

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, November 6, 2001 at the Norton Rescue Squad Building 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 Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by Police Captain Kenny Jackson.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the October 2, 2001 meeting as presented.

20019

At this time, Mayor Raines amended the agenda to include Item F-1 – A Request for a Special Use Permit by the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

20020

Mr. Ward advised Council of a movement by local businesses, citizens, and civic organizations to light Flag Rock. He further advised Council that the City had been presented an amount of \$831.00 that has been collected for this project. These funds are currently being held in the vault in the Treasurer's office.

The City Manager had a topography map of the Flag Rock Recreational Area and showed those present the rugged terrain that is in this area and around Flag Rock itself. He advised that there were two sources where electricity could be brought from: the bathhouse and a power line at the lower campground. He further advised solar lighting could be considered for this project.

Mr. Ward also discussed with Council other concerns of this project which include size of flag, size of flagpole, yearly maintenance, and cost of the project.

20021

He asked that Council authorize him to accept these funds (\$831.00) and establish a bank account for this project and also authorize him to solicit professional assistance on this project.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manger to establish a bank account for the funds that have been collected (\$831.00) for the lighting of Flag Rock.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to engage in seeking professional assistance on this project and to bring this information to Council.

Mr. Ward advised that the General Assembly in March of this year amended our Charter to allow the City to adopt an ordinance changing the May elections to November if the City so chooses. If Council chooses to do this, it will have to be done before the end of the year, and a public hearing will have to be held. If adopted, the members of Council and the School Board in office at the time of the adoption of this ordinance

whose terms are set to expire on June 30, 2004 shall continue in office until December 31, 2004. An election of three council members and three school board members shall be held on the first Tuesday of November 2002 and every four years thereafter. An election of two council members and two school board members shall be held on the first Tuesday of November 2004 and every four years thereafter. The term of each person elected under this section shall begin on the first day of January next following their election.

2002

After a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to advertise a public hearing on this ordinance for the November 20, 2001 council meeting.

The City Manager presented to Council a request to transfer surplus property at the Lonesome Pine Airport to the Wise County Industrial Development Authority.

Mr. Ward advised that the City is in receipt of a letter from the Chairman of the Wise County Industrial Development Authority stating that they want to acquire some property jointly owned by the City of Norton and Wise County. Also, some property at this location has to be deeded to the Cumberland Airport Commission.

20023

After a lengthy discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to advertise a public hearing on this item for the November 20, 2001 meeting and for the City Attorney to work to have the property identified as to who gets what property contingent on the approval of the Federal Aviation Authority.

Council had a request for a budget transfer from Account #9150-001 (Undesignated Capital Outlay) in the amount of \$51,256 to Account #4102-5407 (Paving). The purpose for this request is to offset some of the expenses associated with the paving and milling of various sections of Park Avenue. It will also help on the expense for striping on the same section of streets.

Also, the City Administration would like to expend some funds to finish the crosswalks on 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets to a street print brick finish. A brief presentation was shown to Council covering this concept.

20024

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the transfer of \$51,256 from Account #9150-001 (Undesignated Capital Outlay) to Account #4102-5407 (Paving).

Council had a request to approve an RBEG Application to the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

Mr. Ward advised that these funds are the \$250,000 in Rural Development funds which the City secured in 1997 and for which the City was required to put up \$30,000. The use of these funds is for a loan to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for Phase II of the Hotel Norton.

The City Manager briefly went over the application, guidelines, and goals of this program.

Mr. Ward advised that this would be a ten (10) year loan to NIDA at 1% interest with no payments of principle or interest during the first two (2) years. Repayment will begin the third year.

Mr. Ramey, Assistant City Manager, spoke briefly to Council on this.

20025

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve an RBEG Application to the Norton Industrial Development Authority in the amount of \$250,000.00 with the following terms: a ten (10) year loan at 1% interest with no payments of principle or interest during the first two years. Repayment will begin the third year.

Council was presented with a draft of the Norton 2020 Transportation Plan which is prepared by the Virginia Department of Transportation and is a long term needs assessment for the City for the next twenty years. The plan, which is updated every ten years, is divided in three phases. Mr. Ward briefly highlighted this plan and advised Council that they will be asked to adopt a resolution adopting this plan.

20026

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Ward for the update on the plan.

The Norton Industrial Development Authority is seeking a Special Use Permit from City Council for installing awnings at the Park Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street entrances of the Hotel Norton.

20027

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized a Special Use Permit to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for the installation of awnings at the Hotel Norton on the Park Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street entrances of the Hotel Norton. (Insert)

In their packets, Council had a request for a water and sewer tap for the Community Tabernacle Church in the Josephine section of Wise County.

Mr. Ward advised that water is available. Sewer is also available; however, the Church will be responsible for running 125' of line to connect with the City line.

20028

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve a water and sewer tap contingent that the Church run the 125' of line to connect to the City sewer and that they comply with all City and Health Department regulations and inspections. This approved request is for a period of one year.

Council had in their packets a request to approve a check in the amount of \$228,281.27 made payable to the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

20029

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council approved a check in the amount of \$228,281.27 made payable to the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, 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.

20030

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

2003

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 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)

20032

There was no action to come from the closed meeting.

20033

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

A very important kick-off meeting will be held on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at J. I. Burton High School regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

He had passed out to members of Council the draft results of the survey conducted for the Comprehensive Plan and an article on them had appeared in today's Coalfield Progress.

20034

He had met with Lane Engineering on the water line replacement project last week. Construction should begin in early spring or summer. This project covers the replacement of lines on Kentucky Avenue, East Park Avenue, West Main Avenue, and Route 74.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he and the City Manager had been to Court last week and were successful in collecting unpaid garbage fees.

20035

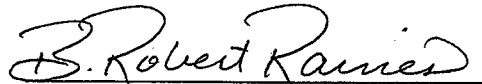
Mayor Raines advised that he and the City Manager had taken a tour of the hotel and work is progressing.

20036

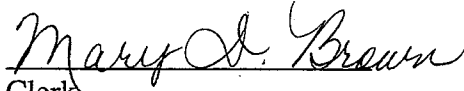
Mr. Ward further advised that if any member of Council wanted to take another tour, they should notify either he or Fred.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk