

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 20, 2001 at the Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt

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

The invocation was given by Rev. Shawn Easterling and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by the Director of Social Services, Bill Stokes.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2001 meeting as presented.

19840

At this time, Mayor Raines welcomed Mrs. Kim Gibson of Bank of America and Mr. Bernie Hubbard of Norton Community Hospital, members of the Forward Wise County Class, who were present at tonight's meeting.

19841

Mayor Raines amended the agenda under New Business - Item 7-C Closed Meeting to include Closed Meeting as per 2.1-344(A) 5 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to discuss a prospective business where no previous announcement has been made of the business' interest in locating its facilities in the community.

19842

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

19843

Mayor Raines advised that the item under Old Business - A Presentation on the Southwest Regional Jail Task Force and the Formation of a Regional Jail Authority will be held later during the meeting. The gentlemen who are to present tonight had a 5:00 meeting in Lee County and are running late.

19844

Mr. Ward discussed with Council the proposed rate increase of the C-N-W Regional Wastewater Authority. He advised that the City had received a notification from the Executive Director of the Authority advising a proposed rate increase effective July 1, 2001. Mr. Hollyfield, Executive Director of this Authority, has advised that a public hearing will be held on this rate increase on April 4, 2001 at 7:00 in Council Chambers. He asked that the localities provide written comments on this request by March 26th.

Mr. Ward gave Council a brief history of rates, discussed the proposed rate increase, and stated his concerns and recommendations on these increases. He asked for Council's permission to submit his two recommendations as discussed tonight to the C-N-W Regional Sewer Authority in writing prior to March 26th. The first of these recommendations is that he feels the rate increase is higher than what is actually needed. It appears to Mr. Ward that an increase of approximately one-half of the amount requested of \$147,289 would be sufficient. The second recommendation is that of the conflict with the Town of Coeburn wherein they feel that they should not be charged for the O&M for the interceptor line from Ramsey to Coeburn and the Josephine and Laurel Hills Pump

19845

Stations. That being the case, the amount of budgeted funds allocated to those departments must be allocated based on actual costs. Mr. Ward's recommendation is that the Authority contract with an outside firm to determine the allocations.

Following a discussion on this, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to express in writing to the Executive Director of the C-N-W Regional Sewer Authority his recommendations and concerns as discussed tonight with Council.

Council had in their packets a request for a budget amendment in the amount of \$9,592.00 from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

Mr. Ward advised that this was an award of \$9,592 in federal funds with a local cash matching funds of \$1,066 for a total award of \$10,658 to be used in the Police Department Budget for overtime. The City Manager advised that there was enough funds in the Police Department Overtime Budget to cover the matching funds.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the Police Department Budget in the amount of \$9,592.00.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, 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 and 2.1-344(A) 5 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to discuss a prospective business where no previous announcement has been made of the business' interest in locating its facilities in the community.

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.

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering aye. The Clerk then read the Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES - Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO - None, ABSENT - Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

At this time, Mayor Raines introduced Mr. Bill King of Thompson and Litton and Mr. David Rose of Davenport and Company who arrived to make the presentation on the Southwest Regional Jail Task Force and the formation of a Regional Jail Authority.

Mr. Rose presented Council with a handout while Mr. King spoke to Council, giving them a basic presentation. He advised that the Task Force has hired legal counsel and that they have done a resolution which each municipality will be asked to act upon in the near future.

Mr. King then gave Council a brief summary on the background of the Task Force as well as on the preliminary findings, conclusions, and considerations. He further

commented on the existing jails and the specific problems with the Wise County/City of Norton Jail.

Following Mr. King, Mr. Rose of Davenport & Company, spoke to Council regarding the financial end and projected time line of the Regional Jail Project.

Following a lengthy discussion, both Mr. King and Mr. Rose answered questions from Council and advised that after the Task Force Meeting on March 27th, a draft resolution for forming the Authority will be brought to Council for consideration.

Mayor Raines thanked them for their presentation tonight.

At this time, Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term to expire on June 2, 2001.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Mr. Mike Reed.

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

19851

Mayor Raines declared that the name of Mr. Mike Reed be submitted to the Circuit Court Judge for appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term to expire June 2, 2001.

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

The Wise County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Gala will be held on April 7th beginning at 6:00 p.m. The City is sponsoring a table and he asked Council members to advise him if they will be attending in order that he may get tickets for them.

He is happy to report that both reservoirs are full and overflowing.

19852

Due to the happenings in Richmond on the budget process and the uncertainty of state revenues, the Norton City Schools will not be in a position to present their budget to Council until the second meeting in April.

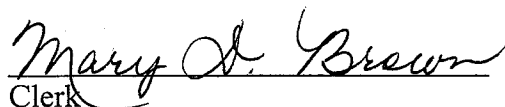
There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk