

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hotel Norton 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 City Sheriff Carlos Noaks.

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

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 21-4 (6) and Section 21-4 (7) of the Norton City Code and Adopting Regulations for Electronic Message Board Signs.

Mayor Raines advised that tonight's public hearing had been duly advertised and this request has gone to several organizations for consideration.

The City Manager gave a brief synopsis on this request from Southwest Insurance Agency for a digital message board at their location on 11th Street, which is across from J. I. Burton High School. This type of sign was prohibited from our current Sign Ordinance and this request was sent to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission agreed that this type of sign should be permitted and recommended to Council that our current ordinance be amended to include them.

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Council sent this request to the Highway Safety Commission for their consideration since the location of the business is across from the high school. It was the recommendation of the Highway Safety Commission that this type of sign be permitted and they asked the City Manager to proceed with the preparation of an ordinance for Council's consideration.

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

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

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 21-4 (6) and Section 21-4 (7) of the Norton City Code and Adopting Regulations for Electronic Message Board Signs. (Insert) This ordinance will go into effect in thirty days.

Council had received in their packets a copy of the 2005-2006 budget of the Norton Industrial Development Authority which totals \$1,033,854.02. NIDA met on June 6th and approved this budget. Per the conditions of a 1994 loan from the Powell Valley National Bank, City Council must approve this budget.

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Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the

2005-2006 budget of the Norton Industrial Development Authority in the amount of \$1,033,854.02.

Council had been presented with A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Adopting a Five Year Capital Improvement Program.

Mr. Ward advised that this CIP Program had been in effect since 1987 and that the items in the current year of 2005-2006 has funds appropriated in the current budget. Some of the items covered in this year's program are: Installing electricity at the lower campground at Flag Rock, continuation of the Sidewalk Program, renovations to City Hall, improvements to J. I. Burton High School (sidewalk and parking lot), Comprehensive Sewer Study, and local funding for the 11th Street Bridge Project. The City Manager asked Council's favorable consideration on the adoption of this resolution.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote, YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Adopting a Five Year Capital Improvements Program. (Insert)

The City Manager requested a budget amendment to the 2004-2005 General Operating Fund Budget for the following items: \$ 50,000 for the purchase of the R. O. Goad Property, \$39,444 for additional Fire Funds received, and \$4,037 for DCJS Block Grant.

Mr. Ward advised that this is the last meeting in this fiscal year and the 2004-2005 General Operating Fund Budget needs to be amended to cover the above items. The \$50,000 that will go toward the purchase of the R. O. Goad Property will come from Unappropriated Reserves and will go the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the \$50,000 from Unappropriated Reserves for the down payment on the R. O. Goad Property. This check will be made payable to the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a budget amendment in the 2004-2005 General Operating Budget in the amount of \$39,444 for additional Fire Funds received and \$4,037 for DCJS Block Grant Funds, which will be used for overtime in the Police Department.

Council had a copy of a check made payable to the Norton Industrial Development Authority in the amount of \$230,000 for approval.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$230,000 made payable to the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting. 21102
Mayor Raines declared City Council 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 Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – NONE, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert) 21103

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Circuit Court for the Board of Zoning Appeals for five year terms which will expire on June 2, 2010. 21104

William Mays nominated William Hutchinson and Jon Rockett to be reappointed to this Board.

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

Mayor Raines declared William Hutchinson and Jon Rockett as nominees to the Board of Zoning Appeals for five year terms which will expire on June 2, 2010 and these individuals' names will be submitted to the Circuit Court.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Mountain Empire Regional Business Incubator Board for a four year term which will expire on June 30, 2009.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Marsha Maggard to be appointed to this Board.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease. 21105

Mayor Raines declared Marsha Maggard appointed to the MERBI Board for a four year term which will expire on June 30, 2009.

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

Work will begin shortly on the parking lot behind Hotel Norton and a Pre-Bid Construction Meeting will be held on Thursday.

Council has received invitation to the Big Cherry Dam Opening to be held on Wednesday, July 6, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. 21106

The annual VML Conference will be held October 23-October 25 in Richmond. This will be the 100 year celebration of this conference. Any Council members interested in attending, please notify the City Manager.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he and the Clerk of Council would begin in the morning on the paper work to be submitted to the Circuit Court for the appointments to the Board of Zoning Appeals. 21107

In comments from Council, Mayor Raines advised that our next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, July 5th.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to cancel the July 5, 2005 meeting due to the holiday.


Mayor Raines spoke briefly regarding the work that will be done on the parking lot behind the hotel. He attributed this to the planning of NIDA, the City Administration, and Fred Ramey for their visions of the downtown area throughout the last twenty years.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk