

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, May 21, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, and William Mays

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt and Joseph Fawbush

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 Superintendent of the Norton City School System, Dr. John Sessoms.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the May 7, 2002 meeting as presented.

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During the Mayor's audience for visitors, Ms. Sherry Kilgore of Washington Road, Coeburn, Virginia, spoke briefly to Council regarding a \$290,000 grant that Wise County is receiving and the need for a new dog pound. Ms. Kilgore asked if the City of Norton would contract with Wise County for the use of this new shelter at a fair price.

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Mayor Raines advised that the City has always worked with Wise County on various projects on a pro-rated basis and advised Ms. Kilgore that the City would have to wait and see as this project progresses. He further advised Ms. Kilgore that the City was aware of the problem.

During Ms. Kilgore's presentation to Council, Councilman Joseph Hunnicutt took his seat on Council.

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Mr. Mark Hollyfield, Executive Director of the Coeburn-Norton-Wise Regional Sewer Authority spoke briefly to Council and advised them that the C-N-W Regional Sewer Authority had been chosen as the Wastewater System of the Year by the Virginia Rural Water Association. He presented Mayor Raines with a plaque and thanked Council for all of their support from them, the City Manager, and the City staff.

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Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Hollyfield for this presentation and expressed appreciation to him and his employees for a job well done.

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2002 Thru June 30, 2003 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 gave a brief synopsis of the City's budget and advised that education is the majority or 42% of this budget. It represents no increases in fees other than an increase in Water/Sewer Reconnect Fee from \$6.00 to \$25.00 and an increase in the Returned Check Charge from \$10.00 to \$25.00. Also imposed in this budget is a 2% cost of living

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raise for all full time City employees. Tonight, Council is to only conduct a public hearing on this budget and action will be taken at the next council meeting.

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.

There were no questions or comments from Council following the public hearing.

Mr. Ward advised that he had just recently been advised by Wise County that there will be an increase in the tipping fee from \$30.00 to \$35.00 per ton, which amounts to an increase of \$35,000. This increase is not included in this budget and if this increase does take place, the City will try to absorb this amount in the Public Works Department or ask City Council for a budget amendment.

Mayor Raines advised that this item will be on the next agenda for action by Council.

A public hearing was held on A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds in an Amount not to Exceed \$1,000,000.

Mr. Ward advised that the City had been awarded one and one-half million dollars for a water line replacement project from Rural Development in the form of a grant/loan. One of the things we have to do is to issue General Obligation Bonds through Rural Development in the amount of one million dollars, which is loan money. The remainder of the money, approximately \$450,000, will be grant money through Rural Development. The project has been designed, approved, and is very close to trying to close the loan and begin the process of advertising for bids. Present tonight is Bobby Lane, engineer of the record on this project, and the City Attorney, who has been working with the bond counsel on the preparation of the documents, which are before Council tonight.

Mr. Lane spoke briefly to Council advising that the plans and specifications have been completed, submitted to the Health Department, and approved. We have the necessary permits and licenses that are needed to construct the project. Some paper work is being finished prior to seeking closing instructions from Rural Development and requesting their authorization to allow us to proceed to advertise the project. The advertisement of this project will hopefully be in early June and bids opened by the end of June or the first of July.

The City Attorney advised that he had been working with the bond counsel and that everything was moving very smoothly.

There were no questions or comments from Council prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

There being no public input, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote – YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Fawbush, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$1,000,000 General Obligation Water Facilities Bonds of the City of Norton, Virginia, and Providing for the Form, Details, and Payment Thereof. (Insert)

Council had been given in their packets for consideration the 2002-2003 budget for the Norton City Schools.

Mayor Raines advised that a public hearing had been held on this budget at the City's last council meeting.

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Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt the City of Norton School Board Budget for the year 2002-2003.

Included in Council's packet was A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, A Participating Member of the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority Approving Support Agreement.

Present tonight was Mr. David Rose, of Davenport and Company, LLC, financial advisor for the Southwest Regional Jail Authority. He advised that Phase I of the interim financing was complete. After passing out a booklet on the Phase II update on the interim financing, Mr. Rose gave a brief synopsis and advised he would be back in the fall for Council's approval on the permanent financing. Following his presentation, Mr. Rose advised he would be happy to answer any questions from Council.

There being no questions from Council, Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Rose for his presentation.

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Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Fawbush, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, A Participating Member of the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority Approving Support Agreement. (Inserts)

Mr. Bobby Lane, engineer on the Norton/Big Stone Gap Water Interconnect Project, spoke to Council giving them a brief update on this project. He advised that the plans are complete and that bids hopefully will be opened in August. Funding is in place and as a result of that, Council had been presented with Amendment #1 – Dated May 2002 to the Contract for Sale of Water and Interconnection of Systems Between the Town of Big Stone Gap and the City of Norton, Virginia.

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Mr. Lane briefly explained this amendment to Council and advised that the Town of Big Stone Gap had approved this amendment at their last meeting pending action by the Norton City Council.

The City Attorney advised that this will not be the only amendment to this agreement.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve Amendment #1 – Dated May 2002 to the Contract for Sale of Water and Interconnection of Systems Between the Town of Big Stone Gap and the City of Norton, Virginia. (Insert)

Mayor Raines expressed Council's appreciation to Mr. Lane for his work on this Project.

Council had A Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan as Pertains to the Water Interconnect Project with Big Stone Gap included in their packets.

Mr. Ward advised that the City had been awarded a \$500,000 ARC Grant on the Norton/Big Stone Gap Water Interconnect Project and that one of the requirements that we have to follow is to have an agency to administer this project. The City is looking at the Community Development Block Grant Agency to administer this project. By doing this, there are a set of guidelines and items we have to adopt or consider. This Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan is one of these. Basically,

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this Plan states that if, in the course of this project, we take an occupied dwelling or a vacant dwelling that can be occupied that is considered to be a low-to-moderate income dwelling, the City will follow the guidelines of this plan. However, Mr. Ward advised that this will not happen as we are staying within existing right-of-way and existing road beds, etc. This needs to be adopted, but we do not see any affect it will have on this project.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan as pertains to the Water Interconnect Project with Big Stone Gap and authorized the City Manager to sign same. (Insert)

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

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Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go 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 Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Raines – NO – None, ABSENT – Fawbush, 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 Norton Industrial Development Authority for a four year term that will expire on May 10, 2006.

William Mays nominated Mr. James Collins to be reappointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

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

Mayor Raines declared Mr. James Collins reappointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for a four year term that will expire on May 10, 2006.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Community Services Board for a two year term that will expire on May 1, 2004.

Jack Wallace nominated Mrs. Barbara Caruso to be reappointed to the Community Services Board.

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

Mayor Raines declared Mrs. Barbara Caruso reappointed to the Community Services Board for a two year term that will expire on May 1, 2004.

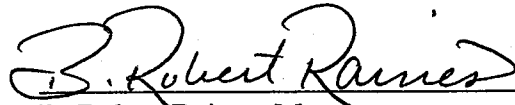
In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that:

The City had received their first reimbursement from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management in the amount of \$78,000 for flood damage in March of this year. Mr. Ward advised that we had over \$100,000 in damages and the remainder of the funds will be received as the projects are completed.

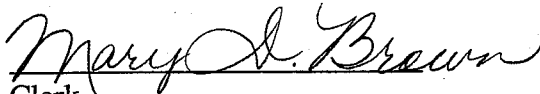
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There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk