

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, August 5, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, and William Mays

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt, Joseph Fawbush, and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager

The invocation was given by Rev. Ken Taylor and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by the City's Finance Director, Jeff Shupe.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the July 15, 2008 meeting as presented.

21990

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

21991

The City Manager advised Council that the City, as of today, has a capacity in both reservoirs of 81.5 million gallons of water out of a total capacity of 124 million gallons. He stated the City is currently purchasing between 350,000-375,000 gallons per day from the Wise County Public Service Authority. The City's current average daily usage is 1.055 million gallons and the City has had less than one half of an inch of rain in a two week period. The City Administration is asking citizens to conserve water.

21992

At this time, Mr. Ward advised that for the remainder of the year there will be an item on Council's agenda entitled, "Looking Back". This segment of the agenda is a tribute to Mayor Robert Raines and Councilman Jack Wallace, who will be retiring from Council at the end of the year with a combined total of forty five years of experience.

Mayor Raines began his council career on October 15, 1985 and Councilman Wallace began on April 1, 1987.

The City Manager then presented a PowerPoint presentation of highlights of items that Council faced during this time frame of 1985-1987. Among these were downtown deterioration, transportation issues, water/sewer issues, financial restraints as well as other issues. He then elaborated on each of these items.

21993

Following this presentation, Mr. Ward advised that, in reflection, where would the City be today without Council's key decisions and actions taken during this timeframe. These laid a foundation and formed a blueprint for the future. He also advised that Vice Mayor Mays began his Council career in 1986 and shared in making these decisions.

During the next meeting, this segment will cover the financial condition of the City over the past twenty years.

Mayor Raines, Councilman Wallace, and Vice Mayor Mays thanked the City Manager for this presentation.

Mr. Ward gave Council an update on the Josephine Sewer Project and the Benges Branch Interceptor Project. He advised that the City had met with representatives of the

Department of Housing and Community Development on the one million dollar grant from the Southern Rivers Enhancement Program for the Benges Branch Interceptor Project and the one million dollar grant for Phase I of the Josephine Sewer Project from DHCD. At the July 23rd meeting, several issues were discussed and the City now faces several challenges to proceed with these projects. One of these issues is that both projects must be done together as one project, not two, and all conditions must be met by May 1, 2009. Also, the Josephine Project must be done in its entirety and not in two phases as the City had planned. Funding for the second phase of the Josephine Project is approximately \$500,000. The City now needs to secure funding for this amount plus secure procurement of engineering services.

21994

The City Manager asked guidance from Council as how he should proceed.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to contact Wise County to see if they have an interest in assisting with this project since the Josephine area is located in Wise County. This would give the County a good opportunity to provide sewer services to this community.

Council had been presented in their packets a letter from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Planning and Budget regarding state mandated budget reductions for the biennium. The City's share of reduction of state funds for the first year of the biennium is \$20,399. The City can either tell the state where these reductions should come from or send them a check to cover this amount and state allocations will remain as is. The State needs this information by the end of August.

21995

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to use his discretion in how to proceed with these budget reductions.

The City Manager then asked Council's consideration to adopt A Resolution to Provide Local Aid to the Commonwealth. Both the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties are asking localities to adopt this resolution.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Raines, NO – None – ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Council moved to adopt A Resolution to Provide Local Aid to the Commonwealth. (Insert) Copies of the adopted resolution are to be sent to state legislators and news media.

In their packets, Council had a copy of A Resolution Approving the Planning District One Community Services Board Performance Contract.

The City Manager advised that the City has one representative on this Board, Ms. Sarah Davis, and this Board covers mental and drug abuse problems.

21996

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Approving the Planning District One Community Services Board Performance Contract. (Insert)

Council had a copy of A Resolution to Affirm the City's Authorization to Pick-Up the Employees' Contributions to the Virginia Retirement System.

Mr. Ward advised he was in receipt of a letter from the Virginia Retirement System advising that the Internal Revenue Service issued a ruling giving governmental

employers until January 1, 2009 to demonstrate formal authorization of their pick-up plans. This pick-up plan allows the VRS member contribution of five percent to be treated on a pre-tax basis.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Council moved to adopt A Resolution to Affirm the City’s Authorization to Pick-Up the Employees’ Contributions to the Virginia Retirement System.

21997

Mayor Raines asked that the next item on tonight’s agenda, Item 7-F, A Resolution Supporting Dickenson County Ambulance Service – Norton Operations Locating in the City of Norton to be tabled until the next meeting.

21998

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, 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.

21999

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

22000

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

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

22001

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five year term which will expire June 2, 2013.

William Mays nominated Joe Buchanan to be reappointed to this Board and his name is to be submitted to the Wise County Circuit Court for approval.

22002

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

Mayor Raines declared the name of Joe Buchanan be submitted to the Wise County Circuit Court for appointment as a member of the City of Norton Board of Zoning Appeals for a five year term which will expire on June 2, 2013.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Social Services Advisory Board for four year terms.

William Mays nominated Marty Adkins to be reappointed to a four year term which will expire November 15, 2010, Brenda Johnson reappointed to a four year term which will expire on May 22, 2011, Jack Mooney reappointed to a four year term which will expire on May 22, 2011, and Ethel Daniels appointed to a four year term which will expire on August 5, 2012.

22003


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

Mayor Raines declared Marty Adkins, Brenda Johnson and Jack Mooney reappointed to four year terms and Ethel Daniels appointed to a four year term on the City of Norton Social Services Advisory Board for terms to expire as listed above.

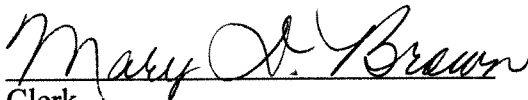
There were no comments from the City Manger or Council.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk