

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, August 5, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal 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 Captain Kenneth Jackson.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the July 15, 2003 meeting as presented.

20569

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

20570

Council had been presented with A Resolution Requesting the Commonwealth Transportation Board of the Virginia Department of Transportation to Authorize the Relocation of a Section of Hawthorne Drive and the Conveyance of Certain Right-of-Way and Surplus Property to Effectuate Such Relocation.

Mr. Ward advised that the resolution was explanatory in its request to the Commonwealth Transportation Board asking for the relocation of the Hawthorne Drive intersection in the northeastern section of the City on Route 23. Mr. Ward had maps showing Council the areas affected by this resolution. He further advised Council that the City was asking for three items from the Virginia Department of Transportation. These are: 1. Authorize the relocation from the existing area to the proposed area. 2. Convey an abandoned section of land to the City. 3. Convey the unused parcel of land to the City to construct a new road. This relocation is in preparation for the new Walmart Shopping Center to be built in this area. Once this resolution is adopted by Council, it will be forwarded to VDOT's Bristol Regional Office for review, then to the Richmond office for review, and then to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for approval.

20571

The City Manager advised that, after the resolutions's approval, the abandoned portion of this area will be closed during the construction period, and there will be no through traffic for a period of time.

Following a brief discussion and 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 Requesting the Commonwealth Transportation Board of the Virginia Department of Transportation to Authorize the Relocation of a Section of Hawthorne Drive and the Conveyance of Certain Right-of-Way and Surplus Property to Effectuate Such Relocation. (Insert)

Council had been given a copy of A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Municipal Lease for a New Sewer Jet.

Mr. Ward advised that Council, in last year's budget, had authorized him to purchase a new sewer jet. Virginia Public Works had the low bid of \$33,390 for a lease/purchase, which is financed through the Bank of Blue Valley in Overland Park, Kansas for five years.

20572

Mr. Ward gave Council a brief history of items the City has purchased through the lease/purchase arrangement.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Fawbush, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Municipal Lease for a New Sewer Jet. (Insert)

The City Manager gave Council an update on two items of interest that may be addressed in the 2004 session of the General Assembly. These items are the Tax Study Commission and the proposed changes to the Standards of Quality (SOQ) for Education and how they could possibly affect the City.

20573

Mr. Ward advised these items will probably be discussed at the upcoming Virginia Municipal League Conference as well as the upcoming session of the General Assembly. Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Ward for this update.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, 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.

20574

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.

20575

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)

20576

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that:

The annual Virginia Municipal League Conference will be held in Roanoke October 19 – 21 and individuals must be registered for the conference before room reservations can be made.

He would like Council's guidance on the August 19th council meeting. This meeting will be a joint meeting with the School Board, at which time Thompson and Litton will go over the proposals for the new gymnasium project at the elementary school. He feels

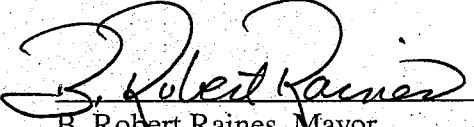
that Council Chambers are too small to conduct this meeting. Following a brief discussion, it was determined that this meeting will be held at the Hotel Norton.

20577

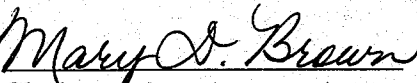
Thompson and Litton had done a water study for the City in 1999, which has been approved and several facets from it have been implemented. Thompson and Litton has won an award for this study and had a plaque prepared for the City regarding this success. It was the consensus of Council for this plaque to be displayed at the Water Plant.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk