

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, August 21, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Vice Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Jack Wallace and Robert Raines

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

The invocation was given by Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief Randy Mullins.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the August 7, 2007 meeting as presented.

21696

During the Vice Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Michael Jackson, 200 – 11th Street, N. E. spoke briefly to Council regarding the abandoned house adjacent to his property. He advised he had discussed this problem with various City employees in the past and still has gotten nothing done.

21697

Following a brief discussion, the City Attorney advised Mr. Jackson that the City cannot do more than is adopted by the General Assembly in the 2003 Property Maintenance Code. Mr. Bradshaw further advised Mr. Jackson that he could consult with private counsel regarding this private nuisance.

Mr. Jackson was advised that the City will follow up on the weeds not being cut at that location.

Mr. Jackson thanked Council for their time.

The City Manager advised that Council had advised both he and the City Attorney to work together to come up with a mechanism to advertise the sale of the City's three lots in the Laurel Trails Subdivision. These are lots #10, #42, and #47. Included in Council's packets tonight is a draft advertisement. Mr. Ward is seeking the authority from Council to proceed with the advertisement.

21698

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to advertise a public hearing for the sale of the three lots (#10, #42, and #47) owned by the City in the Laurel Trails Subdivision.

Council had been given a copy of A Resolution of the Governing Body of the City of Norton which authorizes the City Manager and the Mayor to execute documents as pertains to Rural Development financing. This financing is in the amount of a \$190,000 grant and a \$190,000 loan which will be a reimbursement paying for the Virginia Avenue Sewer Project.

Council also had a copy of A Loan Resolution, which authorizes the City Manager to sign it, and will authorize the hiring of bond counsel, which will start the process for this financing.

216

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES - Hunnicutt, Mays, Fawbush, NO - None, ABSENT - Wallace, Raines, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Governing Body of the City of Norton and A Loan Resolution which authorizes the City Manager and the Mayor to execute documents as pertains to Rural Development financing.
(Inserts)

Mr. Ward gave Council an update on the City's water reserves. As of today, the City has 75.833 million gallons of water out of a combined capacity of 124 million gallons. The City should be alright as far as water if we receive the usual fall rains.

The City has bought approximately 35 million gallons of water from the Wise County Public Service Authority. He noted that Big Stone Gap still does not have power hooked up so that we can buy water from them. Hopefully, we will be able to do this another year as it does not appear this will be feasible this year.

21700

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, 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.

21701

Vice Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

21702

Vice Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

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

21703

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

The City was in receipt of an e-mail from the Virginia Municipal League regarding a slow down in State Revenue Collections and budget reductions of 5%. Some State Funds that the City receives might be cut. He will keep Council updated on this.

21704

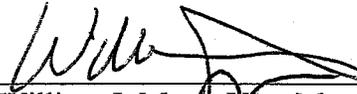
Bids were opened on the 5th Street/Oak Street and Isabell Street Water Projects. The low bid was Barnette Contractors. Engineers have recommended issuing a contract to Barnette Contractors on these two projects. The City Administration plans to proceed on this.

At the next meeting on September 4th, the public hearing will be held on the sale of the City's three lots at the Laurel Trails Subdivision. The Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, members of the School Board, and Bill Thompson, architect of Thompson and

Litton, will be present at this meeting to discuss with Council the gymnasium and renovations at the Norton Elementary School.

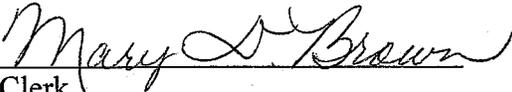
There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk