

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 3, 2008 in the Municipal Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt

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 led by the Norton Fire Chief, David Mullins.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the May 20, 2008 meeting as presented. 21930

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Jim Peters of Laurel Avenue showed Council some pictures and discussed a problem he is having with litter at his residence and litter enforcement. 21931

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council. 21932

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Peters was advised by the City Attorney to go the magistrate's office of the Wise County General District Court and swear out a complaint. 21933

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, Amending Section 23-302 of the Norton City Code as Pertains to the Amount of Levy on the Cigarette Tax.

Council was advised that this public hearing has been duly advertised and if the ordinance is adopted, the tax on cigarettes will increase from five cents per package to ten cents per package. Due to this being an amendment to the City Code, a public hearing must 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 comments, Mayor Raines closed the public hearing. 21934

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, Amending Section 23-302 of the Norton City Code as Pertains to the amount of Levy on the Cigarette Tax. (Insert)

Council had been presented with A Resolution Designating First Responder Status to the Norton Fire Department.

Mayor Raines advised that Council members had been presented with a letter of support for this request from the Norton Rescue Squad. This would allow the Fire Department to carry basic supplies on their trucks and provide first responder services should they arrive prior to the rescue squad or ambulance.

Both Fire Chief David Mullins and Todd Lagow, Emergency Services Coordinator for the City, were present. Mr. Lagow spoke briefly to Council and advised that the passage of this resolution would permit the Fire Department to pursue filing an application to receive the necessary non-transport basic life support license. The passage of the resolution is the first step. Once adopted and the necessary application is filed, the Fire Department will proceed to acquire the necessary equipment.

21935

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Designating First Responder Status to the Norton Fire Department. (Insert)

Vice Mayor Mays stated that Mr. Lagow is doing an excellent job in his role as the Emergency Services Coordinator for the City.

The City Manager gave Council a brief synopsis of the audit for the year ended June 30, 2007 for the Norton Industrial Development Authority (NIDA).

Mr. Ward advised Council of the significant relationship between the City and NIDA due to the various Memorandums of Understanding. The first of these was the \$800,000 loan obtained by NIDA in the early 1990's to renovate the Hotel Norton. This note has been paid in full. The second pertains to a \$3.9 million dollar loan from the Powell Valley National Bank to assist in the development of Norton Commons. This loan will be paid off over ten years and will be paid off on March 3, 2016. As of June 30, 2007, the outstanding amount on this debt was \$3,502,456. The third pertains to the acquisition of the Goad Property, located on Park Avenue, in the amount of \$450,000, which is owner-financed and will be paid off over a five year period. As of June 30, 2007, the amount outstanding on this debt was \$236,905.

21936

Mr. Ward also advised that NIDA has net assets of over 3.2 million dollars and they had received a clean audit, which is the best rating.

Mayor Raines advised that NIDA had done an outstanding job and their members are to be commended for moving forward on the various projects. He asked that the City Manager and Mr. Ramey express this to the NIDA members.

Council was in receipt of a copy of a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$204,181.07.

21937

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$204,181.07.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, 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 and the disposition of publicly held real property as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia as amended.

21938

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting. 21939
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 William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert) 21940

At this time, Mayor Raines turned the meeting over to Vice Mayor Mays. 21941

Vice Mayor Mays opened the floor for an appointment to the Lenowisco Board of Directors for a four year term which will expire June 30, 2012.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Robert Raines to be reappointed to this Board.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease. 21942

Vice Mayor Mays declared Robert Raines reappointed to the Lenowisco Board of Directors for a four year term which will expire June 30, 2012.

At this time, Mayor Raines advised that he had abstained from the discussion and vote on this appointment.

Vice Mayor Mays turned the meeting back over to Mayor Raines. 21943

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

A press conference regarding the convocation center has been scheduled for June 5th at 10:00 a.m. at the UVA-Wise's Chancellor's Home and council members are invited to attend.

A bond closing is scheduled on Friday, June 6th, for the Virginia Avenue Sewer Project with Rural Development in the amount of \$390,000 which is one-half grant and one-half loan.

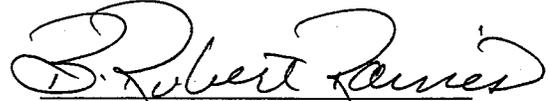
The City Manager advised that the project was funded one-half out of the Water Fund and one-half out of the General Fund. 21944

Mr. Ward asked Council for permission to deposit the entire \$390,000 into the Enterprise Fund rather than just the one-half due to expenses incurred in that fund during the past year.

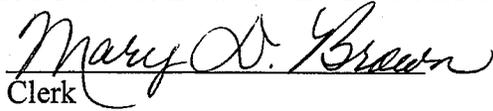
Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved that the \$390,000 reimbursement from Rural Development for the Virginia Avenue Sewer Project be deposited entirely in the Enterprise Fund.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk