

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, December 2, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Robert Raines, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Jack Wallace

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 Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the November 18, 2003 meeting as presented.

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At this time, Mayor Raines amended the agenda to include Item 7-E – Closed Meeting as per Section No. 2.2-3711(A) (5) of the Code of Virginia, as amended; specifically to discuss a prospective business, where no previous announcement has been made of the business' interest in locating in the community.

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During the audience for visitors, Mr. Stan Wilson, Athletic Director of J. I. Burton High School, advised Council that the football team will be participating in the State Semi-Final Football Championship in Bath County on Saturday and that the drama team will be participating in the State Championship Competition in Charlottesville on Saturday. He further advised that he would appreciate any financial assistance Council can offer to help defray the expenses that will be incurred.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to donate \$5,000 from Unappropriated Reserves to go toward the expenses of the football and drama teams participating in state championships this week-end.

20659

Mayor Raines commended the faculty, staff, and students for these accomplishments.

Council also discussed the probability of the football team going to the State Championship. Should this happen, it was the consensus of City Council to appropriate additional funds for this game if they are needed.

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 13-66 of the Norton City Code as Pertains to Parking Regulations in Parking Lots Accommodating Fifty or More Vehicles.

The City Manger advised that the City's prosecutor on traffic cases, Tim McAfee, asked the City to strengthen their ordinance covering parking lots of 50 vehicles or more. This request was brought to Council at its last meeting and the City Manager was advised to advertise a public hearing on this ordinance. Mr. Ward advised that both the City Attorney and Chief of Police concur with this ordinance.

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 Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES, Hunnicutt, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Wallace, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 13-66 of the Norton City Code as Pertains to Parking Regulations in Parking Lots Accommodating Fifty or More Vehicles. (Insert)

The City Manager advised that this ordinance would take effect in thirty days.

Mr. Brian Blanton of Thrower, Blanton, and Associates was in attendance at tonight's meeting to present the City's financial audit for the year ended June 30, 2003.

Mr. Blanton presented each member of Council a copy of this audit and then gave a brief synopsis of it. He advised Council that should they have any questions after reviewing the audit, they should feel free to contact him.

In their packets, Council had received a request for an amendment to the 2003-2004 budget from the Norton City School Board in the amount of \$21,182.84.

Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of Norton City Schools, advised that this money is coming from E-rate funds and that they would be put back into the Technology Program for the purchase of software.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the 2003-2004 Norton City Schools Budget in the amount of \$21,182.84.

The City Manager gave Council an update on the bond refinancing with the Virginia Resources Authority.

He advised that this item was brought up several meetings ago and Council advised the City Administration to proceed on refinancing several loans at a lower interest rate. Mr. Ward advised that the bonds had been sold and the closing will be held on December 4th. The VRA issued the bonds on November 19th and November 20th at an overall average interest rate of 4.2938%. The total issue for the City was \$1,714,007.55. The proceeds from these bonds will go toward retiring the old bonds in the amount of \$1.7 million dollars and also to pay for the City's share of those expenses, which totals \$11,424.92 plus the fees for our bond counsel. This represents a savings to the City of \$169,740.33 spread out over a period of 24 years. There will be an additional amount of approximately \$5,000 from the proceeds, which will be remitted to the City. These funds will go toward paying the bond counsel or as a payment on the bond loans.

Council had a check made payable to the Norton City Schools dated November 21, 2003 in the amount of \$275,000.00

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check made payable to the Norton City Schools dated November 21, 2003 in the amount of \$275,000.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting as per Section No. 2.2-3711(A) (5) of the Code of Virginia, as amended; specifically to discuss a prospective business where no previous announcement has been made of the business' interest in locating in the community.

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Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

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Mayor Raines advised that the Memorandum of Understanding that Council has with the Norton Industrial Development Authority specifies that Council must concur with and approve any project before NIDA can move forward with it. Tonight, Council will consider a request made by the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

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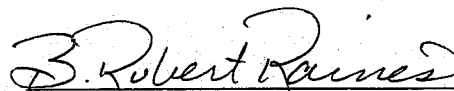
Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the Norton Industrial Development Authority to proceed with its recruitment of a prospect to be located in the Hotel Norton.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the City reservoirs are full and overflowing. He further advised that the Christmas Parade will be held on Sunday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m. The tree lighting will be held in the Hotel Norton at 5:00 p.m.

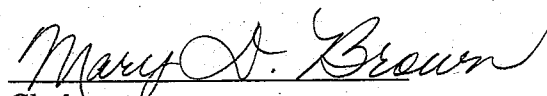
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There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk