

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 18, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal 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

Mayor Raines advised that Councilman Hunnicutt's absence from tonight's meeting is due to the fact that he is representing the City on the National Recreation Area of High Knob Committee, which was conducting a meeting tonight.

20437

The invocation was given by Rev. Amy Alcorn and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by Norton Police Chief Sam Mongle.

At this time, Mayor Raines welcomed Mr. Donald Purdie, a member of the 2003 Forward Wise County Class.

20438

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 4, 2003 meeting as presented.

20439

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Fred Daniels came forward representing the Norton Little League. Mr. Daniels advised that the Little League is in need of some funds and requested an additional \$3,000 from Council for this season.

Mayor Raines advised that in recent years the City had not received a financial report from the Little League and asked that Council be sent a financial report at the end of the season.

20440

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to allocate an additional \$3,000 to the Norton Little League with said funds to come from Contingency. Mayor Raines also reiterated that Council would like to start receiving an annual financial report.

Mr. Daniels thanked Council for their continuing support.

A public hearing was held to solicit input on the proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the development of the East Norton Housing Production Project.

Mr. Ward advised that the City Administration, along with our consultant, Mr. Ken Poore of K.W. Poore and Associates, has revamped last year's application on the same project with the hopes of getting funded this year. This project entails a 43-acre tract of land, which will have 57 building lots, the majority of which will be for low-to-moderate income individuals.

20441

This is the last of two required public hearings that are required by CDBG regulations. Mr. Ward advised that Mr. Poore is present and that both of them are willing to answer questions.

Mr. Poore spoke to Council and explained both the project and the process. He advised that the application last year was partly hinged on obtaining some Appalachian Regional Commission Funds in the amount of \$250,000. This year's application will be hinged on obtaining ARC Funds in the amount of \$200,000, with the City paying the additional \$50,000; however, he did advise that there is no guarantee that ARC funds will be available. If this project is funded and there are no ARC funds available, attempts will be made to find funds from other sources. Also, the Preliminary Engineering Report, done by Thompson and Litton last year, can be used again this year.

Mr. Poore had brought to the meeting an updated resolution and discussed the changes with Council. This updated resolution will be the one Council will vote upon tonight.

Following this discussion, Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, 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 Preparation and Filing of an Application for Community Improvement Grant Funds Through the Small Cities Virginia Community Development Block Grant Program. (Insert)

Council had a request for a sewer tap for Progress Fuels Corporation of 5600 BSG Drive, Wise, Va.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve one sewer tap for Progress Fuels Corporation, 5600 BSG Drive, which is located in the county.

20442

Council had a request for a water and a sewer tap for Mark's Heavy Hauling, 5337 Esserville Road.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve one water and one sewer tap for Mark's Heavy Hauling, 5337 Esserville Road, which is located in the county.

20443

Mr. Bobby Lane of Lane Engineering was present at tonight's meeting to give Council an update on the storm drainage problems. He advised Council that work is continuing on the Storm System Improvement Project, which has been previously discussed, and he then passed out probable cost estimates sheets on Phase I of this project to Council.

He advised that this project has been broken down into several areas: 7th Street Area, 10th and 11th Streets Area, and the Main Trunk Line Improvement. He gave estimates on 7th St. at \$631,000; 10th and 11th Sts. at \$402,000; and the Main Trunk Line Improvements at \$1,002,010, for a total construction cost of \$2,035,010. Adding in other related costs gives a total project cost of approximately \$2,520,010.

He briefly discussed funding with Council and advised that our best avenue for coverage of this project would be to go for the entire project rather than doing one area at a time. Following a lengthy discussion with Council, Mr. Lane made the following recommendations: 1. Authorize the application to Rural Development in the amount of \$2.5 million dollars and authorize a Preliminary Engineering Report and an Environmental Assessment to be done. Allowing the City Manager to proceed on these

matters will put the City in line to apply for funds. (2) City Council should proceed with the procurement of engineering services for this project. (3) Both City Council and the City Manager should direct completion of design effort. After receiving funding, the City can move forward with the construction and permitting of this project. (4) Both he and the City Administration will continue to look for other alternative funding.

20444

Mr. Lane answered questions from Council.

Mr. Ward advised that if Council proceeds with this project, it will make 7th Street, 10th Street, and 11th Streets compatible for 10 year storms, and the main trunk line compatible for a 20 year storm. These improvements are all the City can feasibly afford.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to procure engineering services for the drainage project.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to file an application for \$2.5 million dollars from Rural Development for the drainage project.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, 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.

20445

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

20446

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 Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

20447

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the RADA Board to replace Jack Wallace, who had resigned.

Jack Wallace nominated William Mays.

20448

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

Mayor Raines declared Mr. William Mays appointed to the RADA Board.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised Council that the City has a table reserved at the annual Chamber of Commerce Gala to be held on Saturday, April 12, 2003 with a reception at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00. He asked that members of Council advise him if they will be able to attend.

20449

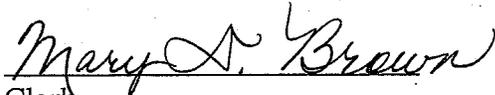
There were no comments from the City Attorney.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk