

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt and William Mays

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

The invocation was given by Rev. Jean Layell and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by Police Chief Kenny Jackson.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the October 18, 2005 meeting as presented.

21214

Mr. Ward gave Council an update on the Big Stone Gap Water Shortage and the City's water supply.

The Big Cherry Dam Reservoir is dry and Big Stone Gap is purchasing water from the City of Norton, Appalachia, Duffield, and Pennington Gap. The City is still currently furnishing approximately 100,000 gallons of water per day and a total approximate usage to date is two million gallons. A water meter was installed by Big Stone Gap on October 18th.

The City currently has a combined capacity of 40,710,000 gallons in both reservoirs as of today. The nine day forecast is calling for little rain. Wise County PSA water is being utilized up to 11th Street, N. W. Since October 4th, we have only received 2.41" of rain.

Mr. Ward presented Council with a PowerPoint presentation on the water situations and then he went over the City's Water Emergency Plan. He advised this plan will be implemented when the City reaches a capacity of 30 million gallons in stored water. If no rain is received, this level will be reached in approximately 20 days. He then discussed the restrictions that will be in force when and if levels reach 15 million gallons. If the level should reach 5 million gallons, the City will implement additional restrictions.

21215

The City Manager advised that he had met with Mr. Dean Henderson of the Virginia Department of Health regarding how long the City will be able to furnish water to Big Stone Gap. Mr. Ward advised Council that they may want to begin thinking about this; however, he advised Mr. Henderson that the City will continue to furnish Big Stone Gap with water as long as we can.

Mr. Ward advised that Tommy Roberts, Water Plant Supervisor, and his staff are checking this situation daily and have done a wonderful job in taking care of the City and our neighbor, Big Stone Gap.

Another update will be given to Council at its next meeting.

Dr. Terrance Suarez, President of Mountain Empire Community College, was present to give Council an update. He briefly discussed the Dual Enrollment Program and the Achieving the Dream Program.

21216

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

21217

Following his presentation, Dr. Suarez answered questions from Council.
Mayor Raines thanked Dr. Suarez for his presentation.

Council had been presented in their packets a draft copy of An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia To Provide for the Implementation of the 2004-2005 Changes to the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998.

The City Manager gave Council a brief PowerPoint summary on this Act advising that the change in this act covers the state reimbursement to a capped, fixed dollar amount for each locality. The amount the City is to receive is \$200,000 and this will be received in four payments throughout the year. This will be the amount the City will receive as long as this Act in effect. The locality will then have to divide this appropriation among eligible taxpayers in their jurisdiction.

21218

Mr. Ward advised Council that he had worked with the City Treasurer and City Staff on the preparation of this ordinance. Two methods were given to local governments and they can choose the one they feel will be the best way to proceed. The City has chosen the Special Relief Method. He further advised that this is a simplified approach requiring few, if any, computer program changes and will cause less confusion in explaining it to our citizens. It also eliminates the need to formally modify the tax rate each year.

In this draft ordinance, the assumption is there that all PTRRA relief will be exhausted within the fiscal year and that the Treasurer is encouraged to continue to bill for and collect small balances. He also advised that if the state should fail to fund future PPTRA relief, the City would have the right to bill for and collect 100% of the tax due.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to advertise a public hearing on this Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia to Provide for the Implementation of the 2004-2005 Changes to the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998.

The City Manager advised that this public hearing will be held at the November 15, 2005 council meeting.

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 No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

21219

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

21

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 the 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 – None,

212

ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Kids Central Incorporated Board to fill an unexpired term to May 31, 2006.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Kristen Dean to be appointed to this Board.

21222

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

Mayor Raines declared Kristen Dean appointed to the Kids Central Incorporated Board to fill an unexpired term to May 31, 2006.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the RADA Board of Directors.

William Mays nominated Rebecca Coffey to be appointed this Board.

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

21223

Mayor Raines declared Rebecca Coffey appointed to the RADA Board of Directors.

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

Monday, October 31, 2005 was Halloween. It was a calm and safe one for the City. Mr. Ward expressed his appreciation to the City personnel and volunteers who worked.

The City has been advised that we have been awarded a Terrorism Grant in the amount of \$9,128.00 from the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

21224

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

21225

In comments from City Council, Mayor Raines asked what the status was on the Comprehensive Sewer Study.

Mr. Ward advised that the City has \$80,000 in the Water and Sewer Fund for this study and that the City Administration has talked with two engineering firms as how to proceed on this project. The City is currently moving forward on issuing a Request for Proposal on this study.

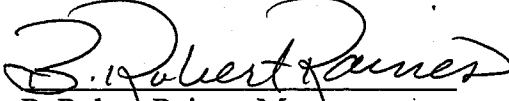
Mayor Raines advised that the City is having some problems and with the growth the City is experiencing, the City needs to know that the C-N-W Regional Sewer Authority can handle the increased capacity. Mayor Raines feels that this study needs to be done before the City can make any decisions on allowing additional hook-ups on this system. He further advised that the City currently has a moratorium on any new hook-ups outside the City in the northeastern section and he thinks the City would be in a better position if this moratorium would include the entire City.

21226

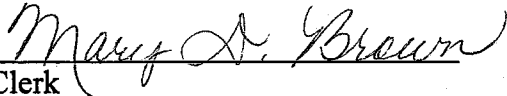
Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to extend the moratorium on sewer hook-ups in all areas outside the City until the City can get some answers from the Comprehensive Sewer Study.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk