

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, November 21, 2000 at the Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, William Mays, Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt

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 William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2000 meeting as presented.

19743

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

19744

Council had a request from Mr. Joe Stallard, City Treasurer, requesting two new Lexmark printers and a shredder for his office. The total cost of this equipment would be approximately \$1200 and the Compensation Board of the Commonwealth of Virginia has agreed to reimburse the City for one-third the total cost.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Treasurer to purchase two new Lexmark printers and a new shredder with the City to pay two-thirds of the cost and the State Compensation Board to pay one-third.

19745

Mr. Pat Murphy of Thompson and Litton Engineering presented Council with an update on the Comprehensive Water Study. He handed out to Council books containing information, such as purpose, scope, conclusions and recommendations, on this project. He asked Council to provide him with any feedback they may have.

He briefly went over five projects and cost summaries on same as well as other information contained in this lengthy document.

19746

Mr. Ward asked that Council and the City Attorney should review this document and at the next meeting have a final draft in order so that we may get copies ready to go to regulatory agencies as soon as possible for approval. The final document can also be taken to funding agencies.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Murphy for his presentation.

Council had a request for a budget amendment in the amount of \$50,000 to incorporate the work being performed on the Comprehensive Water Study. The City has received funds from two grants, \$15,000 from the Coalfield Water Development Fund and \$27,500 from the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, and the balance of \$7,500 will come from unappropriated reserves.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve an amendment to the City Budget in

the amount of \$50,000 with \$7,500 to come from unappropriated reserves to pay Thompson and Litton for work on the Comprehensive Water Study.

The Assistant City Manager, Mr. Fred Ramey, gave Council an update on the Hotel Norton Project. He briefly went over the project and gave Council a timeline on what had transpired as well as items and activities to come in the near future. He also advised that contract negotiations are beginning with architecture/engineering firms. He advised that the City hopes to be able to begin the design phase of the project as early in December as possible. A Project Management Proposal was advertised and only one proposal was received. This was from K. W. Poore and Associates of Richmond. Currently, the City is negotiating a contract with them.

19747

He advised that the contract with the Department of Housing and Community Development will have to be signed when it is presented to the City. There is a two year completion date on the project from the date when this contract is signed.

Mr. Ramey said he would be glad to answer any questions from Council. If not, then Council needs to discuss the Letter of Credit.

Mr. Ward advised that, in order to sign the contract with the Department of Housing and Community Development, an Irrevocable Letter of Credit needs to be issued. The \$538,500 grant is based on the stipulation of getting 22 jobs inside the hotel within two years after completion of the project. If we do not get these jobs or a portion of these jobs, then the money has to be repaid. DHCD has structured this payback through an Irrevocable Letter of Credit.

19748

Since the hotel property is owned by the Norton Industrial Development Authority and they are managing the project with the loan in their name, Council, upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES - Wallace, Raines, Mays, Fawbush, NO - None, ABSENT - Hunnicutt, adopted A Resolution Authorizing the Norton Industrial Development Authority to Issue an Irrevocable Letter of Credit to the Department of Housing and Community Development in the Amount of \$538,500 as Security for the Development of the Hotel Norton. (Insert)

Council had in their packets a copy of a proposed water contract with the Town of Big Stone Gap. Mr. Ward briefly went over the changes that had been made on this contract and also discussed the major points. He asked City Council to look over the revised contract and to authorize the Mayor to sign it after the Town of Big Stone Gap agrees with the changes that have been made.

19749

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the Mayor to sign the Water Contract with Big Stone Gap after they concur with the changes made as explained by the City Manager. (Insert)

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting.

19750

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 into open meeting.

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

19751

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering aye. The Clerk then read the 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, Raines, Mays, Fawbush, NO - None, ABSENT - Hunnicutt, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

19752

Mayor Raines announced that no action was taken during closed meeting.

19753

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

City offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 23rd and 24th, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Ramsey Wastewater Facility Project is nearing completion. Sludge is being hauled and razing is completed.

19754

The Virginia Relay Center is celebrating its 10 year anniversary and Council is invited on Tuesday, December 6th, at 2:00 p.m. He hopes to have a resolution ready for adoption on this at the December 5th meeting.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he had received a visit from Carl Snodgrass, Executive Director of the Wise County Industrial Development Authority, regarding the tract of land at the airport that the City owned in conjunction with Wise County. Earlier this year, Council authorized the Mayor to execute a deed conveying the City's interest in a portion of that property to the Wise County IDA for industrial development purposes with the expectation that as more prospects came along, the City might be asked to convey the remainder of the City's interest in the larger tract of property. The Wise County Board of Supervisors has now authorized the Acting County Administrator to convey the County's interest in that jointly owned tract to the IDA and he has been asked to prepare a deed for execution by the County and the City which would convey the remainder of the City's interest in that jointly owned tract to the IDA to make it available for further development purposes.

19755

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines advised that the resolution for this should have a survey with it.

In comments from Council, Mayor Raines advised:

The City Christmas Parade will be Saturday, December 2nd, at 6:00 p.m.
The City Christmas Dinner will be Thursday, December 7th, at 7:00 p.m.

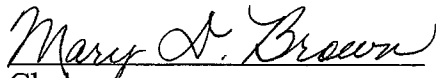
19756

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk