

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, November 16, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, and William Mays

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt and Joseph Fawbush

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 Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the November 2, 2004 meeting as presented.

20924

During the audience for visitors, Mr. Steve Collins, a business owner on Hawthorne Drive, spoke briefly to Council asking when Hawthorne Drive would be reopened.

Fred Ramey, Assistant City Manger, advised that, weather permitting, paving will be done the first week of December and that the road will be opened as soon as possible after that is done.

20925

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines advised that Council appreciates all the sacrifices the businesses on Hawthorne Drive have made during this construction period.

Council had on their agenda a request to vacate or abandon a portion of City right-of-way. This is the request from Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Belcher of Spruce Street. They are asking that the City abandon the right-of-way beside their property and sell it to them for improvements they wish to make on their property.

The City Attorney advised that this decision is a matter for Council's legislative discretion.

20926

Following a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of Council not to abandon this right-of-way and for Mr. Belcher to bring his plans to the City Manager or the Building Inspector for review to see if they fit the criteria for a Special Use Permit. If the plans do meet this criteria, then this item will be brought back to Council for their consideration of a Special Use Permit.

Council had received a request from Family Crisis Support Services for exemption from real estate and personal property taxation. Mr. Ward advised that this exemption would amount to approximately \$1,300 to \$1,400 annually. In order to obtain tax exempt status, Mr. Ward advised that certain criteria must be met. Family Crisis Support Services does meet this criteria.

20927

The City Attorney advised Council that the General Assembly gave this authorization back to localities in 2003.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to increase the yearly appropriation to Family Crisis Support Services to cover the amount of their personal property and real estate taxes.

Mr. Ward had included in Council's packet a request from the City Treasurer for the authorization to begin payment of certain city services by credit or debit cards utilizing an automated on-line system through Official Payments Corporation.

The City Manager advised that this service would cost the City nothing; however, there will be a charge to any citizen who utilizes this service. He further advised that several other entities in our area are using this system through Official Payments Corporation.

20928

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the use of on-line credit/debit card payments for certain city services (real estate and personal property taxes and utility bills) through Official Payments Corporation.

Council had a copy of a check made payable to Glass Machinery & Excavation in the amount of \$100,544.74.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check to Glass Machinery & Excavation in the amount of \$100,544.74.

20929

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting as per Section No. 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 No. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

20930

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

20931

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk polled each member of Council as to the certification of closed meeting. The Clerk then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Wallace, Raines, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

20932

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to execute an option for the acquisition of real property for a public purpose in the amount of \$10,000 with said funds to come from contingency.

20933

There were no comments from the City Manager or the City Attorney.

20934

Mayor Raines asked for information on the annual Christmas parade. The City Manager referred this question to Police Chief Mongle.

20935

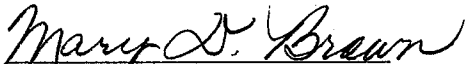
Chief Mongle advised that the Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 4th at 6:00 p.m. The playoff football game is schedule for 1:30 on the same day.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk