

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 18, 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 the Assistant City Manager, Fred Ramey.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the September 4, 2007 meeting as presented.

21716

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

21717

The City Manager advised Council of the citizen complaint which was brought before them at a meeting in August. At that time, Mr. Michael Jackson, who approached Council for help regarding property adjacent to his, was advised that the City could only enforce what has been adopted by the General Assembly in the 2003 Property Maintenance Code. For this reason, Mr. Ward felt that the City Administration needed to explain to Council what can and cannot be done in property maintenance and dilapidated property. Also, he would seek Council's input as to what Council might want to do regarding this matter. He further advised Council that the Planning Commission is seeking input from other localities as to how they are handling similar problems.

Mr. Winfred Collins, the City's Building Official, presented Council with a PowerPoint presentation showing areas in the City of dilapidated properties, unlicensed vehicles, unsafe structures, and rubbish and garbage areas. During each of these topics, Mr. Collins told what could and couldn't be done.

21718

At this time, Mr. Ward advised that, per the Norton City Code, on any items pertaining to the Virginia Maintenance Code, the City can only act upon a complaint.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Administration to continue to work with the Planning Commission to see what other areas are doing regarding the problems discussed tonight and bring this information back to City Council.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Collins for his presentation.

In their packets, Council had a request from Mr. Lann A. Malesky, Executive Director of The Food Bank of Wise County, Inc. requesting tax exempt status for their property located at 629 Kentucky Avenue, SW. He advised that they have been granted exemption from Federal Taxes under Section 501-C-3 of the Internal Revenue Code by the Internal Revenue Service. Their current property tax is \$136.80.

21719

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to refer this to the City Administration advising them to work with The Food Bank of Wise County, Inc. on an annual appropriation, which would cover the amount of their taxes, plus a donation.

Mr. Ward advised that City Council has appropriated, in this year's budget, \$45,000 for the reinstatement of the Facade Program.

Mr. Fred Ramey, Assistant City Manager, presented Council with a brief PowerPoint presentation on the history of this program, which originated twenty years ago. This presentation included properties before and after the work had been done. This year's program will be the fourth that the City has done.

Mr. Ramey discussed with Council the details of the proposed program. The only changes from the previous program are the areas of availability, which he has proposed to expand, the possibility of six maximum grants versus four during the 2000-2001 program. The last change proposed is to include the side of buildings to qualify if they are in a highly visible area and are in need of repair.

Mr. Ramey advised Council that there have already been inquiries as to when this program will become active again.

Following his presentation, Mr. Ramey advised Council he would answer any questions they may have.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Administration to move forward with the implementation of the 2007-2008 Facade Improvement Program as presented to Council tonight.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Ramey for his presentation.

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.

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, 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 Jack Wallace, 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)

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Advisory Board for a two year term which will expire on September 15, 2009.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Michele Knox to be reappointed to this Board.

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

Mayor Raines declared Michele Knox reappointed to the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Advisory Board for a two year term which will expire on September 15, 2009.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Tourism Board for a four year term which will expire on September 30, 2011.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Michele Knox to be reappointed to this Board.

21725

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

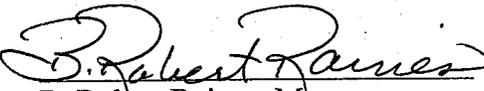
Mayor Raines declared Michele Knox reappointed to the City of Norton Tourism Board for a four year term which will expire on September 30, 2011.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that due to an incident which occurred this week-end wherein a police car was stolen, wrecked, and totaled, the City will need to purchase a new police car. The City, however, is filing a claim for reimbursement.

21726

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk