

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, October 3, 2000 at the Municipal Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m. with Vice Mayor Mays presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Jack Wallace, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Robert Raines

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 Sheriff Carlos Noaks.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2000 meeting as presented. 19713

There was no response to the Vice Mayor's call for visitors. 19714

At this time, Vice Mayor Mays welcomed Jeff Shupe, recently hired Accounting Supervisor for the City. 19715

Mr. Steve Breeding of Thompson and Litton appeared before Council to give them an update on the Comprehensive Water Study.

Mr. Breeding went over the various items they have investigated, such as demands, in approving accountability, safe yields, and alternative water sources. He advised that they should have all the alternatives together complete with cost information by the next Council meeting for Council's review. A prepared draft of the Comprehensive Report should be ready for Mr. Ward by the first of November and they should be back to Council at the November 7th meeting with their finalized draft. They will accept Council's comments and changes and then submit a finalized report to the regulatory agencies on or around November 21st. This report needs to be put into the hands of our local legislators as soon as possible. Then Thompson and Litton will have an implementation schedule, time frame, and financing alternatives ready for Council. 19716

The issue that is critical on this project is the accountability issue. This can make the difference in an expansion of the water treatment plant.

Vice Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Breeding for his presentation.

Mr. Ward gave Council an update on the City of Norton Housing Study. He advised that during the past year, the Virginia Coalfield Coalition has been conducting a housing study on the coalfield region. The Coalition had determined that there will be a demand for additional housing. Localities were encouraged to identify and submit tracts of land to them for additional study and maybe even promote a pilot housing project. The City did submit information about areas that would be suitable for housing development. One of the tracts that was identified and approved by the Coalition as a target area for further study and funding is located on the eastern section of the City and is owned by BoCo Limited. It is east of Hawthorne Drive and west of the Bear Creek intersection. It is

approximately 150 acres of land. The property owners are very interested in going into partnership with the City to try to help develop this tract of land. The Coalition is very interested and has approved up to \$10,000 for further study of this property. Based on this, the City has made application to the Department of Housing and Community Development in the amount of \$20,000 for planning grant monies to conduct a housing study on this property and throughout the City. As of this date, we have not heard from them on the status of this request, but remain optimistic that we may get some funding.

Last year we advertised for professional services for a housing study in the City; we have procured the services of K. W. Poore and Associates to assist us with this study provided we get the funding. Estimated cost of this funding is \$38,000 and Council had been supplied a breakdown on the scope of work. Mr. Ward briefly went over this information with Council.

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Mr. Ward advised that hopefully the end result would be that if we could get this study funded and completed this winter, then in the spring we may be in a position to come before Council to ask for permission to submit an application for a Community Improvement Grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development in the amount of \$750,000.

The City Manager advised that this project could help solve some of our housing problems in the City and the region and that this project will be pursued.

Vice Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Ward for this presentation.

Mr. Ward presented to Council information on tax restructuring in Virginia. He advised that in 1999 the General Assembly authorized a study of the state and local tax structure in the state. This study was conducted by a 15 member commission to examine all aspects of the state and local tax structure, analyze the relationship between state and local tax authority and service responsibilities, and examine what other states have done to assist their localities with raising revenues with particular attention to local income taxes.

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To respond to this study, the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties, working together, evaluated tax restructuring. One of the items their consultant was to focus on was the distribution of income tax back to the localities.

Mr. Ward recently attended a meeting in Roanoke and gave council a brief synopsis of the information he had received at this meeting. He further advised that this would be an on-going item and he would keep Council informed on this topic.

Vice Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Ward for this information.

Council had a check in the amount of \$215,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools for approval.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$215,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

19719


In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that he had passed out to Council a brochure from the Registrar covering two constitutional amendments to be voted on in November. He further advised Council that the grand opening of Vic's Decorating will be held on Friday, October 20, 2000 at 12:00 Noon.

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There were no comments from the City Attorney.

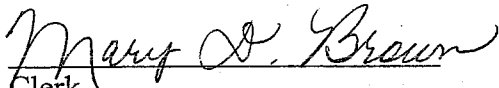
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk