

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, November 2, 2004 at the Norton Rescue Squad Building at 7:30 p.m. 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. Sean Easterling.

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council.

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The pledge of allegiance was led by the Superintendent of Norton City Schools, Dr. John Sessoms.

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Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the October 19, 2004 meeting as presented.

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During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Bobby Belcher of Spruce Street, N.W., spoke briefly to Council advising that he would like to purchase the City's right-of-way next to his property. In order to do this, Mr. Belcher advised that the City would have to abandon the right of way. He further advised that he had written the City another letter regarding this.

Mr. Ward advised Mr. Belcher that Council had not seen this letter and that the letter had been forwarded to the City Attorney for review.

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Mayor Raines asked the City Attorney to follow up on this letter and asked that the City Manager include this item in the next agenda under Old Business.

Council had been given a corrected list of the Restrictive Covenants as pertains to the Laurel Trails Subdivision. Mr. Ward advised that Council has gone over these covenants for the past several meetings. He then read the one correction which was made at the last meeting. This covered the item of fencing and is included in the Aesthetic Requirements.

There were no questions or comments from Council regarding any of the remaining covenants.

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Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt the Restrictive Covenants for the Laurel Trails Subdivision.

Mayor Raines advised that it was a pleasure to have Dr. Terrance Suarez, President of Mountain Empire Community College, present at tonight's meeting.

Dr. Suarez gave Council a handout regarding activities at the college and discussed with them two programs that are either implemented or being implemented at the college.

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These programs are Dual Enrollment and Aims Higher.

Dr. Suarez answered questions from Council and Mayor Raines thanked him for his presentation.

A presentation was made to the City Council by Mr. Tim Cassell, a member of the Norton City School Board, and Mr. Carl Gutschow, an architect from Thompson and Litton, on the Elementary School Cafeteria Project.

Mr. Gutschow gave Council members a handout on this project and briefly discussed this project with Council. This handout was an overview of the project, including construction costs and a proposed schedule.

Mr. Cassell then asked Council to provide the \$650,000 need to install a full service kitchen at Norton Elementary.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council that the City and School Board should move forward on this project and that the administrations of the City and School System work together and get some options for the financing of this project.

Mayor Raines advised both Mr. Cassell and Mr. Gutschow that Council appreciated their presentation.

Mr. Ward advised Council that he had a request for information from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries regarding local firearms hunting ordinances. They are studying how all the ordinances in effect in the Commonwealth can be made more consistent throughout the state.

Mr. Ward advised that he had the Police Chief look over this request and he has Chief Mongle's comments. He is asking Council to see if there is any information they would like for him to include in his response to them. This response is due back to them by the end of the week.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to respond to the request of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and advise them of the comments made at tonight's meeting.

Council had copies of a check made payable to Glass Machinery & Excavation in the amount of \$107,371.86 for approval.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check made payable to Glass Machinery & Excavation in the amount of \$107,371.86.

Council had a check in the amount of \$220,928.64 made payable to R. S. Jones and Associates for approval.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check made payable to R. S. Jones and Associates in the amount of \$220,928.64.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting as per Section 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.

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Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

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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 Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – NONE, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

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Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Tourism Board for four year terms which will expire on September 30, 2008.

William Mays nominated Bill Jones and Chris Jones to this Board.

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

Mayor Raines declared Bill Jones appointed and Chris Jones reappointed to the City of Norton Tourism Board for four year terms which will expire on September 30, 2008.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to negotiate an option, subject to the approval of City Council, for the acquisition of real property for a public purpose.

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In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised Council that he will be happy to arrange a tour of the Big Cherry Dam Site in Big Stone Gap. Anyone interested should contact him. He would like to conduct this tour on Friday at Noon. This tour will last approximately two hours.

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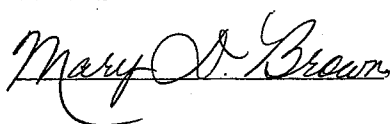
In comments from the City Council, Mayor Raines directed the City Manager to write a letter of thanks to the Rescue Squad for the use of their building for tonight's meeting.

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CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

 Clerk