

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 21, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers 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 Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2004 meeting as presented.

20877

At this time, Mayor Raines amended the agenda to include Item 7-D-1, Consideration of Acceptance of Property Conveyance.

20878

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

20879

Council had been given a corrected list of the restrictive covenants as pertains to the Laurel Trails Subdivision Project. This corrected list also had comments from the City's consultant on this project, Ken Poore of K. W. Poore and Associates.

Mr. Ward went over each of the items Mr. Poore had on his list with Council.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Administration to work on the several items discussed and unresolved at tonight's meeting. These items are: Fencing, Commercial Vehicles, and a Minimum of 3 Bedrooms – 2 Baths.

20880

Mr. Ward advised Council that Mr. Bobby Lane of Lane Engineering was present to give them an update on the Big Stone Gap/Norton Water Interconnect Project.

Mr. Lane advised that the Coalfields Water Study was done in 1998 and called for the interconnection of several water systems. One of these interconnects was that of Big Stone Gap and the City of Norton.

To make this project a reality, three phases had to be completed. The first of these was the City of Norton Water Line Replacement Project which has been completed. The second was the construction of a new Big Cherry Dam in Big Stone Gap. This new dam is under construction and is due to be finished in April of 2005. The third item is the actual interconnect between Big Stone Gap and Norton. This phase is completed in both design and planning and has been submitted to the Health Department for approval. This approval is expected in the near future.

20881

Mr. Lane, with the aid of a map, showed Council how the lines would run from the Big Cherry Dam and interconnect with the City. This will supply water to Hoot Owl Hollow residents. He further advised that advertising for bids should be within 30 days.

Once a bid is awarded, a start date of early 2005 is expected with completion in 8 to 9 months. This project should be completed and in operation by this time next year.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Lane for his presentation and for the work done on this project throughout the years.

Council had been presented with Amendment #2 to the Big Stone Gap/Norton Water Interconnect Agreement.

Mr. Ward advised that this amendment covers the City's responsibility for one-half of the debt incurred by Big Stone Gap on this project and also what action will take place should the City fail to pay their share on this project. The City's share will be paid in annual payments of \$28,700 for 20 years.

20882

This amendment was drawn up for the Town of Big Stone Gap and the City by Bill Bradshaw, who is attorney for both of the entities.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to accept Amendment #2 to the Big Stone Gap/Norton Water Interconnect Agreement. (Insert)

In their packets, Council was given a copy of A Proclamation Declaring September 17-23 as Constitution Week.

After the Clerk's reading of this proclamation and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Proclamation Declaring the Week of September 17-23 as Constitution Week. (Insert)

20883

Due to the annual Virginia Municipal League Conference being held October 3rd through October 5th and the first Council Meeting in October scheduled for October 5th, Mr. Ward asked Council's guidance on whether this meeting should be cancelled or postponed. Mayor Raines, Mr. Ward, and Assistant City Manager, Fred Ramey, will be attending this conference.

20884

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to cancel the October 5th Council Meeting.

The City Attorney advised Council that he is working to assist the City Treasurer in collecting delinquent real estate taxes. In doing this, Dr. Samuel D. Graham, who inherited a parcel of land located on Stone Mountain in the vicinity of Laurel Avenue and Chapman Street, had advised that he would deed this parcel to the City if the City will release the taxes owed. The amount of taxes owed is less than \$100.00. Dr. Graham has signed a QuitClaim Deed conveying this land to the City.

If Council desires to accept this parcel in lieu of the taxes, Mr. Bradshaw advised that they need to take action stating so tonight and to also authorize the Mayor to sign this QuitClaim Deed.

20885

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to accept the conveyance of this parcel of land back to the City in lieu of the taxes owed and authorized Mayor Raines to sign the QuitClaim Deed.

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 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended and the discussion of the consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

20886

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

20887

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. Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, 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)

20888

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Virginia Litter Task Force for a one year term.

Jack Wallace nominated Michele Knox to this Board.

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

20889

Mayor Raines declared Michele Knox appointed to the Southwest Virginia Litter Task Force for a one year term.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the recent rains have left our reservoirs full and the City will have a one-half stocking of trout in the reservoir. The reservoir will open on Saturday, the 9th of October, for fishing.

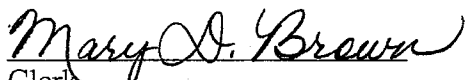
20890

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk