

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, October 7, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Vice Mayor William Mays presiding.

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

Absent: Robert Raines

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 Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the September 16, 2003 meeting as presented.

20611

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

20612

A public hearing was held to consider a budget amendment to the 2003-2004 budget of the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$131,135.

Mr. Ward presented Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools. Dr. Sessoms advised that the school system had received a Reading First Grant in this amount for the 2003-2004 school year. He further advised that the City of Norton School System was one of 14 school divisions awarded this grant. The grant runs for two years.

20613

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

Vice Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

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

Congratulations were extended to Dr. Sessoms and the school system for receiving this grant. Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a budget amendment to the 2003-2004 budget of the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$131,135.

In their packets, Council had a request for a refund of a business license tax in the amount of \$1,225.18 to Romak Construction.

Following a brief discussion and concurrence from the City Attorney that he supports the request, a motion was made by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote to approve a refund to Romak Construction in the amount of \$1,225.18 for the erroneous assessment of a business license.

20614

The Fire Chief had submitted to City Council a list of the working officers of the Norton Fire Department for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. The City Manager read this list of officers to Council.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the list of working officers of the Norton Fire Department for the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

20615

Council had a request for the approval of the Program Design Plan for the Laurel Trails Subdivision Project. The City Manager advised that he had provided each member of Council with a revised plan prior to tonight's meeting with only one change. That change was one sentence omitted on page seven under Section 5: Housing Design Requirements. The item of #4 - "1-1/2 stories minimum of livable space" was the item omitted in the revised plan.

20616

The City Manager briefly discussed this plan with Council. He advised that this would be another step in proceeding with the Laurel Trails Housing Project and also advised that if something in this plan didn't work, it could be changed. This plan also has to be approved by the funding agency, the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the Program Design Plan for the Laurel Trails Subdivision Project.

The City Manager advised Council that the next regularly scheduled meeting of City Council was October 21st. This coincides with the annual Virginia Municipal League Conference which Mayor Raines, Vice Mayor Mays, and himself are signed up to attend. Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to cancel the October 21st Council Meeting. At this time and due to health reasons, Vice Mayor Mays advised that he would be unable to attend this conference.

20617

Council also discussed the first Council Meeting in November, which coincides with Election Day. It was the consensus of Council to schedule this meeting to be held at the Hotel Norton if it is available. If it is not available, then the meeting will be held at the Norton Rescue Squad Building.

Council had been presented with a copy of a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$285,000.

20618

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to confirm a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$285,000.

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 No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia as amended.

20619

Vice Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

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

20620

Vice Mayor Mays 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 Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES - Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush,

20621

NO – None, ABSENT – Raines, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Vice Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Lenowisco Disability Services Board to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Ricky Clemons, who has resigned. This term will run until August 31, 2004.

20622

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Mary Beth Stump to fill this unexpired term.

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

Vice Mayor Mays declared Mary Beth Stump appointed to the Lenowisco Disability Services Board for a term to expire on August 31, 2004.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that he was in receipt of a letter from Adelphia advising that they are adding services to our local cable service, restructuring rates, and offering cable modem service. He advised Council that he will give them a copy of this information in their next Council packet.

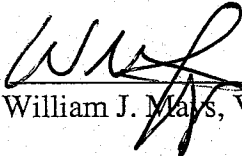
20623

In comments from Council, Vice Mayor Mays, recuperating from heart by-pass surgery a week ago, spoke briefly to Council advising that Norton is such a wonderful place to live. He advised that it is very humbling to him to have received the support he has in the past ten days due to the life threatening illness he experienced.

20624

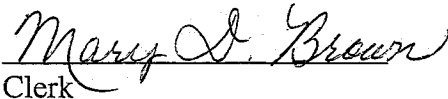
There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk