

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 5, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: William Mays

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Rev. Roy Laduke. Mayor Raines asked at this time we remember Vice Mayor William Mays, his wife, Pat, and their family. Mrs. Mays recently underwent surgery in Charlottesville and is still hospitalized there. The pledge of allegiance was led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the January 15, 2002 meeting as presented.

20096

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors.

20097

Council had been presented with A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Adopting the Norton 2020 Transportation Plan.

Mr. Robert Chandler of the Richmond office of the Virginia Department of Transportation was present and briefly discussed this plan with Council. He advised that VDOT was mandated by the General Assembly to formulate these plans and further stated that these plans are moveable and not concrete. He discussed the various phases of this plan with Council. He also went over deficiencies and recommendations made by the four consulting firms that worked on this project. He further advised that this plan would be re-evaluated every five years.

Mr. Chandler advised that he would be glad to answer any questions from Council.

Mayor Raines advised that VDOT had conducted a public meeting on November 15, 2001 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., which gave citizens the opportunity to come in and voice their opinions. Mayor Raines then advised Mr. Chandler that Council had one concern. Council had been presented with petitions concerning VDOT's design to enter into the Trent Street area off Highway 23 onto 58. The problem is if you are on Highway 23 and turn off Highway 23 onto Highway 58, VDOT is proposing a concrete barrier to be installed that will not allow you to turn left at the first red light. Mayor Raines advised that this is an area that needs to be addressed and that VDOT engineers need to look at this without this barrier being installed and make it easier to access the businesses that are located in this area. (Insert)

20098

Following a brief discussion, the Mayor further advised that the petitions presented will be part of the minutes of tonight's meeting and that a copy of the resolution, petitions, and minutes of tonight's meeting will be forwarded to Mr. Chandler.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Chandler for his presentation and advised that the City appreciates all the work done by VDOT throughout the years.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Mays, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Adopting the Norton 2020 Transportation Plan. (Insert)

The City Manager advised Council that the Water Line Replacement Project had been ongoing for sometime. During 2000, a Comprehensive Water Study was conducted to analyze the City's needs for the next 25 years and it was decided that the City needed to do some major water line replacement of some of our main transmission lines. This project is estimated to be a \$1.5 million dollar project. Engineering studies were done and last spring, City Council appropriated \$100,000 to begin design and hire an engineer. The City went through the procurement process and hired Lane Engineering to design this water line replacement project.

The City began work on a funding package and was recently awarded a \$450,300 grant and a one million dollar low interest loan to proceed with this project.

Present tonight to give Council a brief synopsis on this project was Mr. Bobby Lane of Lane Engineering. Mr. Lane went over the lines that are to be replaced and their locations with Council. He advised that the Health Department is expected to act on the plans and other items, which had been sent to them, within the next month and he should be ready to advertise in March.

Following a brief discussion, Council thanked Mr. Lane for his presentation and Mr. Ward proceeded with the documents enclosed in packets for adoption.

The City Attorney advised that the blanket resolutions and the Code of Conduct are standard and he foresees no problems with these forms.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Mays, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Governing Body of the City of Norton which authorizes the execution of the agreements and documents by either the Mayor or City Manager. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Fawbush, and Raines, NO – None, ABSENT - Mays, Council moved to adopt A Loan Resolution which sets forth the terms of the loan and grant. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the Code of Conduct which states that no one affiliated with the City of Norton shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by Rural Utilities Service Funds if a conflict of interest, real or apparent, would be involved. (Insert)

Council had a request for the authorization to apply for a Local Government Challenge Grant in the amount of \$5,000. This grant, from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, provides matching dollars of the City's contribution up to \$5,000. These funds will then be awarded to the Pro-Art Association.

Mr. Ward advised this is an annual request and the application deadline is April 1st.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the

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20100

application for a Local Government Challenge Grant in the amount of \$5,000 and authorized the local match requirement with said funds to go to the local Pro-Art Association.

Ms. Tracy Wharton of the Lenowisco Health District was present and gave Council a presentation on the Virginia Cardiovascular Health Project, which is a new district wide project.

20101

Following her presentation to Council, Mayor Raines thanked Ms. Wharton for her presentation.

Council had been presented in their packets A Resolution Extending a Non-Exclusive Franchise to Century Virginia Corporation, d.b.a. Adelpia Communications to Operate a Community Antenna Television System in the Jurisdictional Areas of the City of Norton, Virginia.

Mayor Raines advised that a county wide committee has been working on this new franchise for approximately one year and they are moving forward with professional services; however a finished franchise will not be in place by the expiration date of February 18, 2002.

20102

Mr. Ward advised that the fifteen year franchise with Century Corporation expires on February 18, 2002 and the resolution furnished to Council shows an extended date of May 31, 2002. Mr. Ward advised that he would like to amend this resolution and extend that date to August 31, 2002.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Mays, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Extending a Non-Exclusive Franchise to Century Virginia Corporation, d.b.a. Adelpia Communications to Operate a Community Antenna Television System in the Jurisdictional Areas of the City of Norton, Virginia. (Insert)

Council had a request from the City Manager to cancel the second council meeting in February due to the annual legislative trip to Richmond.

Mayor Raines advised that those attending this meeting will be leaving on the 19th of February and will be returning on the 21st.

20103

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to cancel the February 19, 2002 council meeting.

Council had a copy of a check in the amount of \$280,000 made payable to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for approval.

20104

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$280,000 made payable to the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, 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.

20105

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

20107

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

20107

Mayor Raines opened the floor for an appointment to the Norton Housing Authority for a four year term which will expire on January 28, 2006.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Mrs. Louise Mullins to be reappointed to this Authority.

20108

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

Mayor Raines declared Mrs. Louise Mullins reappointed to the Norton Housing Authority for a four year term which will expire on January 28, 2006.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for appointments to the Norton Highway Safety Commission.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Dennis Brummitte, Frank Gravely, J. T. Caruso, and Bobby Cassell to be reappointed to this Commission for two year terms, which will expire on January 31, 2004.

20109

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

Mayor Raines declared Dennis Brummitte, Frank Gravely, J. T. Caruso, and Bobby Cassell reappointed to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for two year terms which will expire on January 31, 2004.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Housing Appeals Board.

Jack Wallace nominated Mr. Mike Ball to be reappointed to this Board for five year term which will expire on January 17, 2007.

20110

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations close.

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Mike Ball reappointed to the Housing Appeals Board for a five year term which will expire on January 17, 2007.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the annual Capital Improvement Program meeting will be held on March 1, 2002, at the Holiday Inn beginning at 12:00 Noon. He asked that Council members mark their calendars for this meeting.

20111

Councilman Hunnicutt advised that this day would not be convenient for him. Mr. Ward asked that Mr. Hunnicutt check on a date that would be convenient and get back with him.

20111

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that Council, at the last meeting, had authorized him to contact potential people who were willing to serve as bond counsel for the upcoming water line replacement project. The City has \$12,500 allocated for bond counsel fees and expenses. He has contacted Mr. Webster Day of Roanoke and he has quoted an "all in fee" of \$5,500 plus expenses, which is very reasonable. Mr. Bradshaw would like to have the authority to engage Mr. Day and his firm as bond counsel to assist in processing this application securing the grant and loan portions of this project for the "all in fee" of \$5,500 plus expenses.

20112

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the City Administration to procure services of bond counsel for the water line replacement project.

During comments from City Council, Councilman Fawbush inquired about the status of the traffic light project. Mr. Ward advised him that this project was scheduled to be completed by the end of January; however it was not.

20113

Councilman Hunnicutt brought up a parking problem he is experiencing at his business location on Park Avenue. He further advised that Vic's Decorating is having the same problem. People who are not customers are parking in their private parking lots, which, in turn, does not leave parking spaces for their patrons. He stated that current ordinances and fines are not adequate.

20114

Following a brief discussion, the City Attorney was asked to address the fine aspect of current ordinances and Mr. Ramey was asked to have the Down Town Parking Committee look at this problem.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk