

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in 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. Peggy Goulet and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, led by the Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, Dr. John Sessoms.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the January 3, 2006 meeting as presented.

21269

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

21270

In attendance at tonight's meeting were three members of the Norton City School Board, Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent, and Ron McCall, Chairman of the School Board. Mr. McCall gave Council a brief update on the Lawson-Fitchko Stadium Project.

Prior to the update on this project, Mr. McCall recognized Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools. Dr. Sessoms recently advised the School Board of his pending retirement as of June 30, 2006. Mr. McCall commented on the numerous improvements that have been made during the past eight years that Dr. Sessoms has served the City.

21271

At this time, Mayor Raines wished the best to Dr. Sessoms during his retirement and advised him that he would be missed.

Dr. Sessoms thanked both Mayor Raines and Mr. McCall. He advised that he appreciated the support from both City Council and the School Board.

Mr. McCall advised that City Council, in October of 2005, allocated \$15,000 to the School Board for an engineering study at the Lawson-Fitchko Stadium. Thompson and Litton, in association with Schnabel Engineering and Sutton-Kennerly & Associates, have done a very detailed report. Should Council request, copies are available for their review. Mr. McCall, via a PowerPoint presentation, gave a brief history of the stadium advising that it had been built in 1950 at a cost of \$75,000. He then showed various areas where deterioration has taken place throughout the facility including the press box. Mr. McCall advised that the School Board was considering conducting a community fund raiser to help with the cost of the new press box.

21272

Council members were shown several options that the School Board considered. At this time, the School Board is recommending making immediate and short-term repairs at a cost of \$40,000. This will allow them more time for planning for more extensive renovations. Of the options presented, the School Board has accepted the option of demolishing the existing stadium and constructing a new one at a cost of approximately \$850,000. Mr. McCall proposed that the cost of this project could be shared by the City and the schools. For example, if financing could be obtained at 5% interest for ten years;

the debt service would be approximately \$95,000 per year. The schools could pay \$30,000 from their School Construction Funds and the City could pay \$65,000. They would like for City Council to approve this concept and allocate some funding for design work on this project, which totals \$55,000. He stated the need to have the approval on the design work by July 1, 2006.

Following a brief discussion on this project, Mayor Raines advised that Council would take this project in consideration at their annual Capital Improvement Meeting.

Mr. McCall gave Council a brief update on the Norton Elementary Gymnasium/ Classroom Project and the Burton High School Science Lab Project. Mr. McCall advised that this project, unlike the stadium project, is eligible for Literary Loan Funds. The first part of this project, a full service kitchen, is completed. The remainder of this project covers the building of an additional six classrooms and gymnasium, installation of new lighting, a new VAV Replacement System, installation of a new sprinkler system, and the installation of a new fire main at Norton Elementary School. At J. I. Burton High School, a new science lab is proposed. Mr. McCall advised that the total cost of this project is 6.8 million dollars and that it will take two and one half years to secure Literary Loan Funds. In order to apply for these funds, detailed plans have to be completed. It will take approximately six months to do this design work at a cost of \$300,000. He advised that the City could acquire a bridge loan to cover the cost until Literary Loan Funds are received. These funds are at an interest rate of 3% and the loan is for twenty years.

21273

On behalf of the School Board, Mr. McCall advised that they had done all they can do on this project and that they need City Council to give them direction on it.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to consider this project in their annual Capital Improvement Projects.

Mr. Pat Murphy of Thompson and Litton was present to give Council an update on the Upper Reservoir Dam Project. He advised that the dam is under a Conditional Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Certificate and needs to improve the spillway to pass the probable maximum flood (PMF). In October of 2005, Council authorized T&L to proceed with preliminary design, which should answer two questions. The first being what is the best option for improving the spillway and, secondly, does the City want to raise the dam for additional storage capacity.

Council was advised that there are two options for improving the spillway – either the Roller Compacted Concrete or the Labyrinth Weir. He then presented a PowerPoint presentation showing comparisons for spillway alternatives for the dam between these two options with an estimated cost of \$2.8 million dollars for the labyrinth and \$3.1 for the Roller Compacted Concrete. He then gave Council comparisons for spillway alternatives for raising the dam 5 feet between these two options, which will add an additional water storage of 20 million gallons at an estimated cost of \$3.8 million dollars for the labyrinth and \$4.7 for the Roller Compacted Concrete.

21274

Mr. Murphy advised that the final report should be ready for Council within the next two weeks.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines advised that Council needed to make a decision on which direction to go; however, this decision should not be made until they receive the finalized report from T&L. It was the consensus of Council that this item

should be brought back to them for action at the next regularly scheduled council meeting, which will be February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Murphy for his presentation.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, 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 and consultation with legal counsel pertaining to probable litigation as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (7) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

21275

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

21276

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 roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

21277

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Appalachian Juvenile Commission for a two-year term, which will expire on November 30, 2007.

William Mays nominated Donna Hutchinson to be reappointed to this Commission.

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

21278

Mayor Raines declared Donna Hutchinson reappointed to the Appalachian Juvenile Commission for another two-year term, which will expire on November 30, 2007.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for two-year terms, which will expire on January 31, 2008.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Dennis Brummitte, Frank Gravely, J. T. Caruso, and Bobby Cassell to be reappointed to this Commission.

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

21279

Mayor Raines declared Dennis Brummitte, Frank Gravely, J. T. Caruso, and Bobby Cassell reappointed to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for two-year terms, which will expire on January 31, 2008.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Ninth District Development Financing Incorporated for a two-year term, which will expire on January 31, 2008.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Joyce Payne to be reappointed to this Board.

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

21280

Mayor Raines declared Joyce Payne reappointed to the Ninth District Development Financing Incorporated for a two-year term, which will expire on January 31, 2008.

There were no comments from the City Manager or City Attorney.

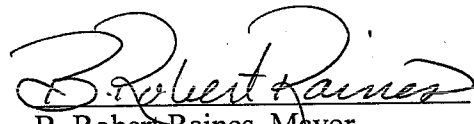
21281

In comments from Council, Mayor Raines advised that he had received an invitation from the Wise County Chamber of Commerce for the grand opening of the H & R Block Office in the Norton Commons Shopping Center on Thursday, January 19, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. He encouraged those who could attend to do so.

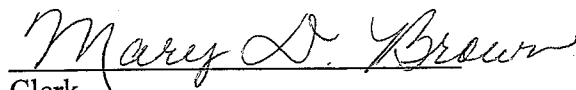
21282

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk