

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room at the Hotel Norton 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 Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, led by Sam Mongle, Norton Police Chief.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 1, 2005 meeting as presented.

21018

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

21019

A public hearing was held to solicit public input on the proposed issuance of bonds in an amount not to exceed \$560,000 for the purpose of a School Cafeteria Project.

Mr. Ward advised that the bid had been awarded on this project in the amount of \$530,000; however, the amount of the bond issuance is \$560,000. This issuance of bonds is through the Virginia Public School Authority.

Mayor Raines advised that the City and the School Board are each to pay one-half on this loan. In the case the School Board should lose their construction funds, the City will pay back this loan.

21020

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

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

Council had been furnished with a copy of A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$560,000 General Obligation School Bonds of the City of Norton, Series 2005, To Be Sold to the Virginia Public School Authority, and Providing for the Form and Details Thereof.

Mr. Ward advised that his resolution is the mechanism that will permit this bond issuance to take place. By adoption of this resolution, Council is allowing this project to proceed.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES - Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO - None, ABSENT - Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$560,000 General Obligation School Bonds of the City of Norton, Series 2005, to be Sold to the Virginia Public School Authority, and Providing for the Form and Details Thereof. (Insert)

21021

At this time, both the City Manager and City Attorney advised that there will be numerous documents that will need to be signed in the timeframe of now through April.

Mr. Jeff Cochran and Mr. Jonathan Broskey of Lane Engineering were present at tonight's meeting to give Council an update on the Storm Water Project. Prior to reporting on that project, Mr. Cochran gave a brief update on the other two projects on which they are working for the City.

The first of these is the Frog Level Water Project. The Notice to Proceed was received this week on this project and the total cost of this project is \$49,000.

21022

The second project is the Norton-Big Stone Gap Interconnect Project. Bids were received within the last two weeks and he presented Council with a handout showing these bids. The project is in two phases. The first phase had a low bid of \$1.08 million dollars from Little Henry and the second phase had a low bid of \$315,000 from Central Builders.

The total cost on this project is \$90,000 over the available funds. They are looking to secure some additional funding from the Virginia Department of Health in the amount of \$90,000.

On the Storm Water Project, Mr. Cochran advised that they had presented the City Manager with an estimate of the total project cost in the amount of \$4,526,143. This includes all improvements to the Main Trunk Outfall, 10th Street, 7th Street, and localized flooding of businesses along Park Avenue. He further advised that the costs associated with the 10th and 7th Streets are consistent with the 1992 study. The costs to resolve the localized flooding along Park Avenue are minimal; however, the most significant increase in cost is the Main Trunk Outfall.

Following a lengthy discussion on this project, Mr. Cochran advised that they had been looking for additional funding for this project and have been looking at ways to reduce the costs. The Economic Development Authority, under the Department of Commerce, may have a new program in place by October entitled, "American Infrastructure" and guidelines will be available in June or July. With the design already done on this project, the chances are better to get funded.

Mr. Cochran then answered questions from Council.

21023

Mr. Ward advised that both Mr. Cochran and Mr. Broskey had advised him that the cost estimates on this project are good for a twelve month period.

After this discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to continue working with Lane Engineering for additional funding and, hopefully, in October, apply for Federal funds through the American Infrastructure Program.

Council had a request from the Norton Fire Department to purchase a used equipment vehicle in the amount of \$65,000. Fire Chief David Mullins was present and advised Council that this particular vehicle had already been sold. He was able to locate another vehicle in Pennsylvania at a price of \$70,000. This vehicle is a 1993 Volvo and the Fire Department would get approximately ten years of service out of this vehicle. Mr. Mullins also advised that they have \$25,000 in grant funds that can be applied to the cost of this vehicle.

21024

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to appropriate \$25,000 from Unappropriated Reserves to match the Fire Department's \$25,000 grant funds and \$20,000 from this year's budget to pay for this vehicle.

In their packets, Council had a request from the Norton City Schools to amend their 2004-2005 budget in the amount of \$28,513. Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, advised Council that these were e-rate funds which were not spent.

21025

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the 2004-2005 budget of the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$28,513.

Council had a request from the City Manager to amend the City's 2004-2005 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$60,000. Mr. Ward advised this amount is the City's share to go toward the School Cafeteria Project as per the Memorandum of Understanding between City Council and the

City of Norton School Board dated December 7, 2004. He advised that these funds will come from Unappropriated Reserves.

21026

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the City's 2004-2005 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$60,000 for the purpose of paying the City's contribution toward the School Cafeteria Project as per the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 7, 2004. These funds are to come from Unappropriated Reserves.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the School Board will present their budget for 2005-2006 at the second Council Meeting in April, which will be April 19th. A work session on the City's budget will be held following this council meeting.

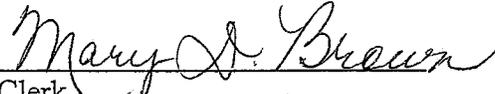
21027

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines
Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk