

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, April 2, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Vice Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Jack Wallace, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Robert Raines and Bill Bradshaw

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

At this time, Vice Mayor Mays amended the agenda to include item E-1 – A Proclamation Declaring the Month of April as Keep America Beautiful Month in Norton.

20140

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 19, 2002 meeting as presented.

20141

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

20142

Included in Council's packet was the Vision Statement, which had been developed for the new Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Ward introduced Mr. Terry Harrington of Marsh-Witt Associates of Roanoke, who is assisting the Planning Commission on the updating and improvement of our Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Harrington spoke briefly to Council advising them of all the various input that went into the compilation of this statement. He then advised Council that he would answer any questions they may have.

20143

The City Manager asked for Council's approval of this Vision Statement.

It was the consensus of Council to approve this Vision Statement as presented and for the Planning Commission to continue moving forward on this Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Ward advised that in November of 2001, Council was advised of interest by citizens and organizations to light Flag Rock. At this meeting, Council advised that a fund be established for donations to this fund and also the City Administration was asked to seek additional help to see if this lighting project was feasible.

20144

A synopsis of the Flag Rock Lighting Study, which was conducted by Dewberry and Davis, was included in Council's packets. The project is feasible and listed in this synopsis were four options that could be used. These options are: Solar Electric Lighting System, Underground Low Voltage Feeder, Overhead Low Voltage Feeder, and Overhead High Voltage Feeder. Mr. Ward briefly discussed each of these options with Council and gave them an approximate cost for installation along with a monthly maintenance cost. However, each of these costs is subject to change due to the difficulty of installation of service.

Mr. Ward advised that, as of today, we have \$1,181.00 in the Fund established for Flag Rock lighting. Representatives of some of the civic groups who are interested in this project were present tonight.

Judy Miller of the Norton Lions Club spoke briefly to Council and advised that she had no doubt the money could be raised to pay for the lighting of Flag Rock.

Vice Mayor Mays advised the City Administration to continue working with those interested groups and citizens and to keep Council updated on the progress of this project.

Mr. Ward presented council with an update on public property damage due to the March 17<sup>th</sup> flooding, supplying the area and cost. This list totaled \$95,441.18. If there is no state or federal government assistance, then the City will absorb these costs in our current budget.

Vice Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Ward for this update.

An update was presented to Council on the Southwest Virginia Regional Juvenile Detention Center Task Force. The Task Force is seeking approval on a recently conducted Needs Assessment and to conduct a Planning Study wherein they will seek an exception to the Building Moratorium from the General Assembly during the 2003 session. The next meeting of this group will be in late fall.

Mr. Mays thanked Mr. Ward for this update.

Council had a request for a budget amendment to the Norton Police Department 2001-2002 budget. Mr. Ward advised this covers our local match for the two grants City Council approved at our last meeting in the amount of \$55,500 and \$21,800 for a total of \$77,300.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and approved by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the 2001-02 Police Department budget in the amount of \$77,300 with said funds to be used as our matching funds for two grants approved by the City Council at our March 19, 2002 meeting.

A proclamation had been presented to Council which declares the month of April 2002 as Keep America Beautiful Month in Norton.

Litter Coordinator Michele Knox read this proclamation to Council.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Proclamation Declaring the Month of April as Keep America Beautiful Month in the City of Norton.

Mr. Ward advised that Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, will be Clean Up Day and will run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended and discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (5) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Vice Mayor Mays 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.

Vice Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

20150

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

20151

Vice Mayor Mays announced there was no announcement to come from the closed meeting on the business item.

20152

Vice Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Virginia Storm Water Management Project.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Mr. Ken Lyons.

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

20153

Vice Mayor Mays declared Mr. Ken Lyons appointed to the Southwest Virginia Storm Water Management Project.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that:

Mayor Raines was in receipt of a letter from the Preservation Alliance of Virginia advising that the City will be the recipient of a Preservation Award this year from them for the Hotel Norton Project. This prestigious award will be presented on Saturday, April 13, 2002 at an award ceremony in Fredericksburg.

He further advised that the City would be applying for an award from the Virginia Municipal League.

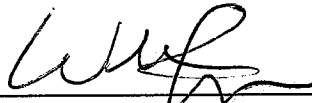
20154

The annual Chamber of Commerce dinner will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2002 at the Holiday Inn. The City has a table and any Council member needing tickets should see Mr. Ward.

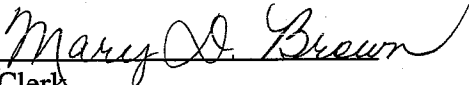
At the next Council meeting, the Norton City School Board will present their budget to Council and following the meeting, there will be a work session on the City's budget.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
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William J. Mays, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk