

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, November 16, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Robert Raines, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt and Jack Wallace

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Rev. Steve Conerly followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by City Sheriff Carlos Noaks.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the November 2, 1999 meeting as presented.

19466

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

19467

The first item on the agenda was the item of water reserves. Mayor Raines recognized Mr. Tommy Roberts, Superintendent of the Water Plant. Mr. Roberts had a guest at tonight's meeting. Mr. Rick Brown, a representative of the Virginia Rural Water Association and a resident of our sister city Buena Vista, was present at tonight's meeting. Mr. Brown spoke briefly to Council. Mayor Raines asked Mr. Brown to extend our greetings to our sister city.

19468

Mr. Ward advised that we had a total capacity in our two reservoirs as of today of 23.598 million gallons and that during the last month we only had over one inch of rain. The City Manager informed Council that Mr. Roberts and his staff had drained the upper reservoir into the lower reservoir and that beginning tomorrow they hoped to expand the PSA water into the system further.

Mayor Raines advised that one of the objectives charged to the City Manager is to look into alternatives, both short and long term, of water for the City. He advised that Council must seek and find solutions to this problem. He further stated that Council hoped to have some options that they could discuss in their annual Capitol Improvement Meeting held in February.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Ward for his report.

Council had in their packets A Resolution of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending the Fishing License Restrictions at the Upper Reservoir.

Mr. Ward advised this resolution was tabled from the last meeting and was presented to Council tonight with a minor modification.

19469

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following roll call vote: Mays, Fawbush, Raines - YES; NO - None; Hunnicutt, Wallace - ABSENT, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending the Fishing License Restrictions at the Upper Reservoir. (Insert)

Mr. Chris Jones, Co-Chair of the Norton Celebrate 2000 Committee, was present and gave Council a brief update on the Committee's plans for the upcoming New Year's celebration. He advised that the Town of Wise was co-sponsoring the fireworks display and that one of the main events will be a Karla Karst concert. He expressed much appreciation to both individuals and civic groups for their help in these various activities. During his presentation, he gave Council a Celebrate 2000 flag which will be used during this time and advised Council that the Celebrate 2000 Committee will be back at the last meeting in December for a final update.

19470

Mr. Jones also expressed both his and the Committee's appreciation to the City for having Mr. Fred Ramey, Assistant City Manager, working with them on this project. He advised that Mr. Ramey is a great asset to the City.

Mayor Raines advised that he and Council concurred with Mr. Jones' comments and advised the Committee that they had done an excellent job.

Council had in their packets copies of the financial audits of the Norton Industrial Development Authority and the Coeburn-Norton-Wise Wastewater Authority for the year ended June 30, 1999 that had been prepared by Thrower, Livesay, and Blanton, CPAs.

The City Manager gave a brief synopsis of the NIDA audit and advised that the note on the Hotel Norton Project, as of June 30, 2000, will be down to \$500,000 and that they had reduced their long term debt from 1.5 million dollars to 1.3 million dollars and had \$152,000 cash on hand as of the end of the year.

19471

The City Manager gave a brief synopsis of the C-N-W audit and advised that they are primarily funded by fees from the City of Norton and the Towns of Wise and Coeburn. They had \$755,000 cash on hand at the end of the year, a decrease of \$42,934 from the previous year. Long term debt was \$9,650,900. Under current financing, the long term debt will be paid off in 2012.

If Council has any questions, Mr. Ward advised that either he or the accountants would be happy to answer them.

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 Section 2.1-344(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

19472

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 back into open meeting.

19473

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering aye. The Clerk then read the entire Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: Mays, Fawbush, Raines - YES, NO - None, Hunnicutt, Wallace - ABSENT, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

19474

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Tourism Board for a four year term which will expire on September 30, 2003.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Michele Knox to be reappointed to this Board.

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

19475

Mayor Raines declared Michele Knox reappointed to the City of Norton Tourism Board for a four year term which will expire on September 30, 2003.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward:

advised that City offices will be closed on November 25th and 26th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

19476

Reminded Council that the City Christmas Dinner will be December 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Norton Rescue Squad Building and the City Christmas Parade will be held on Sunday, December 5th at 6:00 p.m.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

19477

In comments from Council, Mayor Raines advised that he and Assistant City Manager Ramey had attended a press conference held by Congressman Rick Boucher and Bell Atlantic. One hundred new jobs are being added to the Directory Assistance Centers with 70 of these jobs being at the Norton Center. This was announced by Hugh Stallard, a representative of Bell Atlantic and a former Norton resident. Mr. Stallard has made a commitment to Southwest Virginia and specifically to the City of Norton. Mayor Raines expressed appreciation to Mr. Stallard's dedication to Southwest Virginia and the City of Norton and to Congressman Boucher for getting the telecommunications industry to our area.

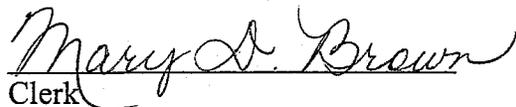
19478

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk