

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in 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, which was led by the Assistant City Manager, Fred Ramey.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 1, 2005 meeting as presented.

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

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Mr. Brian Blanton, of Thrower, Blanton, and Associates, presented Council members with a draft copy of the audit for the year ending June 30, 2004.

Mr. Blanton briefly discussed this audit with Council and advised that the City had received an unqualified opinion, which is the best rating that can be obtained, and further advised that the City was in good financial shape.

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Following this synopsis, Mr. Blanton advised that he would be available to answer any questions Council may have. He also advised that he will have a finalized audit to give to the City Manager shortly.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Blanton for his presentation.

After receiving a request at the last meeting regarding a seasonal camping fee for Flag Rock and being asked by Council to research this item, Mr. Ward advised that he and Michele Knox, Parks and Recreation Director, had discussed this matter. It was their recommendation that the City Council table this item until such time that electricity can be installed in the lower camp ground. This would allow for an additional ten campsites and would give more flexibility in choosing what sites could be used for the seasonal camping fee. Furthermore, Mr. Ward advised that the City Attorney would have to be consulted as to the obligations of the City and the campers on this arrangement.

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Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to table this item at this time and instructed the City Administration to bring this item back to Council in the future.

Council had been presented with A Resolution Authorizing A Contract Award for the Frog Level Water Project.

Mr. Ward advised Council that the City had received a \$50,000 grant from the Virginia Department of Health for this project last year. This project is for the area below Prime Sirloin and will affect 16 homes. This will upgrade a 2 inch water line to a

6 inch water line and will now allow for fire services to these homes, which are located in the County.

Mr. Ward advised that the Virginia Department of Health requires City Council to adopt a resolution awarding this project. The low bid on this project was \$48,915.00 which was submitted by Little Henry's Excavating and Paving.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing a Contract Award for the Frog Level Water Project. (Insert)

The City Manager advised Council that the City had recently been informed by the Lenowisco Planning District that the City had been awarded \$5,000 for their share of an allocation from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to be used on a water and/or sewer project. Mr. Ward advised that he had not requested the funds yet; however he asked Council if they had any specific project on which these funds could be used. He advised Council of several projects on which the \$5,000 could be used.

It was the consensus of Council that the City should first receive these funds and then they will decide on which project to apply these funds.

Council had been presented with copies of two checks in excess of \$100,000. The first of these is for the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$215,000 and the second is to Glass Machinery & Excavation in the amount of \$104,041.99.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$215,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools and a check in the amount of \$104,041.99 made payable to Glass Machinery & Excavation.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, 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.

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

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 William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace and passed by the following unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

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Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Housing Appeals Board for a five year term which will expire on February 18, 2010.

William Mays nominated Mr. Willie Winkles to be reappointed to this Board.

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

Mayor Raines declared Willie Winkles reappointed to the City of Norton Housing Appeals Board for a five year term, which will expire on February 18, 2010.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the Big Stone Gap-Norton Water Interconnect Project has been advertised and bids will be opened on March 8, 2005.

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Mayor Raines advised that renovations would soon be started in Council Chambers. The next two City Council meetings will be held at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room at the Hotel Norton.

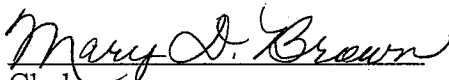
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There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk