

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hotel Norton with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

At this time, Mayor Raines welcomed the guests at tonight's meeting which included members of the Forward Wise County Class, Rebecca Woods, Kara Goins, Travis Jenkins, and David Fuqua, representatives of the Norton Youth League Football, and some teachers and members of the Norton City School Board.

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City School System.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the April 5, 2005 meeting as presented.

21044

During the Audience for Visitors, Mr. Steve Childers, President of the Norton Youth Football League and some of their coaches and players, presented Council with a plaque of appreciation for Council's continuing contribution to their organization.

21045

Mayor Raines thanked all of those representing the Norton Youth Football League for this plaque and commended Mr. Childers for the job he had done.

Mrs. Deborah Estep, a teacher at Norton Elementary School, spoke briefly to Council regarding the freezing of the raises for the teachers at the upper end of the salary scale. Mrs. Estep felt this was very unfair.

21046

Mayor Raines advised that he appreciated Mrs. Estep's comments.

Mr. Jack Peters of West Main Avenue spoke briefly to Council regarding a stopped up drain pipe that is causing water to stand in his yard. He wants this pipe cleaned out. He also wanted to know if the residents of Hill Top Trailer Park can get better water pressure. He further advised that they need a fire hydrant.

21047

Mr. Ward will look into unstopping the clogged drain. The water lines for the trailer park are privately owned. Residents will need to talk to the owner of the trailer park.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Peters for his comments.

Mr. Ron McCall, Chairman of the City of Norton School Board, presented Council with the 2005-2006 budget of the Norton City Schools. Mr. McCall supplied Council with handouts and gave Council a brief synopsis. At the conclusion of this presentation, Mr. McCall advised that the School Board was requesting an additional \$85,000 over their last year's allocation of \$1,576,522 for a total of \$1,661,495.

Following this presentation, Mr. McCall presented Council with another handout covering their Capital Improvement Plan, which totaled \$3.9 million dollars. Mr. McCall

advised these items cover the most pressing needs of the school system. Only one item in this plan is for the high school. All others are for the elementary school. He stated that he felt these projects should begin now. He further advised that the Norton Elementary School Cafeteria Project is on-going and it should be open by the first day of school in the fall.

21048

Mr. McCall stated that he and any of the school board members who were present would be happy to answer any questions from Council.

After answering Council's questions, Mr. McCall thanked Council for their continued support.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. McCall and the School Board for their presentation.

Council had a request for sewer service in the county by the Freewill Baptist Family Ministries, Inc. This request is for an assisted living facility to be located at Big Stone Gap Drive, in Wise, Virginia. Present tonight to answer any questions were Dr. James H. Kilgore, Executive Director of the Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, Inc., Greeneville, Tennessee. Also present was Mr. Carl Gutschow, Architect, of Thompson and Litton.

Dr. Kilgore advised that funding for this facility has been secured through Rural Development and hopefully, construction will begin in August.

Mayor Raines explained to Dr. Kilgore the problem the City is experiencing with grease in this area. Mr. Ward passed out pictures showing some of the problems. Council discussed several various ways of issuing this sewer permit, but with the guarantee that the City's Sewer Use Ordinance will be enforced.

21049

The City Attorney advised that this ordinance cannot be enforced outside the corporation limits of the City. Also discussed was the issuance of this sewer tap by a revocable permit.

Following a lengthy discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to table this item until the May 3, 2005 meeting. Also, the City Manager and Mr. Carl Gutschow, architect on this project, are to work together regarding the grease traps and other items and bring back this information to Council.

Council had a request from the Commissioner of the Revenue for a Business License Refund in the amount of \$3,369.24 for BFS Retail (Fletcher Cobra Tire).

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize a refund to BFS Retail in the amount of \$3,369.24 for a business license.

21050

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

21051

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by William Mays, 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.

21052

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

21053

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Virginia Community Criminal Justice Board.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated William H. Price, Chief of Police Representative, Chuck McHugh, Community Services Board Representative, Ida Ashbrook, Education Representative, Kevin Tiller, Attorney Representative, Honorable Birg E. Sergent, Circuit Court Judge Representative, Honorable Elizabeth S. Wills, Juvenile & Domestic Relations Judge Representative, and Honorable Suzanne K. Fulton, General District Judge Representative.

21054

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

Mayor Raines declared the above individuals appointed to the Southwest Virginia Community Criminal Justice Board.

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

Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Great American Clean-Up will be observed in the City. Participants can pick up trash and receive a geranium. Shelly Knox, Parks and Recreation Director, will be heading this campaign and will be headquartered at the Chamber of Commerce Parking Lot from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

A reception will be held on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. for the Cumberland Airport Commission at the Lonesome Pine Airport in Wise. Council members are invited to attend.

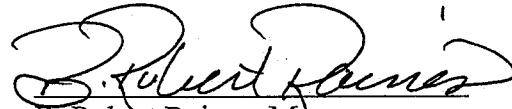
21055

In comments from Council, Vice Mayor Mays reminded members of the ribbon cutting at the Regional Jail in Duffield to be held at 9:30 on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. All Council members are invited to attend.

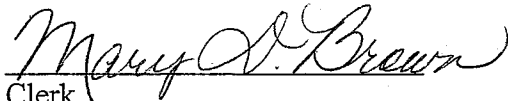
21056

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned to go into a work session on the City's 2005-2006 budget.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk