

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers 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

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 Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2006 meeting as presented.

21283

At this time, Mayor Raines recognized several City employees who will be receiving tonight their annual service award pins. Of the twelve employees to receive pins, the following were in attendance: John Swiney, Police Department, 10 year pin; Rebecca Coffey, Administrative Assistant and John Greear, Transmission and Distribution, 15 year pins; and Donna Hutchinson, Sheriff's Department and Randy Mullins, Police Department, 20 year pins. Following the presentation of pins by Vice Mayor Mays, a group picture was taken by the Assistant City Manager, Mr. Ramey.

21284

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mrs. Charlene Price of 10th Street spoke briefly to Council requesting a guardrail be put behind her house on Gott Street. She also spoke of the problem with cats on this street.

21285

Mayor Raines advised Mrs. Price that the City Manager will address the issue of the guardrail and that the cat situation will be addressed in the future by Council.

Council was given an update on the Upper Reservoir Dam Project by Pat Murphy of Thompson and Litton. Mr. Murphy had given Council an update at the last meeting. At that time, it was the consensus of Council to table this item for another meeting until Thompson and Litton had the final report completed. This completed report had been inserted in Council's packets.

Mr. Murphy advised Council that the City is under a Conditional Operational and Maintenance (O&M) Certificate and needs to improve the spillway to pass the probable maximum flood (PMF). He advised Council that they had two decisions to make. The first is to select either the labyrinth option at a cost of \$2.8 million dollars or the roller compacted concrete option at a cost of \$3.1 million dollars. The second decision is whether to raise the dam for additional capacity. He then presented Council with an Updated Proposed Project Schedule. He briefly went over this schedule with Council and advised that it is reasonable and workable. This updated schedule will be submitted to the Dam Safety agency for approval.

21286

Mayor Raines advised that the date where the owner decides whether or not to increase storage capacity of the reservoir in conjunction with required spillway improvements be changed from March 15, 2006 to March 21, 2006. The reason for this

change in date is due to the fact the Council's regular meeting will be held on March 21, 2006 and this will allow Council additional time to study this matter.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to table this item until the March 21, 2006 meeting.

Mr. Murphy advised Council that he will be willing to answer any questions they may have.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Murphy for this report and update.

Present at tonight's meeting was Mr. Brian Blanton of Thrower, Blanton, and Associates who presented Council with a brief synopsis of the 2005 audit, which was prepared by their firm.

Mr. Blanton advised that Council had an unqualified opinion, which is a clean audit. He then went over the various funds and departments with Council. He advised that the completed audit would be ready by the end of this week and if there were any questions, he would be happy to answer them. He expressed his appreciation to the City staff for their assistance and thanked Council for the opportunity to work with the City.

21287

Council had a request for the consideration to submit an application for a Local Government Challenge Grant in the amount of \$5,000 for the Pro-Art Association.

Representing the Pro-Art Association tonight was Mr. Bob Isaac and Mrs. Joyce Winston. Mr. Isaac spoke briefly to Council advising that this was a \$5,000 matching grant, which is submitted annually, and that their association would appreciate any consideration by Council.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize Pro-Art to submit an application for a matching Local Government Challenge Grant in the amount of \$5,000.

Mayor Raines expressed Council's appreciation to Mr. Isaac and Mrs. Winston for their efforts with the Pro-Art Association.

212

In their packets, Council had a copy of a check in the amount of \$282,166.71 made payable to Glass Machinery and Excavation.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$282,166.71 made payable to Glass Machinery and Excavation.

21289

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous 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 consultation with legal counsel pertaining to probable litigation as per Section No. 2.2-3711(A) (7) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

21290

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

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

212

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 Joseph Hunnicutt, 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)

21292

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the annual Capital Improvement Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2006 at 12:00 Noon at the Holiday Inn.

21293

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he has a deed from the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority conveying to the City a small tract of land, which will access Laurel Tree Sub-Division. Mr. Bradshaw advised he would like for Council to accept conveyance of this property.

21294

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to accept the conveyance of a small tract of land from the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority, which will access Laurel Tree Sub-Division, and to authorize the necessary signature/signatures on this deed.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk