

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, December 7, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Absent: William Mays

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Rev. John Ellington and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City School System.

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Stan Wilson, Athletic Director of J. I. Burton High School, spoke briefly to Council asking for assistance from Council to help defray the costs of the football team participating in the State Football Tournament this week end in Harrisonburg.

20936

At this time, Vice Mayor Mays took his seat on Council.

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The estimated costs for the football team, cheerleaders, and band is \$11,810. The Virginia High School league will reimburse the school \$3,810, which leaves a balance of \$8,000. Mr. Wilson advised that they would appreciate any monetary help Council can give them.

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 appropriate \$8,000 for the expenses incurred to take the football team, cheerleaders, and band to the State Football Championship Game this weekend in Harrisonburg. These funds are to come from Contingency.

20938

This check will be presented at the pep rally to be held Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. Mayor Raines advised that he would like for all of Council to attend to support the school.

A public hearing was held to solicit public input on a request to utilize Virginia Department of Transportation Urban Maintenance Funds on the Eleventh Street Bridge Project.

Mr. Ward advised that on August 3, 2004, Council adopted a resolution requesting that VDOT initiate an Urban Highway Project in the City for the rehabilitation of the Eleventh Street Bridge and its approaches. The City has had the firm of Mattern & Craig to prepare a summary of the recommended repairs and a cost estimate for this bridge. The estimated amount is \$1.4 million dollars and the bridge will not have to be closed during this rehabilitation. The City is hopeful that the funds can be obtained partially or entirely through VDOT funding. The purpose of tonight's public hearing, which is a requirement of VDOT, is to get public input only.

20939

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

There being no public input, Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.
The City Manager was advised to proceed on this project.

Council had been presented with A Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Norton Council and the City of Norton School Board as Pertains to Funding for the Norton Elementary School Cafeteria Project.

Mayor Raines advised that in November of this year, the School Board made a presentation to Council on this project with an estimated cost of \$650,000. At this Council meeting, both administrations were asked to look into securing financing for this project. Both Dr. Sessoms and the City Manager have done this.

The School Board adopted this Memorandum of Understanding at a meeting held on December 3, 2004.

The City Manager briefly went over the conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding. Each entity will commit \$60,000 from their 2004-2005 budgets and the balance of the project will be financed through the issuance of long term debt for ten years in the approximate amount of \$530,000. The approximate annual debt service on this issuance is \$70,000. Both the School Board and City Council agree to contribute to the retirement of the debt on a 50-50 basis. The School Board intends to fund their share from School Construction Funds. Should those funds become unavailable from the Commonwealth of Virginia or be significantly reduced, the City Council shall be responsible for the entire repayment of the debt.

20940

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and approved by unanimous roll call vote, City Council moved to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Norton Council and the City of Norton School Board as Pertains to Funding for the Norton Elementary School Cafeteria Project. (Insert)

Council had a request for a budget amendment to the 2004-2005 budget of the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$22,395.94.

Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City School System, was present and advised Council that these funds were e-rate funds and would be used for technology uses only.

20941

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the Norton City Schools 2004-2005 budget in the amount of \$22,395.94.

Mayor Raines advised that Council needs to set a time and date for their organizational meeting.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to have their organizational meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 4, 2005, which is prior to their regularly scheduled meeting.

20942

During this discussion of meeting dates and times and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to cancel the December 21, 2004 meeting due to the Christmas holiday season.

Council had in their packets a check in the amount of \$235,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools for approval.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$235,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

20943

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

20944

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

20945

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, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

20946

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Social Services Advisory Board for a four year term, which will expire on November 21, 2008.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Mr. Kenny Boyd to be reappointed to this Board.

20947

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

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Kenny Boyd reappointed to the Social Services Advisory Board for a four year which will expire on November 21, 2008.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the audit will be presented at the next Council meeting.

20948

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw expressed holiday wishes for Council members and those present both from himself and the Town of Big Stone Gap.

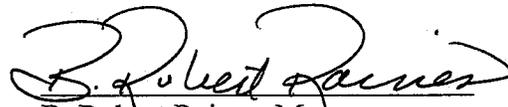
20949

In comments from City Council, Mayor Raines expressed Council's best wishes for a happy holiday season.

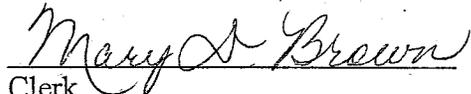
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There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk