

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, December 5, 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 Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief Kenneth Jackson.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the minutes of the November 21, 2006 council meeting approved as presented.

21500

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Stan Wilson, John I. Burton High School Athletic Director, spoke briefly to Council. He advised that the football team was going to the State Football Championship on Friday and the school asked if Council could contribute to the costs that will be incurred for this trip. He advised that the School will be reimbursed approximately \$4,000 from the Virginia High School League and the anticipated cost of the trip is \$13,519.22. This will cover the costs for the football team, band, and cheerleaders.

21501

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to appropriate \$9,500 from Contingency to the John I. Burton High School to help defray the costs associated with their participation in the State Football Championship in Harrisonburg this week-end.

Both Mr. Wilson and School Board Chairman, Ron McCall, thanked Council for their continuing support. They invited members of Council to the pep rally to be held at 8:45 Friday morning at the high school.

Council had been provided with A Resolution Establishing the City of Norton's Assign-A-Highway Program. Present tonight to discuss this with Council was Michele Knox, City of Norton's Parks and Recreation Director and Litter Coordinator, and Mr. Bobby Justus, State Coordinator for this program.

Mr. Ward advised that Ms. Knox has been working for months with the Upper Tennessee Round Table and Black Diamond RC&D on this program. This is a new program which was established in 2003 to clean up the littered roadsides. This program uses criminal probationers, unsupervised, who report in and out with the City's Litter Warden. In order to participate in this program, there has to be cooperation from the local court system. Wise County has been participating in this program for the past two years.

21502

Mr. Justus spoke briefly to Council advising them how the program works. Mr. Justus advised that if Norton chose to participate, they would be the first City in the state to do so. Also speaking to Council on this was the City Attorney.

Following a brief discussion and 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 Establishing the City of Norton’s Assign-A-Highway Program.
(Insert)

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to petition the Wise County Circuit Court for the appointment of a monitor for the City’s Assign-A-Highway Program. This monitor is to be the City’s Litter Warden.

Mayor Raines thanked both Ms. Knox and Mr. Justus for their assistance in the establishment of this program for the City.

Council had been presented with A Resolution Supporting the Coal Heritage Trail into the Virginia Coalfields.

Mr. Ward advised that this trail is currently in West Virginia and they wish to extend it into the seven coalfield counties of southwest Virginia. This will be brought in along Route 23 thru Norton.

21503

Michele Knox, the City’s representative on the Tourism Board, was present to discuss this with Council. The Virginia Department of Transportation, the Virginia Tourism Corporation, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Commonwealth Transportation Board are working to improve economic development through tourism and they are encouraging local governments to nominate roads for the Virginia Byway designation.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, 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 in Support of the Coal Heritage Trail into the Coalfields of Virginia.
(Insert)

In their packets, Council had been given copies of a check in the amount of \$275,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools and a copy of a check in the amount of \$122,004.25 made payable to the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

21504

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$275,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools and a check in the amount of \$122,004.25 made payable to the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, 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.

21505

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

21506

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 Hunniuctt, 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 of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

21507

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the Norton Rescue Squad is preparing a luncheon for City employees on Thursday, December 7th at their building and Council members are invited to attend. City bonuses will be given out at that time.

21508

Interviews will be held on December 15th for the Comprehensive Sewer Study.

The closing on the \$1,750,000 bond issue will be held on December 28th.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that the easements on the Coca Cola Property for the Country Cabin water tap are ready and should be completed shortly.

21509

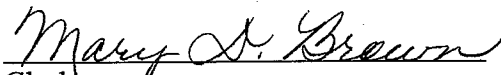
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk