

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

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

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Attorney and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Rev. John Ellington and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Fire Chief David Mullins.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2006 meeting as presented.

21475

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

21476

At this time, Mayor Raines advised that he would change the agenda to hear ITEM 6-B – Appointment of the Working Officers of the Norton Fire Department.

Fire Chief David Mullins respectfully presented Council with the names of the working officers of the Department for the 2006/2007 fiscal year. As per the City's Code, Council annually appoints the working officers of the Fire Department with the exception of the Chief. The Fire Department elects their business officers.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to appoint the list of working officers of the Fire Department for the fiscal year 2006/2007 as submitted by Chief Mullins.

21477

At this time, Chief Mullins presented Council with a brief PowerPoint presentation on the new heavy vehicle equipment truck which has been in service for six months. He thanked City Council for their support in the purchase of this truck and then presented each Council member and the City Manager a plaque of appreciation.

On behalf of Council, Mayor Raines thanked Chief Mullins and the members of the Fire Department for the plaques and for the service that they render to the citizens of Norton.

Mr. Ward presented Council with a PowerPoint presentation on the financing on the 11th Street Bridge and the Lawson/Fitchko Stadium. Mr. Ward advised that in discussions with the City's financial consultants with the Virginia Municipal League VACO Program there had been several ideas to come forth regarding financing several City projects.

On the 11th Street Bridge Project, Mr. Ward advised that the VML/VACO Commercial Paper Program is financing the \$1,350,000 cost. This is short term financing and the Virginia Department of Transportation is going to provide 50% reimbursement of this amount or \$675,000. The City is to pay this loan off in four annual payments of \$175,000 and one payment of approximately \$37,000.

The Lawson/Fichko Stadium Project is estimated to cost between \$750,000 and \$850,000 and funds will be needed by the spring of 2007. At its meeting of September

19, 2006, Council authorized \$75,000 from Unappropriated Reserves for engineering design for a new stadium.

The City Administration is proposing that the City should issue a 15 year debt through the VML/VACO Bond Pool to finance the bridge and retire the short term commercial paper borrowing and to place in escrow the proceeds from the VDOT reimbursement in the amount of \$675,000 and apply these funds toward the stadium project.

Mr. Ward then went over a Debt Service Analysis and Existing Debt Analysis with Council. He further discussed the advantages and disadvantages of this financial proposal. The City Manager recommended to Council that they authorize him to proceed with the long term financing of the bridge and authorize him to escrow the VDOT reimbursement and apply these funds toward the stadium project.

During discussions on this, Mr. Ward advised that the City also has a \$400,000 debt for the emergency Virginia Avenue Project and he would like to add this amount into the proposed long term financing package if funds are not available from Rural Development.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to proceed with the public hearing advertised for the November 21, 2006 meeting on the 1.7 million dollar financial package to cover long term financing on the several projects discussed tonight.

Council had a copy of A Resolution Authorizing the Lease/Purchase of a 2006 Sterling L7500 Truck. Mr. Ward advised that this truck is covered in the City's budget at a cost of \$92,000. With a five year lease, the City's annual payments would be \$21,000. He is seeking authorization to proceed with the adoption of this resolution.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council adopted A Resolution Authorizing the Lease/Purchase of a 2006 Sterling L7500 Truck. (Insert)

Council had a request for one water tap for Brad Hart, 4626 Thackers Branch Road, which is located in the County.

Mayor Raines advised that he would like to see a notation added to the forms used for water or sewer tap applications stating that said taps have to be completed within one year or the application is void.

The City Manager advised that he would take care of this.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve one water tap for Brad Hart of 4626 Thackers Branch Road.

At this time, there was a five minute break in the meeting for those present to review the results of today's election.

Council had a request from the Wise County Public Service Authority for one sewer tap in the Esserville Industrial Park.

Mayor Raines advised that the City needs to revisit why it is having a moratorium on sewer connections in this part of the City. The Mayor discussed the problems with the lines in this area and the grease problem experienced by the City and the C-N-W Regional Sewer Authority.

21482

Mayor Raines advised that the Wise County PSA is a governmental agency that provides services to the entire county and the City. The City has a contractual agreement with them. If this sewer tap should be permitted, it would be a low impact hook-up and would be only one ERC. If this tap should be permitted, the City is still under a moratorium in this area and no additional hook-ups will be permitted; however the City feels that meaningful dialogue needs to take place with the County on the sewer problems in this area.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve one sewer tap that is not transferable to the Wise County PSA for the building of a new office building in the Esserville Industrial Park. Council asked the City Manager to advise county officials that the City Administration is willing to enter into meaningful dialogue with the County of the problem on sewer in this area.

Council had been presented with copies of three checks in their packets. Two were payable to the Norton City Schools in the amounts of \$155,000 and \$178,000 and the third was payable to Lanford Brothers, Inc. in the amount of \$543,705.90.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve three checks. Two of these checks were payable to the Norton City Schools in the amounts of \$155,000 and \$178,000. The third was made payable to Lanford Brothers, Inc. in the amount of \$543,705.90.

21483

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, 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.

21484

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

21485

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk polled each member of Council as to the certification of closed meeting with each answering yes. The Clerk then read A Resolution of 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)

21486

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Lonesome Pine Office on Youth to fill the unexpired term of Katie Mullins.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Jaycob Coleman.

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

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Jaycob Coleman appointed to the Lonesome Pine Office on Youth to fill the unexpired term of Katie Mullins. This term will expire on May 2, 2007.

214

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the slides on the screen tonight showed the various projects that are and have been underway in the City. The City is now currently re-evaluating the 11th Street Park and surveys have been sent home by school children and are available at various City locations. Public input is being solicited before renovations begin on the 20 year old park. A report will be brought to Council in early 2007.

21400

Mayor Raines congratulated the three Council incumbents who were re-elected in today's election. These Council members are Vice Mayor William Mays, and Councilmen Fawbush and Hunnicutt.

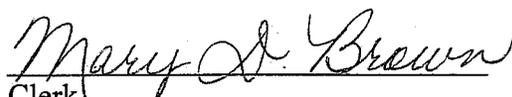
21489

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk