

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in Council Chambers on Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Robert Raines, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Jack Wallace

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 Police Chief Kenny Jackson.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 21, 2006 meeting as presented.

21308

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Danny Price of 298 Gott Street, spoke to Council regarding several items. The first of these is the ditch near his house that needs to be cleaned out. Water will not flow in it, it overflows, and then comes into his basement. The second item he was concerned about is the steps going from 10th Street up to Gott Street. These steps are on a paper street. The handrails have been taken off and he would like to have them put back on. The third item he has concern with is a large oak tree that is dead and is located on the paper street beside the steps. He would like for this tree to be cut down.

21309

Mayor Raines referred these items to the City Administration.

Mrs. Charlene Price of 10th Street, N. W., spoke briefly to Council advising that the guard rail she asked for at a previous Council meeting has not been installed. She would still like to have it installed. She also spoke of a drainage problem she has been experiencing since a driveway above her was paved. She stated that there should be a drain installed on Gott Street.

21310

Mayor Raines referred these items to be City Administration.

A public hearing was held to solicit input on the proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the Norton Storm Drainage Project, which will upgrade the 7th, 10th, and Market Street areas of the City and the major trunk line from Fire Station #2 to 8th Street.

Mr. Ward advised that this is the second of two required public hearings for the CDBG Program application process. The City is soliciting grant funding for the Storm Drainage Project, which has an estimated cost of \$4,850,000. The City is seeking \$700,000 in grant funds from this CDBG Program. This public hearing is being held to receive public comments.

There were no questions or comments from Council prior to the public hearing. Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

21311

There being no public input, Mayor Raines closed the public hearing

Following a question from Councilman Hunnicutt and one from Mark Caruso, who was in the audience, Mayor Raines advised that the revenue stream is not there for storm water; however, the City is going to try to get funds from this very competitive program.

Council had been presented with A Resolution Authorizing the Preparation and Filing of an Application for Community Improvement Grant Funds through the Small Cities Virginia Community Development Block Grant Program.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Wallace, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the Preparation and Filing of an Application for Community Improvement Grant Funds through the Small Cities Virginia Community Development Block Grant Program.
(Insert)

21312

Council had a request for one sewer tap located in the County. This request was made by the New Peoples Bank at the location of 5448 Wise-Norton Road, Wise.

Mayor Raines advised that Council had adopted a moratorium on new sewer connections outside the northeast section of the City. At the October 19, 2004 meeting in which this moratorium was adopted, a statement was included which stated that the moratorium would not affect any existing sewer tap obligations already in place. At that time, the City had obligated one sewer tap to Mr. George Barnette. Included with the Sewer Application Form was a letter from Mr. George Barnette requesting the transfer of his rights to this free sewer tap to the New Peoples Bank for their new facility.

Mayor Raines also stated that the City may want to follow the same procedure that they did with the new assisted living facility in Wise. This procedure was to incorporate into their Water Discharge Permit conditions that the City feels should be in place and putting the City in control of the sewer connection.

21313

Councilman Hunnicutt had questions regarding the language of the letter. He suggested the letter be in the form of an assignment.

Following a lengthy discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the sewer tap with the conditions that an assignment be obtained by New Peoples Bank from George Barnette and a Wastewater Discharge Permit be issued by the City Administration to regulate the tap.

Council had been presented with a chart showing different roof pitch comparisons. This was presented to Council for a proposed amendment to the restrictive covenants at the Laurel Trails Sub-Division Housing Project.

Mr. Ward advised that Council, in November of 2004, adopted the restricted covenants for this housing project. This project is nearly completed; however, no lots have been sold. Two of the home builders, Verizon Homes and Safenest Homes, who construct modular homes, advised the City that one of the restrictive covenants is causing them to increase the cost of their housing and that is the roof pitch. They asked the City to consider changing the roof pitch from an 8/12 roof pitch to a 7/12 roof pitch. In doing this, it would be a savings of approximately \$2,000 per house.

21314

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the restrictive covenants for the Laurel Trails Sub-Division to have a roof pitch of 7/12 rather than the previous 8/12.

Council had been presented with a copy of a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$310,000.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$310,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

21315

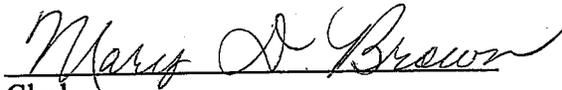
There were no comments from the City Manager, the City Attorney, or Council.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk