

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, August 17, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers 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 the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the August 3, 2004 meeting as presented.

20856

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

20857

An update on the Laurel Trails Housing Project was given by the City Manager. Mr. Ward provided a map of the location of this project along with slides of work being done at this site. Mr. Ward advised that construction was well under way for this project which will house 46 total lots for low to moderate income residents and 11 lots sold to anyone at a fair market price. In the slide presentation, he also showed Council several types of homes contractors would like to put on this property. Two contractors have already stated that they would like to build spec homes on some of the lots.

Mr. Ward then briefly went over the covenants and asked Council members to review these as they will be coming back at some point for any changes and action. These covenants were drafted by the management team and the City Administration would like to revise some of them in the future.

20858

The City Manager and Jeff Shupe, the project manager and housing coordinator for the City on this project, stated that they are close to beginning to start to process applications for the purchase of the lots.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Administration to following up with the press on this project supplying them with pictures for a story.

Council had been presented with a paving list for the fall of 2004 for consideration. The City Manager advised that this list totals \$222,500. With only \$150,000 budgeted for paving this year, he advised that he would like to spend only \$100,000 on paving and keep the remaining \$50,000 in reserve in case some work needs to be done at the new Norton Commons Shopping Center or road work that may need to be done on the various streets included in the upcoming sewage project.

20859

Mr. Ward advised Council that if they have any streets that they think should be added to this list to please contact him.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Ward for the presentation of this list and advised Council members to express their opinions on this list to the City Manager.

Council had a request for a refund of erroneously assessed personal property taxes in the amount of \$290.10 to Mr. Steven Nauss.

The City Manager advised that this tax had been paid twice and the Code of Virginia states that the governing body, upon certification of the Commissioner of Revenue and consent of the City Attorney, must direct the Treasurer to refund this money.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to reimburse Mr. Steven Nauss a refund in the amount of \$290.10 for a duplicate assessment on Personal Property Tax - Machinery and Tools in 2003.

Norton City Treasurer Barbara Muir presented Council with her annual report. She advised that her office had a very productive year and that she would be willing to answer any questions that Council may have.

Mrs. Muir briefly went over the collections for the year of 2003, which had approximately 98% collected through June 30<sup>th</sup>. She advised Council of the City's investments and gave them a list of 23 parcels that the City is planning to sell in a judicial sale, which is now in the hands of the City Attorney.

At this time, the City Attorney spoke to Council advising that he would like to have a meeting with Mr. Ward, Mrs. Muir, and himself to discuss this judicial sale and the strategy he would like to use on it.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council that this meeting be held and for the Building and Zoning Administrator to also attend this meeting.

Mr. Bradshaw also stated that the judicial sale was a two to three year process.

Mrs. Muir also supplied Council with a list of the unpaid taxpayers. After a brief discussion on this, Mayor Raines asked the Treasurer to supply the Police Chief with a copy of those citizens who have not paid the personal property taxes on their vehicles so that the Police Department may ticket them.

Mayor Raines thanked Mrs. Muir for this report and for the work done by her office.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, 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.

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

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

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

Council and the City Administration had been invited by the Chamber of Commerce to attend an After Hours Business Social on Thursday, August 19, 2004 at the Norton Community Hospital Lobby, honoring the new administrator and seven new doctors. This social runs from 5:30 to 7:30.

Schools open Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup> in the City.


Two good meetings were held last week on the Storm Drainage Project and the project was well received by both residents and businesses.

Additional meetings will be held in December or January after contracts have been signed.

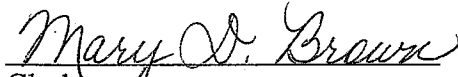
There were no comments from the City Attorney.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk

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