

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2004 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 the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 3, 2004 meeting as presented.

20727

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mrs. Nancy Porter Wheeler of Oak Street spoke to Council regarding a problem with cats in this area, as well as 5th Street and Virginia Avenue. Also present and discussing this issue with Council were other residents of this area including Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Daniels.

20728

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager and City Attorney to research this problem and bring back their recommendations to Council.

Also present and speaking to Council was Mr. Robert Isaac, representing the Pro-Art Association. Mr. Isaac read a letter to Council from the Pro Art Association requesting that the City make application for a Local Government Challenge Grant in the amount of \$5,000, which will go to the Pro-Art Association. This grant will be matched by the State for a total of \$10,000 to their association. The deadline on this grant is April 1, 2004.

20729

Mayor Raines advised that action would be taken on this request later in the meeting.

Council was presented an update on the City Storm Drainage Project by Mr. Jeffrey Cochran of Lane Engineering.

Mr. Cochran presented Council with a timeline. The start up date was January 2004 with advertisement for contractor to be made in mid-September. He stated that the project was a two year project with an anticipated completion date of January or February of 2006. He further advised that they would be making application to Rural Development for the full amount of this project and this application should be submitted by the end of the week. Mr. Cochran advised that he was willing to answer any questions Council may have.

20730

Mr. Ward advised that Council will be provided updates throughout this project.

Council had been presented in their packets A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Commending the University of Virginia's College at Wise for Fifty (50) Years of Dedicated and Committed Service to Southwest Virginia.

20731

The City Manager advised that this resolution also authorizes \$2,500 to UVA-Wise to enhance their celebration.

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 City Council of the City of Norton Commending the University of Virginia's College at Wise for Fifty (50) Years of Dedicated and Committed Service to Southwest Virginia. (Insert)

In their packets, Council had been presented with a draft City of Norton Substance Abuse and Drug Testing Policy. Mr. Ward advised that the City currently has had a policy in effect since 1996; however, it is limited to testing only those employees with commercial drivers licenses as this is a Federal requirement. Mr. Ward advised that those excluded from this policy are the volunteer members of the Norton Police and Fire Departments and the City constitutional officers and their employees.

20732

Mr. Ward briefly went over the procedure for testing. He advised that the cost will increase from approximately \$400 a year to approximately \$1,600 a year.

Mayor Raines advised council members to look over this policy. Should they have any questions or comments, they should contact Mr. Ward. During a discussion on this topic, Mr. Ward advised that he would like for this policy to become effective July 1st of this year.

Council had a request for one water tap for JoElla Hall, 4601 Overlook Road. which is located in the Dorchester/Thackers Branch area of the county.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve one water tap for JoElla Hall, 4601 Overlook Road.

20733

In their packets, Council had a letter from Judy Miller, Commissioner of Revenue, requesting a re-evaluation of the elderly/disabled tax exemption qualifications. Mr. Ward advised that Council first adopted this ordinance in 1995 and allows for a \$100 deduction from real estate taxes for those who qualify. Currently, the City has 85 individuals who qualify for this exemption. Included with this letter was information regarding what other localities are doing on this topic.

20734

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to take this item to the Capital Improvement Meeting for further discussion.

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 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

20735

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

20736

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 Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and

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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)

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Circuit Court for nominations to the City of Norton's Board of Equalization.

Joseph Fawbush nominated JoAnn Kennedy, T. J. Flanary, and Joe Stallard.

20738

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

Mayor Raines declared JoAnn Kennedy, T. J. Flanary, and Joe Stallard as nominees to be submitted to the Circuit Court to the City of Norton's Board of Equalization.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that these individuals be paid \$40.00 for each meeting attended.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for an appointment to the Wise County Library Board for an unexpired term, which will expire on June 30, 2005.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Brenda Johnson.

20739

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

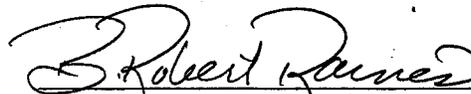
Mayor Raines declared Brenda Johnson appointed to the Wise County Library Board for an unexpired term to expire June 30, 2005.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that a tentative date of March 19, 2004 has been scheduled for the City's annual CIP meeting. This will be held at the Holiday Inn at 12:00 Noon.

20740

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk