

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, April 5, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hotel Norton with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt

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, Superintendent of the Norton City School System.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 15, 2005 meeting as presented.

21028

At this time, Mayor Raines amended the agenda under Item 7-D. This item will be 7-D-2 - 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.

21029

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

21030

A public hearing was held on the consideration of financial encumbrances for the year ended June 30, 2004 in the amount of \$523,722 for the City of Norton General Fund and \$97,964 for the Norton City Schools.

Mr. Ward advised that this public hearing had been duly advertised and that a list of these encumbrances were enclosed in Council's packets. He will be glad to answer any questions from Council regarding these encumbrances. Also, Dr. Sessoms is present and will be willing to answer questions regarding the School System's encumbrances.

21031

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.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the financial encumbrances for the year ended June 30, 2004 in the amount of \$523,722 for the City of Norton General Fund and \$97,964 for the Norton City Schools.

Dr. Terrance Suarez, President of Mountain Empire Community College, was present to give Council an update. He specifically discussed two programs in which they are participating. These programs are the Achieving the Dream Program and the Integrating Technology in Academic Programs and Student Services.

21032

Following his presentation, Dr. Suarez answered questions from Council members and thanked Council for their continued support.

Mayor Raines thanked Dr. Suarez for his presentation.

At this time, Mr. Ward introduced to Council, Mr. Winfred Collins. Mr. Collins is the City's new Assistant Building Inspector and started on April 1st.
Mayor Raines welcomed Mr. Collins to the City.

2103

Council had received a request from Mr. Tim Scoggin of the Commonwealth Company, the developer for the new Norton Commons Shopping Center. This request was for City Council to consider permitting the sale of alcohol on Sunday. Mr. Scoggin is in the process of marketing the new shopping center; however this is the one hurdle that keeps arising in soliciting nationally named restaurants.

21034

Mr. Ward advised that our current ordinance stipulates that no alcohol shall be sold between the hours of 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning and 6:00 a.m. of the following Monday. He advised that Council can hold a public hearing and amend or rescind this ordinance. Mr. Ward had supplied a draft ordinance which, if adopted, will bring us in compliance with State law. He is bringing this information to Council to see if they want to move forward on this item.

Following a brief discussion, the City Attorney advised that if Council sets the date for a public hearing and amends the ordinance, the effective date on this ordinance will be 30 days from the date of adoption.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to advertise a public hearing for the first meeting in May, which will be May 3rd, for the purpose of amending or rescinding Section 14-4 of the Norton City Code as pertains to alcohol sales.

Council had a copy of a check in the amount of \$155,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

21035

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$155,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, 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 Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended to discuss the consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose.

21036

Mayor Raines advised that Council was in closed meeting.

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

2103

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 William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO –

2103

None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority.

William Mays nominated Robert Raines and E. W. Ward to be reappointed to this Authority for a four year term to expire on April 3, 2009.

21039

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

Mayor Raines declared Robert Raines and E. W. Ward reappointed to the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority for four year terms which will expire on April 3, 2009.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to exercise an option to purchase the R. O. Goad property located at 815 Park Avenue for a price of \$450,000.

21040

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

The 51st annual Chamber of Commerce Gala will be held on Saturday, April 16th at the Holiday Inn. The reception will begin at 6:30 followed by the dinner at 7:00. The City has a table available and any Council members interested in attending should advise him.

The Norton Reservoir will be stocked with trout on April 16th.

21041

The remodeling work being done at City Hall is proceeding. The Finance Department has moved to the Council Chambers and once their offices are finished, they will move back upstairs and work will begin on Council Chambers.

The City Administration would like to thank NIDA for the use of the hotel facilities for the council meetings during this remodeling.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

21042

In comments from City Council, Mayor Raines advised that an Open House will be held on April 20th at 9:30 a.m. at the new Regional Jail in Duffield. All Council members are invited to attend.

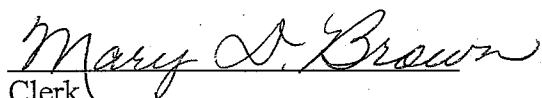
21043

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk