his seat on Council.

21673

He further advised that these lots were purchased at a price of \$4,850 from BOCO Ltd. in June of 2006. The value of each of these lots is approximately \$28,000-\$30,000.

The City Attorney advised that it is not as difficult to sell this type of property per State Code and advised that a public hearing would have to be held prior to the sale of these three lots.

21674

Following a lengthy discussion on this, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager and the City Attorney to work together on the selling of these lots and to bring back this information to Council at the August 21st meeting. The public hearing will then be scheduled for the first meeting in September.

Council had a request for refunds for erroneous assessment of 2005 Personal Property Taxes to the following individuals: Lori Leigh Willis in the amount of \$25.37, Rhonda Gail Cantrell in the amount of \$43.33, and Myrtle L. Stapleton in the amount of \$42.97.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the refunds to Lori Leigh Willis in the amount of \$25.37, Rhonda Gail Cantrell in the amount of \$43.33, and Myrtle L. Stapleton in the amount of \$42.97.

21675

Council had been presented with A Code of Conduct as pertains to a Rural Development Project.

Mr. Ward advised that the City has adopted these previously when the City has had a project and that this is just the first of several documents that will come before Council.

The Virginia Avenue Sewer Project is the current project the City has with Rural Development.

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Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Code of Conduct as required by Rural Development. (Insert)

Council had been presented with a copy of a check in the amount of \$150,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

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Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$150,000.

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 No. 2.2-3711(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

21678

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.

21679

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

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

The City was in receipt of a post card from the Catch the Vision Committee advising of the completion of Phase One of the Rickie M. Harris Athletic Complex. The card was an invitation to an Open House to be held on Thursday, July 19, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. with a 7 on 7 raiders scrimmage at 5:30 p.m. A formal dedication of the facility will follow later in the fall.

There will be an August 14th bid opening on the Virginia Avenue to 3rd Street Water Project funded by Lenowisco to loop the system in this area. Work will begin shortly on the Isabell Circle and 5th Street/Oak Street Water Projects.

21681

As part of our Sewer Study, smoke testing has begun and some flow monitors are being installed.

A Pre-Architectural Report on the City Shop has been completed and the City Administration will bring this to Council to see what recommendations are being made by the architect.

The City has received a contract for the dam design and will be negotiating with Thompson and Litton on this project.

The City has received the bids on the Sidewalk Project with Heartwood Builders having the low bid. They should start work in the next few weeks.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that:

He is in receipt of a letter from the Department of Justice earlier this week stating that they had no objection to combining both voting precincts.

Work is proceeding on the tax sale. There are approximately six more properties to be handled.

21682

All players are in litigation with the developer for the Laurel Trails Housing Project. He will begin to prosecute the suit in the near future.

In comments from City Council, Vice Mayor Mays advised that he would like to commend the Public Works Department. He stated the mowing and weed cutting that has been done is making a big difference both in appearance and safety throughout the City.

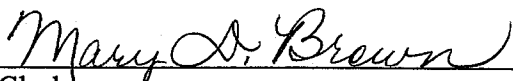
21683

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk