

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 4, 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 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 Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the August 21, 2007 meeting as corrected. (Paragraph 21702 should have stated Vice Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting rather than Mayor Raines.)

21705

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

21706

A public hearing was held to solicit public input regarding the City's intent to sell three (3) parcels of property in the Laurel Trails Subdivision.

Mayor Raines expressed thanks to Mr. Steve Collins and BOCO for partnering with the City on this subdivision and further stated that the City was close to selling the required 28 lots to individuals of low to moderate income in order that they may sell their three lots (#10, #42, and #47).

Mr. Ward advised that the public hearing is to inform the public of the City's intent to sell their lots at a fair market price.

There was a brief discussion prior to the Mayor's opening of the public hearing.

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

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines advised that Council needs to address several issues. The first of these is that Council should authorize the City Administration to move forward with an appraisal on these three lots and they should be sold at the appraised value. Secondly, should a City employee or someone affiliated with the City wish to purchase one of these lots, the City Administration and City Attorney should look at the Conflict of Interest Act. Finally, Mayor Raines felt that should the City get a buyer/buyers for these lots, any offer/offers should be brought back to Council.

21707

The City Attorney advised that no additional public hearings would need to be held on the sale of these lots.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to get an appraisal on these three lots and initiate a procedure to sell the lots. Should the City get any offers on these lots, these should be brought back to Council for their consideration.

Present tonight representing the City of Norton School Board was Dr. Lee Brannon, Superintendent, School Board Chairman Ron McCall, School Board Member Steve McElroy, and Bill Thompson of Thompson and Litton.

Briefly speaking was Mr. McCall, who gave a brief history of the Norton Elementary School Project. Dr. Brannon also spoke briefly and introduced Bill Thompson of Thompson and Litton who gave a PowerPoint presentation of this project showing the relocation of the library and administrative area. The area which currently houses the library can be used for new classrooms and eliminates the need for building six additional ones.

The total projected cost of this project is \$7,272,183 with a projected bid date of spring of 2008.

Following his presentation, Mr. Thompson advised that he and Dr. Brannon would be willing to answer any questions from Council.

Vice Mayor Mays asked if this project was eligible for a Literary Loan. Dr. Brannon advised it was eligible for \$7.5 million dollars. The timeline was briefly discussed for the Literary Loan process. Council was advised that the School Board has adopted a resolution in favor of this project and that City Council would need to do the same. Schematic drawings need to be submitted and approved. The City can then be put on the list for a Literary Loan. Council was advised that the debt service on this project would be \$480,000 annually for twenty years. Interest, based on the composite index, would be 3%.

21708

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Thompson for tonight's presentation. He advised that Council must address the method of funding the engineering on this project until the Literary Loan is obtained and look at the figures involved with the City Manager and review the over-all project.

Mr. Ward then discussed the timeline and asked that Mr. Thompson get this timeline information to him as soon as possible. Mr. Thompson advised that this project would take a year to complete and he would like construction to begin next summer.

Mayor Raines again thanked all those representing the School Board.

Council had a request from the firm of Rodriguez, Ripley, Maddux, and Motley Architects pertaining to the John I. Burton Football Stadium Project.

The City Manager advised Council that the above firm is seeking permission from the City to encroach on City right-of-way for the purpose of stabilizing the hillside behind the stadium on Kentucky Avenue by the use of Soil Nail Encroachment. By using this procedure, it will eliminate the building of a retaining wall.

Mr. Ward further advised Council that he was in receipt of a letter from Schnabel Engineering advising that this procedure is a widely accepted method for temporary and permanent excavation support. This procedure will be used to reinforce the ground behind the press box and seating structures allowing for steep excavations during construction. The nails will be 23 feet long and will only go to the parking lane of Kentucky Avenue and will not affect the driving lanes. A Special Use Permit will not be needed if Council approves this Soil Nail Encroachment.

21709

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the use of the concept of Soil Nail Encroachment for the area behind the John I. Burton press box and seating structures to stabilize the hillside on Kentucky Avenue.

Council had been given copies of two checks in excess of \$100,000 for approval. The first check is made payable to the Norton Industrial Development Authority in the amount of \$122,004.25 and the second is payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$250,000.

21710

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$122,004.25 to the Norton Industrial Development Authority and one to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$250,000.

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 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

21711

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 back in open meeting.

21712

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)

21713

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that paving bids will be opened on Friday, September 7th and that he will be out of the office next week on vacation.


21714

In comments from City Council, Mayor Raines expressed thanks to Jeff Shupe for the budget documents given to each member of Council at tonight's meeting.

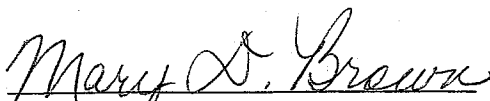
21715

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk