

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, December 19, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers 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 Rev. John Ellington and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Sergeant Greg Mays.

During the pledge of allegiance, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council. 21510

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the December 5, 2006 meeting as presented. 21511

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 21512

At this time, Mayor Raines asked the members of the football coaching staff and members of the John I. Burton High School football team who were present to step forward. Mayor Raines then presented them with a plaque acknowledging their achievements of this year on behalf of the citizens and Council of the City of Norton. Mayor Raines expressed the congratulations to each of them and asked that Council's sentiments be given to those not able to attend tonight's meeting. Football Coach Jim Adams spoke briefly to Council and thanked them for the plaque and for their ongoing support to the school system. 21513

Vice Mayor Mays advised that he was aware that there is a fundraising campaign being held for improvements to the high school's athletic facilities by a group of boosters. Vice Mayor Mays then made a motion for the City of Norton to contribute \$50,000 to this fund. This motion was seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt and was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Said funds are to come from Unappropriated Reserves.

Steve Childers, a member of this booster group, spoke briefly to Council and advised that, with council's donation, there is now \$137,000 in this fund. He thanked Council for their support and advised that the public needs to be informed of this fund raising campaign. 21514

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Childers and his group for their work on this project.

Council had been presented with An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Rezoning Certain Property in the Norton Commons Subdivision from M-1 Light Industrial to B-3 General Business. This would cover tracts one and two of the Norton Commons Subdivision. 21515

Mr. Ward advised that this was discussed at the December 7, 2006 meeting of the Planning Commission and that no one spoke for or against this rezoning. If adopted by

Council, the entire shopping center will be in the B-3 General Business Zone. The City Manager advised that the City Administration is seeking favorable consideration on this ordinance.

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

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

There being no questions or comments from Council following the public hearing, a motion was made by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Rezoning Certain Property in the Norton Commons Subdivision from M-1 Light Industrial to B-3 General Business. (Insert)

Council was presented with the item for consideration of a Resolution Supporting the Creation of a Regional Tourism Development Fund. This had been presented to Council at a previous meeting and had been tabled until it could be seen what type of action was being taken on this by other localities.

This resolution, if adopted, would put a \$3.00 per night per room tax on motel/hotel rooms in the City. Two dollars of this amount would go to the Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority and \$1.00 would go the hotel/motel. Mayor Raines advised that many have seen this as an excessive tax and the local hotels/motels are not in favor of this tax.

21516

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to table this request indefinitely.

Council had been presented with A Resolution of the City of Norton Supporting the Safe Routes to School Program.

Mr. Ward advised that Mr. Ramey, the Assistant City Manager, had been working on this program for the past few weeks. This program is a federal-aid program of the U. S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. He advised that this would be an opportunity to solicit grant monies to upgrade and improve bike and walking routes to schools. The area being looked at in the City is the sidewalk area across from Dairy Queen that goes to Norton Elementary School. This resolution had been adopted by the City of Norton School Board at its last meeting. By adoption of this resolution, the City can proceed with the application process on this grant.

21517

Following a brief discussion and 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 City of Norton Supporting the Safe Routes to School Program. (Insert)

Council was asked to discuss setting a date and time for their organizational meeting. Mayor Raines suggested that the organizational meeting be scheduled at 7:00 p.m., prior to the regular meeting on January 2, 2007.

21518

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to hold their organizational meeting at 7:00 p.m. on January 2, 2007, prior to their regular meeting.

Council had been presented with a check in the amount of \$714,757.68 made payable to Lanford Brothers, Inc.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$714,757.68 made payable to Lanford Brothers, Inc. 21519

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 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. 21520
Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting. 21521
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 then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. 21522
Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, 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 by the City Manger, Mr. Ward advised that the bond closing on the \$1,750,000 bond issue has been postponed until January due to rising interest rates. He further advised that City offices will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 25th and December 26th for the Christmas holiday and also on Monday, January 1st for the New Year's holiday. 21523

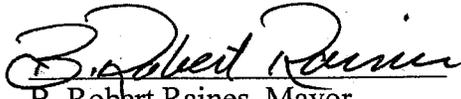
In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that the petition appointing the City's Litter Warden as the monitor for the City's Assign-A-Highway Program has been submitted to the Wise County Circuit Court Judge for signature. At this time, no action has been taken by the Court. 21524

In comments from the City Council, Mayor Raines expressed thanks to Shelly Knox for the City of Norton shirts presented to Council tonight.

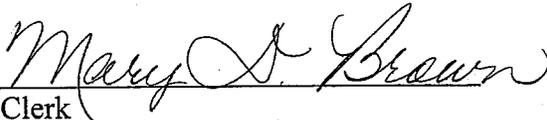
21525

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk