

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Absent: William Mays

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

The invocation was given Rev. Shawn Easterling. Following the invocation, Mayor Raines asked Rev. Easterling and his young daughter, Amber, to come forward. The Mayor advised that the Easterlings will be moving to Richmond, Kentucky and this will be the last council meeting for Rev. Easterling. Amber has attended most of these meetings with her father; therefore, Mayor Raines presented Amber with an inscribed City of Norton ornament. Following this presentation, Rev. Easterling spoke briefly to Council advising that it had been an honor to attend Council meetings and give the invocation and that Norton had been a wonderful home for his family.

21163

The pledge of allegiance was led by the Assistant Police Chief, Dennis Brummette.

21164

In attendance at tonight's meeting was Delegate Terry Kilgore. Delegate Kilgore, representing the Virginia Tobacco Commission, presented the City with a check in the amount of \$150,000, which represents a grant to the City for use in the drainage project and for which the City is currently securing financing.

21165

On behalf of City Council and the citizens of Norton, Mayor Raines accepted this check and expressed both appreciation and thanks to the Virginia Tobacco Commission.

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

21166

Included in Council's packets was a copy of a draft of the Grease Control Program for the Wastewater Collection System. Mr. Ward advised that the City does have the authority to enforce such a program per our City Code. Tonight, Council can either adopt or modify this policy. Present tonight to answer any questions is Winfred Collins, the Assistant Building Inspector.

The City Manager presented a brief PowerPoint presentation covering this program. He advised that any new or existing customers on the sewer system will adhere to the provisions of this Grease Control Ordinance. Permits will be issued as stipulated in our Industrial Waste Ordinance for a fee of \$5.00 and will last no longer than five years; however, they will be evaluated every two years. The City will have the authority to revoke the permits of violators and failure to comply with this program can result in the City disconnecting sewer service.

21167

Mr. Ward also advised that he and Mr. Collins had met with Mark Hollyfield, Executive Director of the C-N-W Regional Sewer Authority and Mr. Hollyfield stated that this was a good policy and that he hoped the City would move forward with this program. The City Manager also advised that this is an administrative policy and no public hearing is required.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt A Grease Control Program for the Wastewater Collection System.

Mayor Raines expressed thanks to the City Administration for the hard work done on this program.

The City Manager gave a brief summary on the upcoming Virginia Municipal League Conference, which is to be held October 23 through October 25 in Richmond. This will be the 100th anniversary of the VML. As of this date, Mayor Raines, the Assistant City Manager, and Mr. Ward will be attending. If any other members wish to attend, please notify the City Manager and he will register them.

Mr. Ward advised that the City will be having an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Evaluation the end of the month. Representatives will be here on September 28 for several days to evaluate City records to determine our insurance rating. The last time this was done was in 1987. Our rating at that time was 6 in the City and 9 out of the City. Administratively, the City is hoping that these ratings will be maintained or improved since a lot of improvement has been done which will affect them. Several of these improvements are the implementation of the 911 Program, generator back up at the water plant and one pump station, new equipment purchases, and the expending of several million dollars on water system improvements.

The City is hoping to receive better ratings and save money for City businesses and citizens.

The City Manager advised that the City currently has one-half of its capacity in our reservoir. We have one hundred days storage of water. Without rain, the City may be in a water emergency. He also advised that the City is experiencing the lowest level in daily usage since 1993 and an increase in accountability level. This is due to work done on line replacement and the repairing of leaks.

Mr. Ward advised that the City was in receipt of a letter from Rural Development on September 9, 2005, advising that the City will receive a \$1,607,000 grant to be used on the city's storm drainage project. This grant is to be repaid at 4-1/8% interest. The City has applied to the Appalachian Regional Commission for a \$500,000 grant for this project.

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 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended and consultation with legal counsel pertaining to probable litigation as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (7) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

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.

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.

21174

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Mays, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed meeting. (Insert)

21175

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Advisory Board for a two year term which will expire on September 15, 2007.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Michele Knox to be reappointed to this Board.

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

21176

Mayor Raines declared Michele Knox reappointed to the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Advisory Board for a two year term which will expire on September 15, 2007.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Planning District One Disability Services Board for a three year term which will expire on August 31, 2008.

Jack Wallace nominated Michele Knox to be reappointed to this Board.

21177

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

Mayor Raines declared Michele Knox reappointed to the Planning District One Disability Services Board for a three year term which will expire on August 31, 2008.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Tourism Board for two 4 year terms which will expire on September 30, 2009.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Joyce Payne and Kim Gibson to be reappointed to this Board.

21178

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

Mayor Raines declared Joyce Payne and Kim Gibson reappointed to the City of Norton Tourism Board for four year terms which will expire on September 30, 2009.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that he had read in the paper that the City is the recipient of a \$745,000 VDOT matching dollar to dollar grant for the 11th Street Bridge Project. Official notification has not yet been received.

21179

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk