

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, May 18, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in the 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 Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to accept the minutes of the May 4, 2004 meeting as presented.

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

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A public hearing was held to solicit public input on the 2004-2005 proposed budget of the Norton City Schools which includes local funding in the amount of \$1,576,522.

Mayor Raines advised that the public hearing had been duly advertised.

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

Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, was present and advised Council that the School System had received notification that they will receive over \$201,000 from the State. He further advised that the employee VRS contribution percentage proposed has been reduced. Therefore, it appears the School Board will have \$226,490 additional dollars to apply to this budget. He also advised that they are working on their budget and it should be ready for adoption at the appropriate time and that a copy of it will be given to the City Manager upon its completion. Dr. Sessoms thanked Council for their continued support.

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Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

Mayor Raines advised that action will be taken on the 2004-2005 Budget of the Norton City Schools at the June 1, 2004 meeting.

Council had in their packets information for a public hearing to be held on the consideration of a budget amendment to the 2003-2004 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$938,060, which represents grant funds from the Department of Housing and Community Development in the amount of \$730,000 and Appalachian Regional Commission funds in the amount of \$208,060. These funds are for the Laurel Trails Subdivision Project.

20794

There were no questions or comments from Council prior to the duly advertised 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 unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the 2003-2004 General Fund Budget

in the amount of \$938,060, which represents grant funds from the Department of Housing and Community Development in the amount of \$730,000 and Appalachian Regional Commission funds in the amount of \$208,060. Said funds are for the Laurel Trails Housing Project.

Mr. Ward advised Council that the City had received only two bids for the Laurel Trails Subdivision Project. The low bid from Glass Machinery and Excavation was \$972,668.15 with the Add Alternate #1 in the amount of \$73,699.20, which is approximately \$200,000 over the estimated cost of this project. He advised that the Add Alternate #1 is not necessary, but the City would like to keep it in the plans. This covers the installation of utilities underground.

Mr. Ward then presented Council with options that could be taken on this project for their consideration. He advised that the City could reject the bids and rebid the project with the hope of additional and lower bids. This may or many not happen and will delay the project.

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He further advised that another option would be to accept the low bid with the inclusion or not with the inclusion of the Add Alternate #1, and find additional and alternate ways to fund the overrun. If acceptance of the lower bid is the option taken, then the Administration will continue to look at ways to eliminate or lower the costs in the contract.

Mr. Ward advised that he had been contacted by Rural Development and that they were willing to loan the City the additional funds needed for this project with terms that are favorable to the City for a period of ten or fifteen years. The City Manager stated he was pleased that they had contacted him and that they were willing to work with the City.

Also present and speaking to Council tonight was Mr. Pat Murphy of Thompson and Litton, engineers for this project.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of Council that this is a worthwhile project that needs to be completed and for the City Manager to research this issue as to the various options of securing the additional funding and bring this information back to Council.

Mayor Raines expressed appreciation to Mr. Murphy for his work on this project and also asked him to check on the costs for the fiber optic installation.

Council was presented with a request for one sewer tap for Mr. Thomas J. Hunsucker, 4309 McKinley Road, in the Josephine area.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve one sewer tap for Mr. Thomas J. Hunsucker, 4309 McKinley Road.

20796

Council had a copy of a check in the amount of \$212,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools for approval.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$212,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

20797

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, 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.

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Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

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Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk 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 Jack Wallace, 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 of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

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Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations of a citizen representative to the Youth Services Board for a four year term which will expire on May 2, 2008.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Mrs. Monica Wilson.

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

Mayor Raines declared Mrs. Monica Wilson appointed as a citizen representative to the Youth Services Board for a four year term which will expire on May 2, 2008.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that he is preparing to advertise the City's budget for the next fiscal year. There will be some items to adjust including wages and salaries for the constitutional officers in the amount of \$7,620. These adjustments will be included in advertised budget.

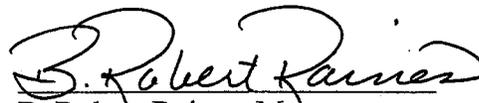
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In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that Big Stone Gap will be closing on the financing for the construction of Big Cherry Dam and that Mr. Ward has graciously offered the use of the City's Conference Room for this closing. This will be held on Thursday, May 27, 2004 at 1:00 p.m.

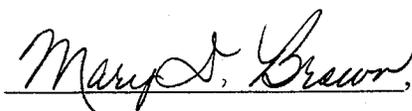
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There being no further action to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

 Clerk