

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, May 1, 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 Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to accept the minutes of the April 17, 2001 meeting as presented.

19886

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

19887

At this time, Mayor Raines welcomed the Chairman of the School Board, Dr. Jeff Begley, along with other Board members, and Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City School System. Dr. Begley introduced Mr. Ron McCall, Board Member, who presented Council with a synopsis of their 2001-2002 budget.

Mr. McCall advised the budget was based on a total of 700 students and stated they were asking for a 2.5% Cola raise for all employees and two capital projects. One project is \$20,000 for vehicle replacement and \$50,000 for new lights for the football stadium. He further advised that the Early Retirement Policy is being phased out and this should take approximately four to eight years. They are asking for \$96,007.00 in new funds from the City for this budget. If additional funds are received from the State, then the local appropriation would be reduced.

19888

Mr. McCall advised he would be pleased to answer any questions from Council.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines thanked Mr. McCall for the hard work of the School Board on this budget document and advised that Council would be holding a budget workshop immediately following tonight's meeting.

Council was presented with a request to either renew the City's Audit Contract with Thrower, Livesay, and Blanton for an additional two year period or whether they would like for the City Manager to proceed with a procurement of City services.

19889

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to extend the existing audit contract with Thrower, Livesay, and Blanton for an additional two year period at a price of \$14,500 per year.

Council had in their packets A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application for Funding to the Department of Health.

Mr. Ward advised this application is due to the interconnect of the City of Norton and Big Stone Gap water systems. This resolution will authorize the City to make application for construction funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, which is

administered by the Department of Health. Some of these funds are in the form of grants and some in loans.

The City Administration is seeking favorable consideration on the adoption of this resolution.

19890

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES - Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines - NO - None, ABSENT - None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application for Funding to the Department of Health. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed session.

19891

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed session.

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

19892

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open session.

The Clerk then polled 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, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO - None, ABSENT - None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

19893

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the C-N-W Regional Wastewater Authority for a four year term which will expire on May 15, 2005.

William Mays nominated Mr. Joseph Hunnicutt to be reappointed to this Board.

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

19894

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Joseph Hunnicutt reappointed to the C-N-W Regional Wastewater Authority for a four year term which will expire on May 15, 2005.

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

He was in receipt of a new legislative bulletin from the VML containing a new calendar for the legislature.

The City has been advised that our new sister city is Clifton Forge, Virginia. One interesting aspect about Clifton Forge is that it is now in the process of reversion back to a town status from a city status. He will be scheduling a trip for City officials to travel and visit there as well as plan a trip for their officials to visit us.

19895

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he had secured the appointment of Mr. Mike Reed to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term to expire June 2, 2001 as requested at the last meeting.

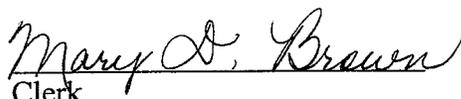
19896

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned for Council to go into a work session on the City budget.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk