

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt 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 the Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, Dr. John Sessoms.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the joint meeting with the Norton Industrial Development Authority of February 3, 2003 as presented.

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Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 4, 2003 meeting as presented.

20413

At this time, Mayor Raines asked that the City Manager advise Council of the happenings this week-end when we received 5-1/4" of rain with snow on the ground and the ground saturated.

Mr. Ward advised that he and Mr. Ramey were out all week-end surveying the flooding and the damage that occurred during this time. He further advised that this incident was very similar to the March 17th incident when the City received 6" of rainfall. There were some evacuations in the Ramsey and West Norton areas of the City, with a shelter opening at the high school. Mr. Ward took this time to thank Dr. Sessoms for the use of the school as an evacuation center. Flooding occurred on the north side of Park Avenue. The areas of the 500, 700, and 900 blocks of Park Avenue were hit hard with flooding. Residences in various areas received flooding and the City is still assessing the damage. Mr. Ward stated that the damage for the City was about the same as in March, which was just over \$100,000. He then asked Mr. Ramey to proceed with the pictures he had taken and after Mr. Ramey's presentation, the City's engineer, Mr. Bobby Lane of Lane Engineering, will speak.

Mr. Ramey proceeded to show the pictures that he had taken.

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After Mr. Ramey's presentation, Mr. Bobby Lane of Lane Engineering, the City's engineer on the storm sewer project, spoke to Council and advised that the City has been looking at improving this system to potentially avoid the damages that have occurred in the past.

Mr. Lane advised that in order to improve the storm drainage system to the point where it will hold a ten year storm, improvements costing approximately four million dollars should be made. He explained that a ten year storm frequency is a storm that is expected to occur once in ten years. VDOT recommends ten years for areas north of

Park Avenue and twenty-five years for Park Avenue. Mr. Lane further advised that, in his opinion, even if City Council had proceeded with the four million dollar project, the storms of March and this week-end would have exceeded this limit and there would still have been damages.

Mr. Lane proceeded to discuss with those present the areas on which Council had been concentrating since the March floods. These two areas are the 7th Street area, which encompasses Chestnut Street, and the 10th-11th Streets drainage area. He discussed the costs to do the repairs on the storm drainage system and advised that they are working on a plan to use already installed pipe and split the lines to save costs. Doing this, the cost for the 7th Street area would be estimated at \$500,000 and the 10th-11th Streets area would be estimated at \$250,000. Doing this same procedure to the downtown area would cost an estimated 1.1 million dollars. He further discussed the securing of funding for this project and advised that he stood ready to move forward on this project, which has been a work in progress.

At this time, Mayor Raines advised those present that Council has been working on this project and asked the City Manager to continue to do so.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for the audience for visitors.

Those present and speaking on flood damages were: Mr. Hoke Horne, Chestnut Street, Mrs. Terri Caruso, 10th Street, Mr. Shannon Watts, Chestnut Street, Mrs. Susan Chastain, 7th Street, N. E., Rodney Chastain, 7th Street, N. E., Doug Powers, 7th Street, N. E., and Mrs. Cynthia Baumgardner, 10th Street.

Mayor Raines asked the Clerk to retain letters, handouts, and photos presented to Council tonight as part of the City's record. He also advised those present that Council was sympathetic to their losses and that the funding for this project would be discussed at the CIP Meeting to be held in March. Both the Council and the City Administration will work with the City engineer to address these problems.

A public hearing was held to solicit local input on community development and housing needs in relation to CDBG Funding for a project in the community.

Mr. Ward advised that this was the first of two required public hearings, which need to be held to secure funding from the Community Development and Block Grant Funds. The purpose is to solicit input as to the type of project for which to use these funds. The City would like to go forward with a housing project in the eastern end of the City. The deadline for this application is March 26th. There will be more information on the housing project at the second Council Meeting in March, which is when the second public hearing will be held.

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.

Mayor Raines advised that the proposal for this housing project would be presented at the March 18th Council meeting.

A public hearing was held to consider an amendment to the 2002-2003 budget for the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$82,293.

Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, was present to discuss this with Council. He stated that they would like to use these funds to pay a portion of the architectural engineering designs for the Norton Elementary School Gym Project.

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 Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the 2002-2003 budget for the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$82,293 with said funds earmarked for the study of the Cafeteria/Gym Project at the Norton Elementary School.

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The City Manager advised that this project has a Steering Committee comprised of Dr. Sessoms, School Board Member Steve McElroy, City Councilman Joseph Fawbush, a City of Norton citizen, Ron McCall, and himself. This committee is to make a recommendation to the School Board from the architectural and engineering plans submitted and since this project is not only a school project but a community project and the Committee feels that it can go forward to the construction of this project, he asked Council if it would be appropriate for City Council to endorse the committee so that they may move forward on this project.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to endorse the Steering Committee comprised of Dr. Sessoms, Steve McElroy, Joseph Fawbush, Ron McCall, and E. W. Ward move forward with the Norton Elementary School Cafeteria/Gym Project.

Dr. Sessoms advised that the School Board does endorse this Committee.

Council had been presented with A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, A Participating Member of the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority Approving the Service Agreement.

Ms. Tina Neal, a financial advisor, presented Council with a booklet giving Council a permanent financing update on the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority and briefly went over this with them. She advised that the closing on the permanent financing would be in early April. Jails should be up and running by 2005 and by July 2005, they should be fully operational. First payments will be due in the 2006 budget year.

20418

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, 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 the Service Agreement. (Insert) By adoption of this resolution, Council authorizes the Clerk of Council to sign the resolution and authorizes the Mayor to sign the Service Agreement.

Council was given an update on the City Sidewalk Replacement Program by the Assistant City Manager, Fred Ramey.

Before Mr. Ramey began his presentation, Mr. Ward advised that the City was very proud of the work done on sidewalks since 1990.

Mr. Ramey showed Council a powerpoint presentation covering sidewalks done both in the business and residential areas from 1988-1989 to the present. He advised that the

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total funding spent since 1989 has been \$675,000. He advised Council as to the criteria for sidewalk replacement, issues that impacted sidewalk development and future projects. He had divided the City into zones and showed what percentage of sidewalks had been done and what percentage had not been done. He showed some problem areas where sidewalks needed to be replaced and the costs for each area.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Ramey advised that he would be happy to answer any questions Council might have.

Council had been presented with A Resolution of the Governing Body and Incumbency Certificate Authorizing the Lease-Purchase of a New Garbage Truck.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Governing Body and Incumbency Certificate Authorizing the Lease-Purchase of a New Garbage Truck. (Insert) By adopting this resolution, Council is authorizing the City Manager to sign this lease.

20420

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per 2.2-711 (A) (1) 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 Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting.

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

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The Mayor opened the floor for concurrence on the appointments to the Community Criminal Justice Board for a two-year term.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve William H. Price, Chuck McHugh, Ida Ashbrook, Kevin Tiller, Honorable Birg E. Sergent, Honorable Elizabeth S. Wills, and the Honorable Suzanne K. Fulton as members of the Community Criminal Justice Board for two year terms.

20424

In comments from the City Manger, Mr. Ward advised that the Capital Improvement Project Meeting will be held on Friday, March 7th, at Noon at the Holiday Inn.

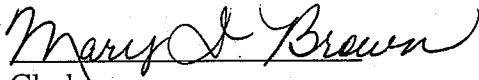
20425

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk