

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 17, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Robert Raines, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Jack Wallace

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

The invocation was given by Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2002 meeting as presented.

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

20277

Council had been presented in their packets A Resolution of the City of Norton Expressing Support for and Participating in a Coalition of Local Government Entities that are Local Franchising Authorities in Communities Where Adelphia Communications is a Cable Television Franchisee, which Coalition Will Develop and Implement a Strategy for Protecting the Interests of Local Government, Its Residents, and All Adelphia Cable Television Subscribers Impacted by the Adelphia Bankruptcy.

Mr. Ward advised that this resolution was forwarded from our consultant, Dave Harris of Custom Communications. A coalition was formed by local governments in North Carolina so that local governments could try to have a voice during this bankruptcy. By adopting this resolution, it would show that we support the formation of a local government committee and hope that the United States Trustee would recognize the committee as it proceeds through these bankruptcy proceedings.

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Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Wallace, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City of Norton Expressing Support for and Participating in a Coalition of Local Government Entities that are Local Franchising Authorities in Communities Where Adelphia Communications is a Cable Television Franchisee, which Coalition will Develop and Implement a Strategy for Protecting the Interests of Local Government, Its Residents, and all Adelphia Cable Television Subscribers Impacted by the Adelphia Bankruptcy. (Insert)

The City Manager had forwarded to Council information from the Virginia Municipal League regarding House Bill 599, which was introduced in the 2002 session of the General Assembly. This bill would require the disclosure of the party affiliation, if any, of all candidates for local governing bodies. The bill passed the House and failed in the Senate; however it may be reintroduced in the 2003 session.

One way the City can attempt to keep the current mechanism for local elections maintained is to request a Charter Amendment from the General Assembly that would exempt the City should this bill be reintroduced in 2003 and passed.

2027

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Attorney to notify our legislators that we wish to request a Charter Amendment to exclude the City from having to show party affiliation should this bill be adopted by the General Assembly in 2003.

The City Attorney advised Mayor Raines that he would begin work on this.

Mr. Ward had included in Council's packets a request from Police Chief Sam Mongle covering \$47,647.51, which was the City's portion of drug confiscated money. Chief Mongle had included a budget for these monies, which included \$24,050 to be deposited back in the General Fund to reimburse for the match money for the grant for computer hardware/software in the 911 Center and to replace match money for the grant for the Fingerprint Module. The remaining monies are to go for a replacement of our Drug Task Force Agent's vehicle in the amount of \$12,000, bulletproof vests for eighteen officers in the amount of \$5,400, and an ATV in the amount of \$6,197.51. Should there be any monies left, then they will be used to purchase surveillance equipment and a new computer for our Drug Task Force Agent.

Police Chief Mongle spoke briefly to Council.

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At this time, Vice Mayor Mays advised that he would abstain from any discussion and vote on this item as his son is a police officer for the City.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSTAIN – Mays, ABSENT – Wallace, Council moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$47,647.51 in confiscated drug monies.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSTAIN – Mays, ABSENT – Wallace, Council moved to approve the budget submitted by the Police Chief for the \$47,647.51 in confiscated drug monies.

Council had a request for a water tap for Richard D. Bloomer of 8525-B Ramsey Road.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve a water tap for Richard D. Bloomer of 8525-B Ramsey Road with said tap to be made within one year.

20281

In Council packets was an Authorization to execute an agreement with the State Health Department on the 21<sup>st</sup> Street Water Project.

Mr. Ward that advised this was to formalize the \$50,000 grant from the State Health Department to replace water lines on 21<sup>st</sup> Street. A target date is mid-October for the submission of plans to the State Health Department with a completion date of March of 2003.

20282

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to execute an Agreement with the Health Department on the 21<sup>st</sup> Street Water Project.

Mr. Ward advised Council that as of today we had a total combined capacity at both reservoirs of 53.95 million gallons of water. He further advised that we continue to lose water and have had no rain. He had provided Council members with a copy of the Proposed Water Emergency Plan adopted in October of 1999.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines encouraged all of citizens of the City to practice water conservation at this time and until we receive some rainfall.

Mr. Ward also advised that the City's water accountability is improving and credits this due to the Meter Replacement Project and the repair of several leaks. There has been a 6% to 7% increase since January of 2001.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by James 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 and the disposition of publicly held real property as per 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

20283

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

20284

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

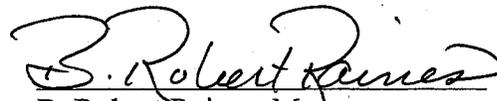
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There were no comments from either the City Manager or the City Attorney.

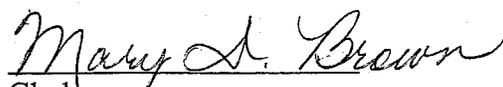
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There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk