

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., Assistant City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

Absent: Joseph Fawbush and E. W. Ward, City Manager

The invocation was given by Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief Kenny Jackson.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2007 meeting as presented.

21567

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

21568

A public hearing was held to consider encumbrances of the General Operating Fund for the year ended June 30, 2006 in the amount of \$456,740.

Mr. Ramey advised that the State Code requires a public hearing to be held for changes exceeding 1% of the City's total budget. Mr. Ramey further advised that he would be glad to answer any questions Council may have. A list of these encumbrances had been included in Council's packets.

21569

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.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the financial encumbrances of the General Operating Fund for the year ended June 30, 2006 in the amount of \$456,740.

In their packets, Council had a request for authorization to support the rehabilitation of the Norton Green Apartment Complex.

At this time, Vice Mayor Mays abstained from any comments, discussion, or vote on this item as his mother is a resident of this complex.

Mr. Ramey advised that this complex contains 40 units and is sixteen years old and efforts are being made to change the ownership.

21570

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Raines, NO – None, ABSTAIN – Mays, ABSENT – Fawbush, Council moved to authorize the letter of support for the rehabilitation of the Norton Green Apartment Complex.

Council had been presented with A Resolution Supporting a Public Lands Highways Project.

Mr. Ramey advised that the City Administration had been notified last week from the Wise Residency Office of the Virginia Department of Transportation advising that federal funding was available for access roads leading to lands owned by the Federal Government.

Route 619 leading from the City of Norton to the Jefferson National Forest qualifies for 100% federal funding through the Public Lands Highways Discretionary Program. If awarded, these funds would be used to stabilize the existing shoulders, install guardrail, and pave Route 619. Submittals must be made by March 6, 2007 and can only be made if Council approves and supports this project.

The Assistant City Manager further advised that this is 100% federal funds and no local dollars will be used on this project.

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, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Fawbush, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Supporting a Public Lands Highways Project. (Insert)

As directed at the previous meeting, the City Attorney supplied Council members with a copy of his draft ordinance regulating adult oriented businesses.

Mayor Raines advised that the City has had no request for this type of business; however, the City wants to be proactive in case a request should be made. He further advised that a public hearing will be held prior to the adoption of any ordinance covering this topic.

The City Attorney advised Council that the draft ordinance is lengthy and that he attempted to cover all businesses that have been established relating to this topic across the country. This draft ordinance takes the licensure approach.

Mr. Bradshaw answered questions from Council and advised that the draft ordinance can be modified.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Administration to check into the areas of distances that will be included in this ordinance and also into the licensure fees. Council also requested that the City Attorney provide copies of the various ordinances that were used for his draft for their review.

Mayor Raines advised the City Attorney that he had done a complete job on this draft ordinance and further advised that this ordinance will be a work-in-progress.

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 2.2-3711(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

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 read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting.

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

21575

In comments from the City Administration, Mr. Ramey advised that the CIP Meeting will be held at 12:00 Noon on March 2nd at the Inn at Norton.

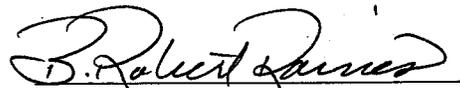
21576

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that as soon as Council selects a nomination to the Board of Zoning Appeals, he will proceed, with the assistance of the Clerk, to prepare the paper work to present to the Wise County Circuit Court.

21577

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk