

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2001 at the 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 the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by the Director of the Norton City Schools, Dr. John Sessoms.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the December 19, 2000 meeting as presented.

19780

During the audience for visitors, Chris Jones of Vic's Decorating spoke to Council regarding the parking problem on Park Avenue. He stated that the current ordinance needs to be changed in order that the Police Department can do something about the situation. He advised that he had talked with Jon Rockett, who is a member of the Planning Commission, and he is willing to work with them on this problem.

Mayor Raines advised that Council is sympathetic to this problem; however, he feels that the merchants can talk with their employees about their using these parking spaces and he advised that something is in the works by the City with regards to this problem.

19781

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Jones for his comments.

A public hearing was held to solicit input on a proposed change to the City Charter to allow the municipal elections to be moved from May to November.

Mr. Ward advised that Council had adopted a resolution at the last meeting to send to legislators for passage a Charter change to allow the City to move elections from May to November. This adoption of the resolution was the first step. The public hearing being held tonight for public input is the second step. Once the Charter is changed, Council will consider adoption of an appropriate ordinance to make the change from May to November for the election of school board members and council members.

19782

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

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

Speaking in support of this charter change was Ruth Woods, Secretary of the City of Norton Electoral. Also present representing the Electoral Board were Gereva Hunnicutt, Laura Minor, and Marie Muir, Registrar. They also answered questions from Council.

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

There were no comments from Council following the public hearing.

A public hearing was held to consider financial encumbrances for the year ended June 30, 2000 in the amount of \$175,013 for the City's General Fund and \$55,916 for the Norton City Schools.

Mr. Ward advised that this would take a budget amendment to the 2001 budget for both the City and School Board. A list of these encumbrances were enclosed in Council's packet.

Dr. Sessoms was present to answer any questions Council might have.

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

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

There being no public comments, Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote. Council moved to amend the City of Norton General Fund Budget in the amount of \$175,013 and the City of Norton School Board budget in the amount of \$55,916.

19783

A public hearing was held to consider A Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Property in the Name of the City/County to the Wise County Industrial Development Authority.

Mr. Ward advised this was the remaining part of approximately 100 acres that has already been transferred to the Wise County Industrial Development Authority and that the attorneys were working on the paperwork.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

There being no public comments, Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

Mayor Raines advised that since the documents were in the hands of the City Attorney, who is working with both the City and Wise County Industrial Development Authority, this resolution should be brought back at a future date for action.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to bring A Resolution Authorizing A Transfer of Property in the Name of the City/County to the Wise County Industrial Development Authority back at a future date for action.

19784

Mr. Ward presented Council with a summary of information he has received from the Regional Jail Task Force. He advised Council that the members of this Task Force are: Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Washington, and Wise Counties. The cities of Bristol, Norton, and Tazewell County have not joined.

He further advised that it had been said that Norton would have to join as a full member since it was an independent city. If so, the cost for a full member contribution is \$25,000 per locality. He has tried to contact the Department of Corrections in Richmond to find out about this; however, due to state holidays, he has been unable to reach anyone. He will continue to try to get in touch with them.

Following a lengthy discussion on this matter and that of the Juvenile Detention Centers, Mayor Raines advised that the City should wait to see if we have to join as a full member before any further decisions are made.

19785

Mr. Ward advised Council that the second annual legislative trip to Richmond will be February 7<sup>th</sup> - February 9<sup>th</sup>. He asked Council members to advise him if they can attend so that he can make reservations.

19786

Council had a copy of a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$200,000 for approval.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$200,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

19787

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per 2.1-344(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia as amended.

19788

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

19789

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering aye. The Clerk then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, 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)

19790

Mayor Raines advised no action was taken in closed meeting.

19791

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

He had attended a Planning Commission meeting as they are starting to work on a new Comprehensive Plan.

He has been presented with a proposed Cable TV Agreement by Adelphia as our current agreement expires next year. He will give Council copies of the proposed agreement in the near future.

19792

The annual CIP Meeting will be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Holiday Inn at 12:00 noon.

The Big Stone Gap Council has approved the water agreement with the City of Norton and he and their town manager are working together on constructing an interconnection and securing funding. They have gotten \$55,000 from Lenowisco for engineering and are looking into securing funds from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

B. Robert Raines  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mary A. Brown  
Clerk