

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, December 18, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor 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 City Treasurer Joe Stallard.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the December 4, 2001 meeting as presented.

20062

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

20063

A special presentation was made to retiring City Treasurer Joe Stallard. Mr. Stallard has been the City Treasurer for twelve years and will be retiring December 31, 2001. Mayor Raines presented Mr. Stallard with a plaque and expressed appreciation to him on behalf of both Council and the citizens of the City of Norton.

Mr. Stallard expressed his thanks to the Mayor and Council and spoke briefly to those present, stating that he felt that with the leadership of Council, the City will continue to progress as it has in the past.

20064

A public hearing was held on An 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.

Mr. Ward gave a brief background on this ordinance and advised that the City Attorney had concurred as to the legality of the ordinance.

During Mr. Ward's comments on this ordinance, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council.

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

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

There was no public input and Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

20065

During comments from Council on this matter, Councilman Mays advised that he would like to see the word "electromagnetic" taken out of Section 26.1-48.4 Co-Location, item (b)-4.

Following a brief discussion on this issue and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following roll call vote YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt An 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. (Insert)

A public hearing was held on an amendment to the 2001-2002 budget of the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$85,998.28.

Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, was present and advised Council that this additional appropriation is for a Literary Challenge Grant in the amount of \$57,700 and E-Rate Refund in the amount of \$28,298.28.

Dr. Sessoms answered questions from Council.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized an amendment to the to the 2001-2002 budget of the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$85,998.28 as requested.

20066

A public hearing was held to consider the financial encumbrances for the year ended June 30, 2001 in the amount of \$221,507 for the City of Norton General Fund and \$44,029 for the Norton City Schools.

Mr. Ward gave a brief synopsis covering the items for the City of Norton General Fund.

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

Dr. Sessoms had supplied Council with a list of items covering his encumbrances and answered questions from Council.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized financial encumbrances for the year ended June 30, 2001 in the amount of \$221,507 for the City of Norton General Fund and \$44,029 for the Norton City Schools.

20067

Due to the absence of our auditors, the presentation of the financial audit for the City for the year ended June 30, 2001 was postponed.

20068

Council had a request for a refund of erroneously assessed personal property tax in the amount of \$33.58 to Ms. Linda Pridemore of Coeburn.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized a refund for erroneously assessed personal property tax in the amount of \$33.58 to Ms. Linda Pridemore of Coeburn.

20069

Council discussed the first meeting in January, which falls on New Year's Day. Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to cancel the first meeting in January, which would be on New Year's Day, and have only one meeting on January 15, 2002.

20070

Council had in their packets a copy of a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$260,000 and a check made payable to the Treasurer of Wise County in the amount of \$180,541.70 for confirmation.

Mr. Ward advised that the check to the Treasurer of Wise County is for the purchase of services from the County, such as jail, juvenile detention center, sheriff, and the circuit court clerk's office.

20071

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to confirm a check in the amount of \$260,000 to the Norton City Schools and a check in the amount of \$180,541.79 made payable to the Wise County Treasurer.

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 2.23711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

20072

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

20073

Mayor Raines declared Council in open meeting.

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 William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines – NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

20074

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Tourism Board. Jack Wallace nominated Joyce Payne for reappointment and Kim Gibson for appointment to this Board for four year terms, which will expire on September 30, 2005.

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

20075

Mayor Raines declared Joyce Payne reappointed and Kim Gibson appointed to the City of Norton Tourism Board for four year terms, which will expire on September 30, 2005.

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

Yesterday the City held a wonderful ceremony to open the Hotel Norton. He then presented to each member of Council a plaque which holds a piece of the original tile from the Hotel Norton in appreciation of their support on this project. He further advised that the Norton Kiwanis Club was holding a dinner meeting at the hotel tonight and the Assistant City Manager, Mr. Ramey, is there conducting tours of the building for them.

20076

The City offices will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 24th and 25th for the Christmas holiday and January 1st for New Year's Day. There will also be an altered garbage schedule, which will be published in the Coalfield Progress. He extended to the members of Council and their families wishes for a happy holiday season.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he had attended the closing of the Norton Community Hospital tax exempt bond issue in the amount of \$16,500,000 today. As he had advised before, neither the City nor NIDA has any liability on this bond issue.

20077

He further advised that one action taken today on behalf of the City that had not been discussed previously with Council was that he had asked the City Clerk to execute a certificate attesting to the fact that City Council had duly adopted a resolution creating the Industrial Development Authority, considered the Bond Issuance Resolution at the meeting of December 4th of this year and that these resolutions had not been changed or rescinded since that time. These were housekeeping matters, but this was a crucial document to enable the hospital to go to closing tomorrow and the issuance should be funded tomorrow.

In comments from the City Council, Mayor Raines expressed his appreciation to the City Administration and staff for the job done to move the Hotel Norton Project forward. He further advised that the Assistant City Manager, Mr. Ramey, had done a tremendous job on this project.

20078

At this time, the City Attorney advised that he would like to publicly express his appreciation to Mr. Stallard, retiring City Treasurer, for the wonderful cooperation in working with him on various items. He further stated that he was looking forward to working with the new treasurer.

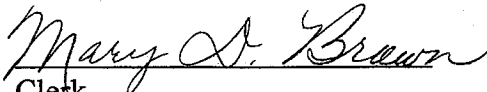
20079

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk