

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, December 19, 2000 at the Council Chambers with Vice Mayor William Mays presiding.

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

Absent: B. Robert Raines

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 Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the December 5, 2000 meeting as presented.

19771

Vice Mayor Mays advised that Item #E-6, which called for a closed meeting, will be tabled from tonight's meeting.

19772

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

19773

Mr. Brian Blanton of the accounting firm of Thrower, Livesay, and Blanton was present and gave Council a brief synopsis of the financial audit of the City for the year ending June 30, 2000.

He advised Council if they had any questions he would be happy to answer them.

19774

Following a brief discussion, Vice Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Blanton for his presentation to Council tonight.

Council had been presented in their packets A Resolution Requesting a Change in the City Charter to Allow Municipal Elections to be Moved to November.

Mr. Ward advised that this had been discussed by Council at their September 5, 2000 meeting wherein they were advised that the 2000 session of the General Assembly had enacted legislation that allowed municipal governments to change May elections to November. The Registrar and Secretary of the Election Board were both present at the September meeting with their endorsement of this change.

19775

The City Attorney advised that adoption of this resolution is the first in a three-step procedure to this change. He then briefly discussed these three steps with Council.

The City Manager advised that Council also had in their packets additional information on this that was received from the Virginia Municipal League and other sources as well as a list of advantages and disadvantages.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES - Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, NO - None, ABSENT - Raines, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Requesting a Change in the City Charter to Allow Municipal Elections to be Moved to November. (Insert)

Council had in their packets a request to approve an Agreement Between the City and the Norton Industrial Development Authority which covers Phase II of the Hotel Norton Project.

Mr. Ward advised that this agreement had been discussed by Council previously and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development requires that there is a written agreement between NIDA and the City. The City administration considers this to be a housekeeping item. If adopted by Council tonight, then NIDA will have this agreement on their agenda for their meeting tomorrow night.

19776

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement between the City of Norton and the Norton Industrial Development Authority on Phase II of the Hotel Norton Project.

Mr. Ward asked Council to take action on the cancellation of the first council meeting in January 2001.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to cancel the first council meeting in January 2001. The next meeting will be January 16, 2001.

19777

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

He extended to all a happy holiday season. He further advised that the Mayor's absence tonight was due to a death in his family.

19778

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that it would be best for Council to schedule a public hearing on the proposed charter change at the next meeting of January 16, 2001.

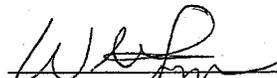
Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to schedule a public hearing on January 16, 2001 for the proposed charter change on elections.

19779

Vice Mayor Mays extended holiday wishes to all.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:



Mary D. Beaman, Clerk