

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, May 17, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hotel Norton with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Robert Raines, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Jack Wallace and William Mays

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 the Assistant City Manager, Fred Ramey.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2005 meeting as presented.

21069

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

21070

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2005 Thru June 30, 2006 Appropriating Funds for all Contemplated Expenses of the City for the Fiscal Year and Placing Levies Upon All Real Estate, Personal Property and Bank Stock, Licenses, Fees, User Charges, and All Other Levies as Previously Imposed or Modified Herein.

Mr. Ward advised that this public hearing has been duly advertised. Copies of a synopsis were available for those present. Mr. Ward advised that there were no changes in real estate, personal property, and bank stock, licenses, fees, user charges, and all other levies.

The City Manager gave the totals of the various funds contained in the budget and advised that a 3% Cost of Living Allowance is included for all employees. There is an \$85,000 increase in local funds for the School System. Also discussed were several CIP Projects and the 11th Street Bridge Project.

21071

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.

Mayor Raines advised that action on the City's budget will take place at the next Council Meeting.

Mr. Ward advised that a public hearing was held at the May 3rd Council Meeting on the City of Norton School Board's 2005-2006 Budget. He advised that the total of this budget is \$6,361,135 with a total of local dollars of \$1,661,495, which is an increase in local funds of \$84,973. Both Dr. Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, and Ron McCall, Chairman of the School Board, were present at tonight's meeting.

There were no questions or comments from Council on this budget.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt the 2005-2006 budget for the Norton City Schools as presented.

21072

At this time, Ron McCall spoke to Council thanking them for their continued support. He presented a handout covering the several CIP Projects that had been discussed with Council previously and asked Council's consideration on these projects. He advised that he would come back in a few months to see if Council could take any action on these projects.

Mayor Raines thanked both Mr. McCall and Dr. Sessoms for their hard work.

Council had been presented in their packets A Resolution of the City of Norton, Virginia Authorizing Tazewell County to Join the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority.

Mayor Raines advised that Tazewell County chose not to join the Regional Jail Authority in the beginning and is now asking to join. In order for them to do so, all current nine jurisdictions must adopt A Governing Body Resolution agreeing on this.

The Mayor advised that, if adopted, this resolution will authorize the Mayor to sign the Revised Service Agreement and then gave a brief synopsis of what Tazewell County will do in order to join this Authority. There will be an approximate savings to the City of \$7,000 annually by Tazewell joining this Authority.

21073

The City Manager advised that the City Administration would like for Council to go forward and support Tazewell County coming into the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Wallace, Mays, City Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing Tazewell County to Join the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority. (Insert)

Council had been presented in their packets A Resolution Authorizing the City to Participate in the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act in a Combined Plan with Other Jurisdictions.

The City Manager advised this is a housekeeping item in which the City participates in order to receive state funds. The difference in this resolution and the previous ones is that Washington County, Smyth County and the City of Bristol had not participated in this combined plan previously. Another difference is that Washington County will be the fiscal agent whereas Russell County had been in the past.

21074

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote, YES – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Wallace, Mays, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the City to Participate in the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act in a Combined Plan with Other Jurisdictions. (Insert)

Council had in their packets a Memorandum of Understanding and an Assignment on an Option to Purchase Real Property regarding the R. O. Goad Property located on Park Avenue.

The City Manager advised that the City currently has an option to purchase the R. O. Goad Property for \$450,000 and the sellers would like to close on this as soon as possible.

The real estate arm of the City is the Norton Industrial Development Authority. The City Attorney advises that the City should assign the rights to NIDA to close on this project. The Assignment is the agreement wherein NIDA will close on the purchase of this property for the City. This document and the Memorandum of Understanding have not been presented to NIDA; however, Mayor Raines advised NIDA is aware that these documents are forthcoming.

21075

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt the Assignment and the Memorandum of Understanding, contingent upon the approval of the Norton Industrial Development Authority. By adoption of these documents, the Mayor is authorized by Council to sign both documents. (Inserts)

The City has received a request from Southwest Insurance Agency for an electronic message board at their office on 11th Street. In looking at the City's Sign Ordinance, the City Administration felt that this sign would be prohibited. This item had been referred to the Planning Commission and they agreed that this sign would be prohibited under our Sign Ordinance.

21076

The Planning Commission held a public hearing last Thursday. The Planning Commission then decided to make a positive recommendation to City Council to amend the current Sign Ordinance to include digital signs. In order to do this, a public hearing will need to be scheduled.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to have the Highway Safety Commission look at this item since the business requesting this sign is across the street from J. I. Burton High School. The City Manager was instructed to bring this item back to Council at their next meeting.

Council has a request for a refund of 2002 personal property taxes in the amount of \$15.48 to Sandra Adkins.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized a refund to Sandra Adkins in the amount of \$15.48 for 2002 personal property taxes.

21077

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

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

21078

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

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

21079

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

21080

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

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for four year terms which will expire on May 10, 2009.

21081

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Charles Graham and Glenn Teasley to be reappointed to this Authority.

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

Mayor Raines declared Charles Graham and Glenn Teasley reappointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for four year terms which will expire on May 10, 2009.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for an appointment to the C-N-W Regional Wastewater Authority for a four year term which will expire on May 15, 2009.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Mr. Joseph Hunnicutt to be reappointed to this Authority.

21082

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

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Joseph Hunnicutt reappointed to the C-N-W Regional Wastewater Authority for a four year term which will expire on May 15, 2009.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the \$530,000 in bonds for the School Cafeteria Project were sold last week and the money has been placed in a SNAP Account in Richmond to be drawn down as needed.

21083

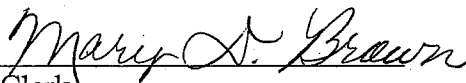
There were no comments from the City Attorney.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk