

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, October 3, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the 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

Absent: Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Assistant Police Chief Dennis Brummette.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the September 19, 2006 meeting as presented.

21464

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

21465

Mayor Raines recognized Dr. Terrance Suarez, President of Mountain Empire Community College, who gave Council a brief update on the various programs at the college.

21466

Following his presentation, Dr. Suarez answered questions from Council. Mayor Raines thanked Dr. Suarez for his presentation.

At this time, Mayor Raines amended the agenda to include Item 6-D-1 Consideration of Proposed Amendments to the Program Design Standards for the Laurel Trails Subdivision Project.

21467

Council had been presented with a copy of A Resolution Adopting the National Incident Management System in the City of Norton, Virginia.

Mr. Ward advised that this resolution is a mandate from the Federal Government. This resolution will provide a consistent nationwide approach for all governments, from the Federal Government down to the state level and on to local governments to work together more effectively and efficiently to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size or complexity. In order to continue to receive federal funds, this resolution must be adopted.

The City Administration is asking for favorable consideration in the adoption of this resolution.

21468

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Adopting the National Incident Management System in the City of Norton, Virginia. (Insert)

Council had been given A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Requesting the Virginia Department of Transportation to Include New Streets for Municipal Assistance Payments.

Mr. Ward advised that the City does receive money from the Virginia Department of Transportation for maintenance of certain highways. The City receives for primary arterial streets \$15,586 per lane mile and for local or residential streets \$9,150 per lane mile.

The new streets covered in this resolution are the ones within the Laurel Trails Housing Project and are Laurel Trails Road, Mountain Laurel Road, Azalea Lane, Honeysuckle Lane, Juniper Place, Mulberry Lane, and Red Cedar Way. Once in the system, the City will receive an additional \$18,119 in funds from VDOT. These funds will be received by July 1, 2007.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, 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 City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Requesting the Virginia Department of Transportation to Include New Streets for Municipal Assistance Payments. (Insert)

Mayor Raines advised that the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be on Tuesday, October 17th. Since several members of Council and the City Administration will be attending the annual Virginia Municipal League Conference in Virginia Beach during this time, Mayor Raines suggested that this meeting be cancelled.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to cancel the October 17, 2006 meeting.

Mayor Raines advised that the first meeting in November is November 7th and Election Day. Since Council Chambers are used for the Election, he proposed that this meeting be held at the Hotel Norton.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to have the November 7th council meeting at the Hotel Norton.

Council had before them two proposed amendment changes to the Program Design Standards for the Laurel Trails Subdivision Project.

Mr. Ward advised that the Project Team had met and feels that two minor changes need to be made. The first of these changes is the Down Payment Assistance which will be changed from \$450 to \$3,000. Mr. Ward advised that the Down Payment Assistance is available to eligible LMI applicants from CDBG funds. Thirty thousand dollars has been set aside for this down payment assistance. The amount of DPA available per applicant will equal 5% of the cost of the housing structure being constructed on an LMI designated lot or \$3,000, whichever is the lesser of the two. The DPA will be distributed to eligible applicants who have financial need for the assistance to increase further the affordability of the housing unit and serve as gap financing. Applicants utilizing other sources of down payment assistance will not be eligible for Community Development Block Grant Down Payment Assistance. This will be a ten year forgivable loan and will be included in the City's lien against the property.

The second change presented tonight is a required deposit to hold a lot. Currently there is no existing requirement for a deposit in the existing Program Design. If adopted, there will be a \$400 deposit required from applicants interested in purchasing a lot. The deposit must be in the form of a cashiers check or a money order and made payable to BOCO Ltd. Mr. Ward then gave Council several conditions that will apply to this required deposit and advised that the deposit will be returned to the prospective buyer in full if it is determined that they are ineligible to purchase a lot. If a prospective buyer meets all eligibility requirements and proceeds with the purchase of the lot, the deposit amount will be applied to the cost of the lot, thereby reducing the lost cost by \$400. If a prospective buyer is determined to be eligible but decides not to proceed with the purchase of the lot, BOCO Ltd will retain the deposit.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the amendments to the Program Design Standards for the Laurel Trails Subdivision Project as recommended by the City Administration and Project Team.

Mayor Raines advised the closed meeting scheduled for this time has only one appointment and this is for the Lonesome Pine Office on Youth. A recommendation will come from the J. I. Burton administration to Council of an individual to serve on this board. It was the consensus of Council that the City Manager consult with the administration at the high school and bring this recommendation back to council at its next meeting and table the advertised closed meeting tonight.

21472

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

The VML-VACO Commercial Paper Program closed October 2, 2006 with the City receiving \$1,350,000 for the bridge project. He then discussed briefly with Council the financing that could be done on the Stadium Project by using these funds. He will evaluate this and if it is deemed to be desirable, he will bring this back to Council at its next meeting.

21473

The City Treasurer has mailed out tax tickets and they are due December 5th.

NIDA met Monday evening, October 2nd, and held a ceremony to celebrate the VCEDA forgiving of their note. Said note was shredded during this ceremony.

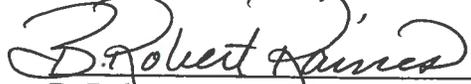
The City had received a request from the Wise County PSA advising that they are interested in purchasing property in the Wise County Industrial Park to build an office and will need sewer service as they are a governmental agency. They are filling out a Sewer Application Form and this item will be coming back to City Council.

Mayor Raines advised that the City Attorney is in Charlottesville tonight and could not attend the meeting.

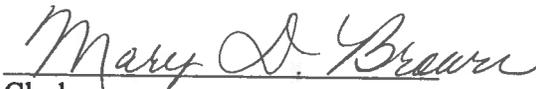
21474

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk