

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 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 the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by the Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, Dr. John Sessoms.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 17, 2004 meeting as presented.

20741

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Gary Gilliam, who has established a law office at 737 Federal Street, spoke briefly to Council regarding the old Super Service property, which is now a parking lot. His office is located across the street from this location, and he would like to see this parking lot paved.

20742

Mr. Ward advised that there is a small amount of money in the budget to evaluate the paving of this parking lot. He advised that the City wants to connect it with the other parking lot adjacent to it.

Mayor Raines advised that this item is one that needs to be revisited.

A public hearing was held on the consideration of the financial encumbrances for the year ended June 30, 2003 in the amount of \$318,551 for the General Fund and \$119,061 for the Norton City Schools.

Mr. Ward advised that the public hearing had been duly advertised and that he would be happy to answer any questions from Council.

20743

Dr. Sessoms, Superintendent of Norton City Schools, was present and briefly discussed their encumbrances with Council.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the City's 2003-2004 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$318,551 and the Norton City Schools' 2003-2004 Budget in the amount of \$119,061.

Mr. Fred Ramey, Assistant City Manager, gave Council a brief update on the activities held at the Hotel Norton during 2003. He advised that there were 78 events held, with a total 5,882 guests. Collected revenues, including the last six months of 2002, total \$10,535.50. His projections for 2004 are that the activities and guests will be on a comparable level as 2003.

20744

He advised that NIDA is still evaluating the mezzanine level and he again asked Council for their input.

Mayor Raines commended NIDA for the work done on the hotel.

Council had in their packets A Resolution Authorizing the Re-Conveyance of Property and Right of Way to VDOT Should the Proposed Shopping Center Not Be Constructed.

Mayor Raines advised that appreciation needs to be extended to the local VDOT Office and also to Mr. Jim Givens, Bristol District Director of VDOT and his staff, for their assistance in working with the City on this project. One of the items in which they assisted the City is the relocation of Hawthorne Drive and some other roads that will lead up to the shopping center. By adopting this resolution, the City states that it will reconvey the property and right-of-way back to VDOT should the proposed shopping center project not be constructed.

20745

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the Re-Conveyance of Property and Right of Way back to VDOT Should the Proposed Shopping Center Not Be Constructed. (Insert)

The second resolution presented to City Council tonight is a resolution that basically indicates that City Council, on January 6, 2004, did conduct a public hearing and a discussion was held on property exchanged with Wise County and that part of the exchange was about 90 acres of property being acquired with the swap, from numerous private owners as well as VDOT. The discussion also included the total development as well as specifically discussing the frontage of U. S. Highway 23 near the intersection of State Route 741. This property would be acquired by the developer for the construction of a Wal-Mart Shopping Center and the property to the rear of the Wal-Mart Shopping Center would be acquired by the City and/or the Norton Industrial Development Authority. The Mayor stated that this resolution basically states that all action taken by the City in the furtherance of the boundary exchange and the furtherance of the development of the property are hereby ratified.

20746

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt a resolution that basically states that all action taken by the City in the furtherance of the boundary exchange and the furtherance of the development of the property for the proposed shopping center are hereby ratified. (Insert)

Council had included in their packets A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Establishing A New Drug and Alcohol Program Policy.

The City Manager advised that this policy was discussed at the City's last council meeting. The present policy, initiated in 1996, only covers those individuals with CDL licenses as this is a Federal requirement. If adopted, this policy will cover all City employees and will be effective July 1, 2004. The present policy will stay in effect until June 30, 2004.

2074

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Establishing a New Drug and Alcohol Testing Program Policy. (Insert)

Included in Council's packets was a copy of a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$200,000 to be approved.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, 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 \$200,000.

20748

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that he had displayed before and after photographs of the pipe gallery at the Water Treatment Plant in Council Chambers for Council's review. This pipe gallery was just recently repainted by City personnel.

20749

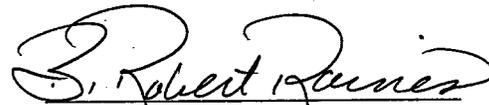
Mr. Ward also advised that the City Administration and Police Department had just revised the policy manual and that every employee will be receiving a copy. Should Council members like a copy, please advise him.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he had prepared a petition to the Circuit Court for appointments to the City's Board of Equalization. He hopes to advise Council at the next meeting that these appointments have been made.

20750

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk