

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers 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 Rev. John Ellington and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief Randy Mullins.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2008 meeting as presented.

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Ms. Connie Mullins, representing the John I. Burton After-Prom Party Committee spoke briefly to Council and asked for monetary support for this activity, which will be held on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

After a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to donate \$2,000 to the John I. Burton After-Prom Party Committee with said funds to come from Contingency.

Ms. Mullins thanked Council for their generosity.

Mayor Raines expressed Council's appreciation to Ms. Mullins and her committee.

Council had received a request from Theodore and Kathleen Owens of 627 Virginia Avenue, N. E. asking that Council vacate a portion of an undeveloped alley between 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Hamner Avenue.

Mrs. Owens spoke briefly to Council advising that she is experiencing a drainage problem at her residence.

The City Manager advised that this area is an undeveloped alley or paper street; however the City does have utility lines in this area.

Following a brief discussion, Council advised Mrs. Owens that, due to the fact that there are utility lines located in this paper street, the City cannot vacate the property. They did advise her that she, if she requests, could be considered for a Revocable Easement for this property.

Mr. Ward advised that the City may be able to do something to help eliminate the drainage problem.

Mrs. Owens thanked Council for their consideration.

Present at tonight's meeting was Michele Knox, Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Norton. Ms. Knox gave Council a PowerPoint presentation on the activities of her department for the year of 2007.

She advised Council of the activities held at the Community Center, special events, environmental activities, recycling efforts, Flag Rock activities, park shelter rentals, and swimming pool activities. Also included in her presentation were three year and five

year comparisons on revenues for the swimming pool. Revenue for the year of 2007 for the pool were slightly lower than previous years.

Ms. Knox advised she would be happy to answer any questions Council may have.

Mayor Raines expressed appreciation to Ms. Knox for her annual report to Council.

The City is in receipt of a request from the Wise County Administrator, Mr. Glen Skinner, asking the City to pay their share of a reimbursement to the County for the losses the County has sustained from the Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority. The total amount of funds not reimbursed to the county by the Authority is \$161,199. The City's share of this total amount is \$2,970.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a reimbursement to Wise County in the amount of \$2,970 as the City's share of the losses sustained by the County from the Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority contingent upon the other seven entities paying their share of the total reimbursement. This amount is to come from Contingency. Mr. Ward is to advise the County Administrator of Council's action tonight.

Council had a request from Johnnie M. Bentley of 4319-1/2 Garfield road for a water tap.

Mr. Ward advised Council that this request is located in the vicinity of the Hilltop Trailer Park and this is an area where there is a small line serving multiple residents. Due to this fact, the City Manager asked Council to either table action on this request or deny the request until additional information can be gathered to see if there is adequate water available.

Mayor Raines advised that this particular request has been approved by Council three times previously and no action has been taken on it by the requestor.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and approved by unanimous vote, Council moved to table this request until more information is gathered.

At this time, Vice Mayor Mays advised that he will abstain from discussion or vote on the next item on Council's agenda.

Council had been asked to adopt A Resolution Supporting Southland Health Services. The City Manager advised that Emergystat Ambulance Service is reorganizing their company and are now in operation as Southland Health Services.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, ABSTAIN – Mays, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Supporting Southland Health Services. (Insert)

In their packets, Council had a copy of a check made payable to Norton City Schools in the amount of \$151,823.25.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$151,823.25 made payable to Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia as amended.

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back in open meeting.

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. 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 from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that due to the severe storm sustained at 5:00 this evening in Big Stone Gap, the City has sent emergency personnel and equipment there to help.

In comments from Council, Councilman Hunnicutt advised that there was another slide on Tipple Hill. Mr. Ward advised that this slide is on private property; however the City is monitoring the situation.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

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B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk