

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, November 20, 2001 at the municipal Council Chambers with Mayor 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 Assistant City Manager, Fred Ramey.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the November 6, 2001 meeting as presented.

20037

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Ron McCall of the City of Norton School Board spoke to Council seeking funds to help with the expenses of the J. I. Burton Drama Team. He then introduced Ms. Lisa Davis, Coach of this team. Ms. Davis showed Council the trophies the team had won. They placed first in the district, 2nd in the region, and are going to Charlottesville for the state competition.

Mr. McCall stated that they are requesting \$2,500 to help with the expenses of taking the team of 27 to Charlottesville to compete.

20038

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize \$2,500 to help defray the expenses of the drama team's trip to Charlottesville for state competition. These funds are to come from Contingency.

Mayor Raines congratulated Ms. Davis and the members of her team and wished them success in the state competition.

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Moving the Municipal Elections from the First Tuesday in May to the First Tuesday in November Providing the Detail and Method for Making Such Transition to November.

Mr. Ward advised this began when the 2000 General Assembly authorized that municipal elections may be moved from May to November if the municipality chose to do so. We proceeded to get our City Charter changed this year by amendment stating that the City could do this if they decided to do so. There is a timeframe that states if you choose to do this, it must be done prior to December 31st of the following year's May election. At Council's last meeting, the City Manager was authorized to advertise a public hearing on this.

There being no questions or comments from Council prior to the public hearing, Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

Ms. Brenda Johnson of Beech Street spoke briefly to Council asking that this change not be made at this time.

Mrs. Ruth Woods, Secretary of the Electoral Board, spoke briefly advising that the Board and Registrar were in favor of the change and that they felt it would be cost effective.

Mayor Raines had received a letter from Mrs. Linda Sturgill who stated that she opposed the change in the elections. Mayor Raines had the Clerk read the letter aloud during the public hearing and then discussed the items contained in this letter.

City Attorney Bradshaw spoke briefly to Council on this matter regarding whether a referendum could be held on this.

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

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, ABSTAIN – Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Moving the Municipal Elections from the First Tuesday in May to the First Tuesday in November Providing the Detail and Method for Making Such Transition to November. (Insert)

A public hearing was held on A Resolution Authorizing the Conveyance of Property to the Wise County Industrial Development Authority and the Cumberland Airport Commission.

Mr. Ward advised that this item was on the last agenda and that he was advised by Council to advertise a public hearing. He advised that the property the airport is located on is still in the name of the City and the County. This resolution will convey this land in the name of the City and the County to the Cumberland Airport Commission. This resolution also sets forth some conditions that the City feels is necessary to accomplish what is in the best interest of the Cumberland Airport Commission, the Technology Park, and the County and City as a whole. These conditions also include a condition that any action that is taken in and around the airport needs to be endorsed, accepted, and approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. If this resolution is adopted, it will authorize the Mayor to convey the City's interest in the property in and around the airport to the necessary parties once the conditions have been met. To convey property, a public hearing must be held.

Mr. Ward further advised that the City's representative to this Commission, Mr. Walley Witt, is present at tonight's meeting.

Mayor Raines advised that approximately 24 acres will be transferred to the Wise County Industrial Development Authority and the remainder to the Cumberland Airport Commission.

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

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

Mr. Walley Witt spoke briefly to Council and advised that the resolution, if adopted, would solve some of the problems that they have incurred and he endorsed Council's adoption of same. He further stated he would answer any questions Council may have.

The City Attorney spoke briefly on this matter.

Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, 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 Conveyance of Property to the Wise County Industrial Development Authority and the Cumberland's Airport Commission. (Insert)

Mr. Ward advised that Council had instructed him to work with the Planning Commission on an ordinance covering telecommunications towers and other structures.

Work began in the spring with solicitations from telecommunication providers, other localities, and builders of these towers. A draft of this ordinance was included in Council's packet. Mr. Ward highlighted this ordinance by going over the various sections of it.

The Planning Commission, at their meeting held last night, approved this ordinance and sent it to council for their consideration. In order to move forward, a public hearing will have to be held on it.

Mr. George Statzer, a resident of Beech Street, spoke briefly to Council regarding this matter.

20041

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Statzer for his comments.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following vote: YES – Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – Hunnicutt, ABSENT – None, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to schedule a public hearing on the Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Norton, Virginia by the Addition of Section 26.1-48 – Regulating the Placement and Operation of Telecommunications Towers and Structures for the next meeting if possible.

Council had been given a copy of a check in the amount of \$260,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools for approval.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the check in the amount of \$260,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

20042

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed session to discuss personnel as per 2.2-3711(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

20043

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed session.

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

20044

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open session.

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Session with each answering yes. The Clerk then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Session. Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, 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 Session. (Insert)

20045

Mayor Raines advised that no action was taken in closed meeting.

20046

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

At the next meeting, Council will have a request by Norton Community Hospital to approve a resolution that would authorize them to go forward with a 16.5 million dollar expansion by the issuance of bonds through our Industrial Development Authority. There will be a brief presentation and Council will be provided with a resolution for consideration.

20047

A public hearing was held on November 15th by the Virginia Department of Transportation on the 20/20 Plan and there were no public comments.

City offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday of this week for the Thanksgiving holiday.

In comments from Council, Mr. Hunnicutt urged residents to start conserving water after reviewing today's water report.

20048

Mayor Raines advised that the City Manger would be buying more water from the Wise County Public Service Authority.

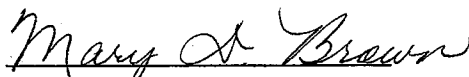
Councilman Mays apologized for missing the meeting held on the Comprehensive Plan at the high school recently due to employment schedules.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk