

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., Assistant City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

Absent: E. W. Ward, City Manager

The invocation was given by Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by the Superintendent of Norton City Schools, Dr. John Sessoms.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2005 meeting as corrected. In Paragraph #21168, the dates of the VML Conference should have been October 23-25, 2005 instead of October 13-25, 2005.

21180

At this time, Mayor Raines recognized Dr. Jim Knight of the University of Virginia's College at Wise and Dr. David Prior, the new Chancellor at UVA-Wise.

21181

Dr. Prior spoke briefly and advised that he was looking forward to working with Council.

Mayor Raines advised that the City presently has approximately 40% reservoir capacity and that the City has been increasing the amount of water purchased from the Wise County Public Service Authority. The Mayor advised that Big Stone Gap is really having problems with their water situation and they have made connection above ground to City lines. The City, with the help of the Wise County PSA, would like to help Big Stone Gap during this crisis.

21182

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council directed the City Administration to work with the Town of Big Stone Gap and the Wise County PSA to devise a plan to help furnish water to the Town of Big Stone Gap. This plan, when completed, should be brought back to Council in an emergency called meeting for Council's action.

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

21183

Council had a request for funds by the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$15,500 for engineering services.

Mayor Raines recognized Mr. Ron McCall, Chairman of the City of Norton School Board. Mr. McCall advised that members of the School Board were present as were the coaches of the top three sports.

Mr. McCall then presented Council with a slide show depicting the need of repairs/replacement of the J. I. Burton Stadium and the press box. He also had slides

showing drainage problems in various areas around the stadium and other locations and the need for renovations on the tennis courts, in the dugouts at the baseball field, locker rooms, dressing rooms, showers, and offices at the Athletic Department. The amount requested tonight will cover Thompson and Litton's cost for engineering services on the stadium and press box.

21184

Mr. McCall further advised that he would be back the first of the year to discuss the items regarding the 6.5 million dollar project that he has previously discussed with Council and stated that he did not want this Stadium Project to override this project, which covers several items at the Norton Elementary School and one at the high school.

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 appropriate \$15,500 to the Norton City School System for engineering services with Thompson and Litton for the stadium and press box at J. I. Burton High School with said funds to come from Unappropriated Reserves.

The Assistant City Manager, Mr. Ramey, spoke briefly to Council regarding the City's Tax Mapping Program and gave them a demonstration of the new software and how it has improved the tax mapping system for the City. The last time that the tax maps were completed was in 1986 and he showed Council a sample. Then he showed Council the same map done with the new software. All the data is digital and opens up so many opportunities to check on plats, blocks, zoning, and structures on land. He advised that the Administration's goal was to get City data as accurate as possible. He stated that they have come a long way in a short amount of time with this program.

21185

Mayor Raines expressed his thanks to Mr. Ramey for his work on this project.

Council had been provided with a copy of A Resolution of the City of Norton, Virginia Approving the Transfer of the Cable Television System and Franchise in their packets.

Mayor Raines gave a brief history on this item and advised that the City had again worked with Mr. Dave Harris as our consultant on this transfer of the cable television system and franchise.

21186

The City Attorney advised that Big Stone Gap will take action on this item next Tuesday and advised that the consultant did a thorough job on this resolution.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote, YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City of Norton, Virginia Approving the Transfer of the Cable Television System and Franchise. (Insert)

Council had been presented with a copy of a check in the amount of \$315,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools to cover payroll and fringe benefits.

21187

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$315,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

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. 21188
Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting. 21189
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. 21190

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

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for the unexpired term of Mr. John Elmore which will expire on January 28, 2008. 21191

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Mr. Lynn Livingston to be appointed to this Authority.

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

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Lynn Livingston appointed to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board for the unexpired term of Mr. John Elmore. This term will expire on January 28, 2008.


In comments from the Assistant City Manager, Mr. Ramey advised that he had attached to Council's copy of the water report a ten day weather forecast, which shows that there is not much chance of rain in this timeframe. He further advised that PSA water had been supplying the City up to 9th Street and beginning in the morning, it will be taken to 11th Street. 21192

There were no legal comments from the City Attorney; however, Mr. Bradshaw, speaking as a citizen of Big Stone Gap, took the opportunity to congratulate the City and other jurisdictions in the regionalization of their water systems. He extended thanks to the Council and to the other municipalities for the help being given to Big Stone Gap during this drought situation. 21193

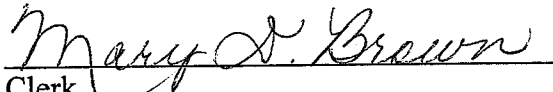
Mayor Raines advised that Council has been invited to the grand opening of Goodys on Thursday, October 6th, at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast and the grand opening at 8:30. 21194

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk