

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. 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 Rev. John Ellington 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 adopt the minutes of the February 7, 2006 meeting as presented.

21295

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

21296

A public hearing was held to solicit input on local community development and housing needs in relation to the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Mr. Ward advised this public hearing had been duly advertised in the Coalfield Progress. He further advised that the City is eligible to apply for CDBG funds and this is the first of two public hearings that are required as part of the application process for these funds. This public hearing is solely for input on areas to which these funds could be used. A brief summary was given by the City Manager on the various projects that the City had used CDBG funds previously.

21297

Mr. Ward advised the City Administration would like to apply for CDBG funds to help with the cost of the Storm Drainage Project; however this is a very competitive grant program and he does not know how this type of project will score.

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

There being no public input, Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

Mayor Raines commended the City Administration for trying to secure grant funding for this project.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines advised that the second required public hearing will be held at our regular meeting of March 7th and at that time, a definite project will be named.

Michele Knox, Parks and Recreation Director, was present and gave Council the annual report for her department. She presented a PowerPoint presentation covering all the various activities in which the P&R Department participated. Ms. Knox advised that the lower campground at Flag Rock now has electricity and that the fees for these spaces will increase to \$12.00 to be in line with the upper campground fees.

21298

In a three year revenue comparison of pool revenue, 2005 was the best year with a total revenue of \$16,157.32 for the swimming pool.

During the presentation of the Norton City Park, Ms. Knox showed Council areas where various items need to be replaced and where the tennis courts need to be

resurfaced. Also pointed out to Council was some new playground equipment, which has just recently been installed.

Mayor Raines thanked Ms. Knox for her presentation and advised that Council will be looking at some of these needs in their upcoming Capital Improvement Meeting.

In their packets, Council had a copy of A Resolution of the City of Norton City Council Approval of Submission of Virginia Tobacco Commission Application.

Mr. Ward advised that this application is being submitted on behalf of Appalachian Traditions (The Country Cabin) by Lenowisco for funds to upgrade their water service at their location. In order to apply for these funds from an economic development grant program funded through the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission, the application must come through a governmental agency. The City has agreed to do this since the Country Cabin is an up and coming tourist venue on the Crooked Road. By doing so, the City agrees to accept responsibility for the accuracy of the application and for the appropriate use of funds, should they be granted. By adopting this resolution, City Council also authorizes the City Manger to sign and submit any and all appropriate documents relevant to this application.

Present and also speaking on this item was the Assistant City Manager, Mr. Fred Ramey.

21299

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, 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 City of Norton City Council Approval of Submission of Virginia Tobacco Commission Application for Appalachian Traditions. (Insert)

Council had in their packets A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with the Virginia Department of Transportation for the 11th Street Bridge Project.

Mr. Ward advised this resolution would authorize the City to execute a contract with VDOT with their Revenue Sharing Project for up to \$744,920 to go toward this project. He advised that this program was just opened to cities and towns last year. Before that, it was only available to counties. He further advised that VDOT takes their expense out first; therefore the actual maximum amount the City would receive is \$735,920. This is a matching dollar for dollar grant. Presently, the City has budgeted \$300,000 in the budget for this project and the remainder will be in the next City budget. The City Administration would like to proceed with this project.

21300

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with the Virginia Department of Transportation for the 11th Street Bridge Project. (Insert)

The City Manager discussed with Council the extension of the audit contract with Thrower, Blanton, and Associates for two additional years. Mr. Ward advised that the original contract was issued April 29, 2003. This contract has the stipulation that it can be extended for another two years should the local government wish to do so. Should

Council decide not to extend this contract, the City will follow the procurement process and solicit quotations for the City's audit.

21301

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to extend the audit contract with Thrower, Blanton and Associates for another two years with the stipulation that deadlines be given so that the City can be in receipt of their audit in time for use with the annual Capital Improvement Meeting and budget process.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, 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.

21302

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.

21303

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 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)

21304

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four-year term, which will expire on January 28, 2010.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Mr. Roger Sloce.

21305

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

Mayor Raines declared Roger Sloce appointed to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four-year term, which will expire on January 28, 2010.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Housing Appeals Board for a five-year term, which will expire on February 18, 2011.

William Mays nominated Mrs. Barbara Collins to be reappointed to this Board.

21306

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

Mayor Raines declared Mrs. Barbara Collins reappointed to the Housing Appeals Board for a five-year term, which will expire on February 18, 2011.

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

A ribbon cutting will be held at Applebee's at 10:00 a.m. Monday, February 27th. All City officials are invited to attend.

The annual Chamber of Commerce Gala will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2006. He asked Council members to advise him if they plan to attend in order that he may make arrangements.

21307

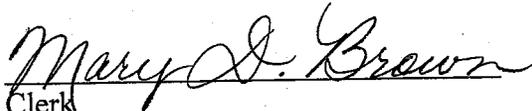
The annual Capital Improvement Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 12:00 noon at the Holiday Inn.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk