

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 3, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, William Mays

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt, 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 Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the May 20, 2003 meeting as presented.

20508

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. W. H. "Hank" Hankins, coach of the J. I. Burton High School Boys' Tennis Team, spoke briefly to Council. He advised that the boys' tennis team had won the Region D Championship and will be going to Radford this week for the State tournament. Also representing J. I. Burton High School are a team of doubles players from the girls tennis team and some participants in the State Championship Track Meet. Mr. Hankins requested \$3,500 from City Council to help defray the costs of participating in these state championship tournaments.

20509

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call, Council moved to authorize \$3,500 to help defray the costs and expenses of the State Championships for the tennis and track teams. These funds will come from Contingency.

Mayor Raines congratulated Coach Hankins and wished good luck to the various teams.

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2003 Thru June 30, 2004 Appropriating Funds for All Contemplated Expenses of the City for the Fiscal Year and Placing Levies Upon All Real Estate, Personal Property and Bank Stock, Licenses, Fees, User Charges, and All Other Levies as Previously Imposed or Modified Herein.

Mr. Ward advised that the public hearing had been duly advertised. He further advised that a budget work session had been held and that he had been instructed by Council to make some adjustments to this budget. These adjustments are included in Council's packets. A 2.5% cost of living raise is included for all full time employees. Also included in this budget is an increase in the Meals Tax from 5% to 6% and the implementation of a Cigarette Tax of five cents per package of cigarettes sold within the City. There is a Storm Drainage Project included in the amount of \$2,520,010 for the downtown area. Fund totals for this budget are: General Fund \$7,214,688, Water/Sewer \$2,044,617, Social Services \$924,065, and Norton City Schools \$5,609,180.

20510

The City Manager stated that the public hearing would be held tonight and no action would be taken until the next Council Meeting.

In comments from Council prior to the public hearing, Vice Mayor Mays advised that he would like to revisit the item of 25% reduction of employees' Christmas Bonus during that time of the year to see where the money situation stands at that time.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

Mr. Dennis Horton of the Junction Center for Independent Living spoke briefly to Council asking that they please include this organization in the budget for the amount of \$5,000. This request had been made earlier to Council.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines advised that this is a tight budget year and Council had tried to fund the regular organizations and was unable to take on any new ones; however, Council would take this request into consideration.

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

Mayor Raines advised that action would be taken on the 2003-2004 budget at the June 17th Council meeting.

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Rezoning Certain Property on East Park Avenue from Residential "B" to General Business B-3.

Mr. Ward advised that in April of 2003 the City had received a request from Dr. Monica Clisso, who wanted to establish a dental office at the property on East Park Avenue, which formerly housed United Muffler. After talking with the existing property owner and the City, she made the request to have this area rezoned from Residential "B" to General Business B-3.

Dr. Clisso went before the Planning Commission and they accepted her request. She also presented them a list of proffers for this property. The Planning Commission can only make a recommendation to Council for approval of this request and, at their last meeting, they unanimously approved the rezoning from Residential "B" to General Business B-3.

The City Manager advised that the public hearing on this issue has been duly advertised and City Council is being asked to either accept, reject, or table this item forwarded to them by the Planning Commission.

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

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

Dr. Clisso spoke briefly to Council and advised them that she had spoken with all of the residents in this area and they were happy to have her locate her office there. She presented Council with the list of proffers and advised that she was willing to answer any questions of Council.

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

The City Attorney advised that he is comfortable with the ordinance.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Rezoning Certain Property on East Park Avenue from Residential "B" to General Business B-3, which covers property on East Park Avenue, that was approved by the Planning Commission and forwarded to City Council for action. (Insert)

20511

20512

Council had been furnished in their packets a copy of the Franchise Ordinance Agreement – An Ordinance by the City Council, City of Norton, Virginia Consenting to the Cable Television Franchise Agreement Between the City of Norton and Century Virginia Corporation, d.b.a. Adelphia Cable Communications.

The City Manager had presented this agreement at the last meeting to Council and there had been a couple of items Council wanted him to research further. Mr. Ward advised that Mr. Dave Harris, the consultant used by the City and towns in the County, had since answered these questions. These questions were concerning the Lifetime Tier and accessibility to Adelphia's tower to enable receipt of FM Radio Stations.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Council moved to adopt A Franchise Ordinance Agreement – An Ordinance by the City Council, City of Norton, Virginia Consenting to the Cable Television Franchise Agreement Between the City of Norton and Century Virginia Corporation, d.b.a. Adelphia Cable Communications. (Insert)

20513

Council had included in their packets a list of the Priority Projects of the City of Norton in the Virginia Department of Transportation's 2020 Transportation Plan.

The City Manager advised that the City, along with VDOT and a consultant hired by VDOT, spent approximately 2 years to do this plan. It was prepared and adopted by Council several years ago. It contains 25 projects in the City that need to be completed and is divided into three different phases. Recently, VDOT has asked that the City submit 3 to 4 projects out of this submitted list of 25. Mr. Ward advised that all of these projects are important and he felt that City Council should take the lead on this selection process.

20514

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council that this be placed on the June 17th agenda for the approval of the top 3 to 4 projects.

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.

20515

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

20516

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

20517

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In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the City's population had increased by one this past Saturday, May 31st, with the birth of Councilman and Mrs. Joe Fawbush's first child and daughter, Morgan.

2051

Also, the City received notification last week of receipt of funding in the amount of \$730,000 for the Laurel Trails Housing Project from Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

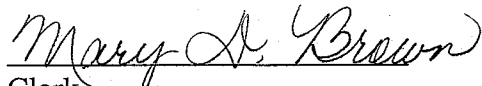
20519

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk