

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, July 18, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: William Mays

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by the Rev. Jean Layell followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief Kenny Jackson.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the June 27, 2006 meeting as presented.

21408

Mayor Raines welcomed all those present at tonight's meeting and recognized Mr. Ron McCall, Chairman of the City of Norton School Board.

Mr. McCall spoke briefly to Council and introduced Dr. Lee Brannon, the City's new Superintendent of Schools.

Dr. Brannon spoke briefly to Council and advised he was very excited to be working in the City of Norton School System and looks forward to working with City Council.

21409

Mayor Raines welcomed Dr. Brannon to the City and advised that Council was also looking forward to working with him.

The City Manager advised Council that the City had received a letter dated June 19, 2006 from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation stating that the City of Norton Erosion and Sediment Control Program, as currently implemented, does not meet the minimum standards of effectiveness in controlling erosion, sediment deposition and nonagricultural runoff and is not consistent with the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Law and Regulations. Also included with the letter was a rating worksheet which identifies the specific areas that must be improved and also includes possible enhancements for the City's program that go beyond the minimum standards.

21410

Winfred Collins, the City's Building Official, spoke briefly with Council and gave a brief summary of the changes that need to be made. Mr. Collins, who is certified in Erosion and Sediment Control, then answered questions from Council.

The City Manager asked that Council review the information supplied to them and advised that this will be brought back to them at a later date after the City Administration has worked with the Department of Conservation and Recreation on this. The City has a deadline of November 1st to correct the problems.

Council had been presented with A Resolution Approving the Planning District One Community Services Board Performance Contract.

Mr. Ward advised that the contract for the Planning District One is included in Council's packet and that this resolution is adopted yearly. Planning District One handles

mental health, mental retardation and drug abuse services in the Lenowisco Planning District.

21411

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Mays, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Approving the Planning District One Community Services Board Performance Contract. (Insert)

Mr. Ward gave Council an update on the Laurel Trails Subdivision Housing Project. He advised that a final inspection was held on June 28th with a final punch list generated. The contractor has completed all or most of the items that were on this list.

The attorney representing BOCO Ltd. has approved a standard deed to be used for the sale of the lots. The deed contains all the restrictive covenants as well as a clause stating the City has the right to enforce said covenants. This deed has been forwarded to the City Attorney and he has approved it.

21412

The first lot was sold to Horizon Land and Home, LLC on July 12, 2006. They will place a model home on this lot within a week to ten days.

At this time, Vice Mayor Mays took his seat on Council.

21413

The City purchased their three lots in the subdivision on July 13, 2006. These lots can be sold to non-LMI buyers and the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority expects to purchase a lot in the near future for a spec home. The City currently has 29 applications awaiting income verification for LMI eligibility.

As to marketing, the City is working on signage to route interested parties into the subdivision and has also developed a brochure to be distributed to the public.

2141

Mr. Ward advised that he and Mr. Shupe had met with representatives from Rural Development today on financing that will be available for some of the low to moderate income homes through a Federal program.

The City Manager also advised that Habitat for Humanity wants to build a home in the Norton area and they are researching to see if they can qualify their home to meet the restrictive covenants. They also stipulated that they would appreciate any help that City Council could give them.

In their packets, Council had a copy of a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$215,000.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$215,000.

21415

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, 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.

21416

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

2141

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.

21418

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, 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 Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

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

The City is working on hiring a new Social Services Director. Bill Stokes retired on July 1st. All resumes had to be sent to the State and were received back last week. The Administration hopes to have someone in that position in August.

DMME will be doing some exploratory drilling in the Virginia Avenue area, between 12th and 13th Streets, for some subsidence that has been occurring there. This should be getting underway within the next two weeks.

A Pre-Bid Conference was held today on the 11th Street Bridge Project. The bid opening will be held July 25th in the Council Chambers.

A bid opening will be held on Thursday on the paving project.

21419

Another zoning request will be coming through the system and will be forwarded to the Planning Commission. This request is to rezone the old Norton Plaza from the Dairy Queen to the old Food City Building from General Business to Central Business. This will probably go to the Planning Commission in August.

A Pre-Audit meeting was held last week with several department heads and Brian Blanton of Thrower-Blanton and Associates. A discussion was held as how to streamline the process and expedite the receipt of a finished audit.

He will be on vacation next week and Mr. Ramey will be in charge.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk