

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 20, 1998 at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Roy Roberts, Jack Wallace, William Mays, Ron McCall, and Robert Raines

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

The invocation was given by Father Joe Facura and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by Director of Social Services, Bill Stokes.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the January 6, 1998 meeting as presented.

18017

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Ken Lyons, Jr. spoke briefly to Council advising that he has scheduled a meeting for the formation of a business and information group for January 30, 1998 and is hoping for good attendance. The location of the meeting will be sent to the Coalfield Progress for publication.

18018

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 13-68 of the Norton City Code.

Mr. Ward advised that the current fine for parking a vehicle in a space reserved for persons with disabilities is \$25.00 according to our present City Code. He had been advised by Police Chief Sam Mongle that current State Code has been amended and calls for a minimum penalty of \$100 and a maximum of \$500. Mr. Ward further advised the public hearing had been duly advertised.

18019

The City Attorney advised that in order for the City to be in conformity with State Code, the City cannot be more lenient or more stringent than stipulated by the State.

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

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

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 13-68 of the Norton City Code. (Insert). This ordinance will go into effect in thirty (30) days and changes the fine

for unlawful parking in a space reserved for the handicapped from \$25.00 to \$100.00.

Council had in their packets a request for a Special Use Permit for Mr. Michael Barnette of Tri-County Vacuum Center, 540 Park Avenue, for an awning. Mr. Ward advised this permit would be revocable with a thirty (30) day notice. The City Administration asks for Council's favorable consideration on this permit.

18020

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council approved the request of a Special Use Permit for Mr. Michael Barnette, Tri-County Vacuum Center, 540 Park Avenue. The City Manager is authorized to sign said permit.

The City Manager brought to Council for discussion purposes only An Ordinance Prohibiting Thru Trucks on Park Avenue Between 6:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. Mr. Ward advised with the completion of the Norton By-Pass, Council may want to discuss this. An informal study conducted by City personnel still shows approximately 100 trucks a day on Kentucky Avenue in a 7-8 hour period. He is seeking Council's guidance and discussion on how the ordinance adopted in August of 1989 is doing. Having finished the Downtown Revitalization Project, does Council want a 24 hour ban on trucks on Park Avenue from the intersection at Dairy Queen and Route 74 to the signal light at the viaduct on 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

18021

At this time, Councilman McCall, advising he is employed in the coal industry, will abstain from discussion or voting on this item.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to authorize the City Manager to advertise a public hearing for the second meeting in February on this item and to also obtain as much information as to local companies hauling at night and any statistics that VDOT may have available pertaining to this.

Mr. Ward advised that the current Audit Contract has expired and for the year ending 6/30/98, we need to secure a new contract. He asked Council's direction on how they wanted to proceed on this item.

After a brief discussion and upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to advertise a Request for Proposal for professional audit services for a three year contract with an optional two year extension. Proposals are to be brought to Council for their consideration.

18022

Mr. Ward brought to Council for discussion A Proposal to Increase State Funding for Small School Divisions. This proposal comes from Highland County and advises that the methodology used in determining the composite index for State education funding is very misrepresentative of Virginia's seven smallest school divisions' ability to pay. The City of Norton School System is one of these seven school divisions.

18023

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council that they should follow the lead of the School Board. Once the School Board adopts their resolution in support of this proposal, Council, in turn, will adopt one in support. Mr. Ward is to work with Mr. Passan, the Superintendent of Schools.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel as per 2.1-344(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended, and discussion of a prospective business where no previous announcement has been made as per 2.1-344(A) (5) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

18024

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into regular session.

18025

Mayor Raines declared the meeting back in regular session.

The Clerk then polled each member as to the Certification of Executive Meeting with each answering yes. The Clerk then read the entire Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. (Insert)

18026

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for two year appointments to expire on 1/28/2000.

William Mays nominated Mr. Dennis Brummitte, Mr. Frank Gravely, Mr. J. T. Caruso, and Mr. Bobby Cassell to be reappointed to this Commission.

18027

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Dennis Brummitte, Mr. Frank Gravely, Mr. J. T. Caruso, and Mr. Bobby Cassell reappointed to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for two year terms which will expire 1/28/2000.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Housing Appeals Board for a five year term which will expire on 1/17/2003.

Jack Wallace nominated Mr. T. J. Flanary to be reappointed to this Board.

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

18028

Mayor Raines declared Mr. T. J. Flanary reappointed to the Housing Appeals Board for a five year term which will expire on 1/17/2003.

In his comments, the City Manager advised that he was in receipt of a letter from Mr. Al Fulk, Manager of Century Communications, advising that the disruption in service was due to problems with a switcher. He further advised it is now working fine.

18029

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

18030

In comments from Council, Mr. McCall stated that, in the financial report given to Council tonight, the total for Public Safety is higher than normal. The City Manager advised him this was due to the debt service on the fire trucks being paid prior to 12/31/97 and last year it was paid in January.

18031

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

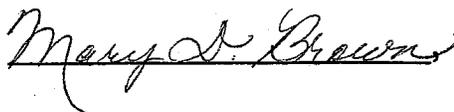
CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines

Mayor

ATTEST:

 Clerk