

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, November 21, 2006 in the Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt

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 Lt. Randy Mullins of the Norton Police Department.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2006 meeting as presented.

21490

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

21491

A public hearing was held to solicit public input on the proposed issuance of General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$1,750,000.

Mr. Ward advised that at the last council meeting, he discussed with Council the possibility of long term debt for the 11th Street Bridge Project and also the Emergency Storm Drainage Project on Virginia Avenue.

In order to secure the issuance of bonds for this long term debt, the City must first hold a public hearing. Should Council decide to proceed, the next item on the agenda is a resolution for adoption.

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

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

21492

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

The City Attorney spoke briefly to Council regarding the issuance of these bonds and advised them that the City's fiscal condition is more than sufficient for this bond issue.

Council had been presented with A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Approving the Issuance and Sale of the City of Norton, Virginia, General Obligation Public Improvement Bond, in the Maximum Principal Amount of Up To \$1,750,000, and the Execution and Delivery of Certain Documents Prepared in Connection Therewith.

Mr. Ward advised this resolution was prepared by the bond counsel and advises how the procedure will go forth along with the requirements for this bond issue. If Council wishes to proceed with this bond issuance, the resolution needs to be adopted.

21493

Mayor Raines advised that the City may still receive some grants funds to apply to this indebtedness. Mr. Ward advised that Rural Development will not know anything regarding funding until mid-January.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Approving the Issuance and Sale of the City of Norton, Virginia,

General Obligation Public Improvement Bond, in the Maximum Principal Amount of Up To \$1,750,000, and the Execution and Delivery of Certain Documents Prepared in Connection Therewith. (Insert)

Mrs. Marie Muir and members of the City of Norton Electoral Board were present and discussed with Council the recent election.

Speaking on behalf of the Electoral Board was Mrs. Gereva Hunnicutt, Chairman. She advised that both precincts were held in Council Chambers for the election and that it went very well. She discussed a few things that needed to be done in the area of the Council Chambers in order for the elections to be continued to be held there. The primary concern was the parking situation. They would like to have all the parking spaces freed up for voters and also have safety rails installed on the entrance steps.

Also speaking on behalf of the Electoral Board was Mr. George Lewis.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines thanked Mrs. Muir and the Electoral Board for their work.

Council had been forwarded a memorandum from Mr. Ron Flanary, Executive Director of the Lenowisco Planning District Commission. They are in the process of planning a Regional Legislative Initiative which will be held during the General Assembly's 2007 session in January. This initiative will cover Lee, Wise, and Scott Counties and the City of Norton. Also wishing to participate are Dickenson and Buchanan Counties. They are asking for a commitment in the amount of \$2,500 to \$3,500 for the cost of the activities during this activity. They also have a block of rooms reserved at the Omni and if any member of Council would like to attend, Mr. Ward asked to be notified in order that he can make the reservations.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to allocate an amount not to exceed \$3,500 from Contingency for the Legislative Delegation Trip to Richmond in January 2007.

At this time, Mayor Raines recognized Mr. Dave Emershaw of 1269 Park Avenue, N. W. Mr. Emershaw discussed with Council several problems he is incurring at his residence and the property he owns adjacent to it.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines advised Mr. Emershaw that he needs to proceed thru the appropriate channels. The first of these channels is discussing these problems with the City Manager. He further advised that the City is willing to work with him on these problems.

Council had been presented in their packets A Resolution Supporting the Establishment of a Regional Tourism Development Fund. Mr. Ward advised that he had met with with Ms. Geneva O'Quinn, Executive Director of the Heart of Appalachia Tourism Board, and other members of her Board regarding this proposed resolution. This resolution covers the establishment of a \$3.00 per night lodging fee per room in each county, city and town in the seven coalfield counties and the City of Norton. These funds will be used as funding for their organization with \$1.00 out of the \$3.00 going back to the hotel.

Their request is for the City to consider the adoption of this resolution.
After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to table this item for the time being.

In comments from the City Manger, Mr. Ward advised that the City offices will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

21498

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

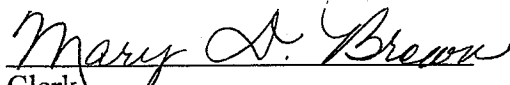
21499

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk