

The rescheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

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 led by Dr. John Sessoms.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the April 4, 2006 meeting as presented.

21347

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Roy Roberts of Craig Street, spoke briefly to Council regarding the moving of 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from Norton Elementary School to J. I. Burton High School.

Mayor Raines advised that this item may be cleared up after Mr. McCall, Chairman of the School Board, makes their budget presentation to Council tonight.

Also speaking to Council was Mr. Robert Fultz of 1101 Virginia Avenue regarding the City being more aggressive in the problems of education. He was particularly interested in the Dual Enrollment Program.

21348

Mayor Raines advised Mr. Fultz that he should talk with the School Board regarding these items.

At this time, Mayor Raines made a brief statement. He advised that he admired all leaders and citizens of Norton and that there was nothing wrong with good firm discussion and with disagreement. He further advised that everyone involved in the Norton City Schools is working to do the best job that can be done for the children enrolled in the Norton City School System.

21349

Mr. Ron McCall, Chairman of the Norton City School Board, presented Council with the School Board's 2006-2007 budget. Also present at tonight's meeting were the members of the School Board. He presented Council with a brief PowerPoint presentation showing the highlights. He advised that they were proposing a 3% increase in salary for school personnel along with some teacher salary scale adjustments and the elimination of some steps in the pay scale. There is also an increase in the Virginia Retirement System's contributions to 14.2% from 11.62%. The budget was developed based on an average daily attendance of 715 students. The difference in this year's budget and the proposed 2006-2007 budget is an increase of \$440,000 with a request of additional local funds of \$102,104 from the City. Mr. McCall then answered questions from Council.

21350

Mr. McCall presented Council members with a list of Short Term Capital Projects, which totals \$76,915.00. He briefly discussed each of these projects with

Council. He advised that the School Board had approved these projects at their April 19, 2006 meeting.

213

There were no questions or comments from Council on the short term capital projects.

Next, Mr. McCall summarized the long-term capital projects. During the past year, the School Board had presented to Council a list of long-term capital projects. In November of 2005 and January of this year, the stadium project was discussed. The original request was for renovation of the science labs at the high school, gymnasium, six classrooms, and the HVAC lighting and fire safety upgrades at the elementary school at a price of six and one-half million dollars. With extensive engineering work on the stadium at the high school, the best option was to demolish and rebuild it at a cost of \$850,000. This makes a total of seven and one-half million dollars.

21352

Following a lengthy discussion, Mr. McCall asked Council to give the School Board the amount of funds that the City can allocate and to give them the opportunity and confidence to spend those funds as they deem best for the benefit of the students.

Mayor Raines advised that the article in today's Coalfield Progress suggested that City Council had scrapped the concept of the new classrooms for the stadium project. Mayor Raines advised that this is not true. He commended the School Board for the excellent job that they have done utilizing Thompson and Litton to identify some capital needs in the school system. He advised that the stadium is not a City Council Project and that it never will be.

He explained to those present the concept of the Capital Improvement Meetings and the procedure the City used to determine what projects are awarded and how they are rated.

Mayor Raines advised that since 1985 the school system has consistently had declining enrollment. He further advised that Council, as the funding agency, has a fiduciary responsibility to ask questions regarding capital projects. Mayor Raines stated that Council never said they would not fund the classrooms. They asked if all the facilities we have are now being fully utilized. It was never an either/or situation or a take-out.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. McCall for his presentation. Mr. McCall advised that the School Board would need some direction from Council after Council's budget deliberations as how to proceed.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, 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.

21353

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.

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

21354

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 roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

21355

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Community Services Board for a two-year term, which will expire on May 1, 2006.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Carol Caruso to be appointed to this Board.

21356

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

Mayor Raines declared Carol Caruso appointed to the Community Services Board for a two-year term, which will expire on May 1, 2008.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for a four-year term, which will expire on May 10, 2010.

William Mays nominated James Collins to be reappointed to this Authority.

21357

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

Mayor Raines declared James Collins reappointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for a four-year term, which will expire on May 10, 2010.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that Flag Rock will open on May 1<sup>st</sup> with electricity at both campgrounds.

21358

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

21359

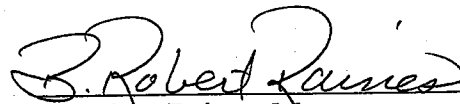
Mayor Raines advised that the first meeting in May would be on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and there would not be enough time to advertise a public hearing on the School Board budget; therefore he proposes canceling the first meeting in May and having only one meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

21360

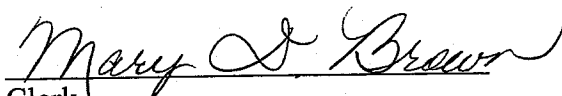
Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to cancel the first meeting in May and have only one meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>. The City Manager was also instructed to advertise a public hearing for that meeting on the School Board budget.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned so that Council could go into a work session on their 2006-2007 budget.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk