

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Absent: Joseph Fawbush

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 Police Chief Kenny Jackson.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the October 4, 2005 meeting and the minutes of the emergency called October 10, 2005 meeting as presented.

21203

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

21204

The City Manager presented Council with an update on the Big Stone Gap water shortage. He advised that the package plant is now on line and furnishing one half million gallons of water from the Powell River to Big Stone. The interconnect with Appalachia should be completed by tomorrow. The permanent 21st Street connection to the City is about one block way and should be completed by Wednesday or Thursday of this week. The Big Cherry Reservoir is down to a one to two day supply. The City is presently sending approximately 100,000 gallons a day to them.

21205

The total reservoir capacity for the City is 45.42 million gallons and the City is holding its own at this time. Mr. Ward asked that citizens and businesses please conserve water during this time.

Mr. Ward then showed Council a slide presentation showing the temporary connect to Big Stone. The boil notices for the City of Norton water being piped to Big Stone is due to the lines not having been adequately tested. The City is keeping in touch with Big Stone Gap and the City Administration feels that we can continue supplying them with water at least until the next council meeting.

Council was given an update on the Norton Upper Reservoir Dam Project. Mr. Ward advised that Council had advised the City Administration to procure engineering services for this project. This has been done and Thompson and Litton has been selected. Present tonight is Pat Murphy, Project Manager, who presented a powerpoint presentation to Council. Mr. Ward advised that some preliminary work has been done as to the design of this project.

21206

Mr. Murhpy gave a brief history of the dam and advised that the City is operating the dam under a conditional O&M Certificate and needs to improve the spillway to pass the probably maximum flood. This certificate expires on March 31, 2006.

By March 1, 2006, they plan to submit an alteration permit and include design plans and specifications. They are currently ready to proceed with the preliminary design phase, which they hope to have completed within 60 days or less. He then discussed with

Council the choices they will need to make as to the best option for improving the spillway – either by the roller compacted concrete or a labyrinth weir. Also, Council will need to decide whether they want to raise the dam for additional storage capacity.

Following a discussion on the preliminary design phase and the process to move forward on this project, Council thanked Mr. Murphy for his presentation.

Mr. Ward advised Council that this will be brought back to them within 45-60 days for a decision on the final design. He further advised that they were working to find some grant funds to help with the preliminary design. Also, Mr. Ward advised that he had received a letter from the VML/VACo Commercial Program advising that the City has been pre-approved to participate in this program which offers funds for construction financing for new projects. Funds may also be available from Lenowisco.

Council had been presented with a list of the working officers of the Norton Fire Department for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. Per Section 8-38 of the Norton City Code, these officers have to be approved by City Council.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the working officers of the Norton Fire Department as submitted.

The City Manager presented to each member of Council a copy of the Comparative Cost Report that is prepared on an annual basis by the Auditor of Public Accounts. He then presented a brief powerpoint presentation comparing the City's figures with other cities in the state. Rather than comparing with towns in our area, this year Mr. Ward selected the cities of Emporia, Covington, Bedford, Buena Vista, Galax, Lexington, and Franklin. All of these cities have population of less than 10,000.

Following this presentation, Mr. Ward advised he would answer any questions Council may have.

In their packets, Council had been presented with a draft policy for the Buy-Back of Accumulated Sick Leave from employees who have been employed full time with the City for twenty years. This policy will not apply to any part-time employees, employees of the Department of Social Services, and the constitutional officers and their staffs. Mr. Ward advised that this had been discussed during a CIP meeting and the Administration was asked to put together a plan.

At the time of retirement or when employees separate from service from the City, this plan calls for the purchase of the first 90 days at \$15.00 per day; the next 60 days at \$18.00 per day, and all days over 150 days at \$40.00 per day. As of July 2006, it is projected that the City would have a total liability, should this policy be adopted, of \$51,559. \$20,000 has been budgeted in the 2005-2006 budget and estimated that another \$20,000 would need to be budgeted in the 2006-2007 fiscal year, and between \$2,500 - \$5,000 each fiscal year thereafter adjusted to reflect any retirements or trends.

Following a brief discussion, Council thanked the City Manager for this presentation and asked him to bring this back to Council within the next two council meetings.

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.

21210

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

21211

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.

21212

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

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the City had mailed out the tax tickets on Monday, October 17th.

21213

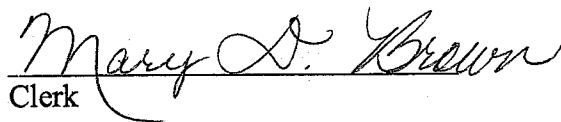
There being no further action to come before Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk