

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 3, 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

Prior to the invocation, Mayor Raines asked for a pause of silence in memory of former Mayor George Hunnicutt who passed away on Sunday, March 1, 1998. Mr. Hunnicutt had served the City from 1969-1986 and sympathy was extended to his wife, Mary, children, and grandchildren. Mayor Raines briefly went over some of Mr. Hunnicutt's contributions to the City and region. The invocation was then given by Rev. Steve Conerly and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by the Director of Social Services, Bill Stokes.

18053

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 17, 1998 meeting as presented.

18054

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

18055

Council was shown a brief video of a helicopter logging operation similar to the one that will be conducted in the Clear Creek area of Norton. Present at tonight's meeting to answer any questions of Council was Rondi Fisher and Wanda O'Hara of the U. S. Forest Service.

18056

Mayor Raines advised Ms. Fisher that one of Council's concerns previously had been the visual impact this would have. Ms. Fisher advised that she had a drawing showing how this area will look. She will make copies and send them to Council.

Council had in their packets an Agreement with the U. S. Forest Service which covers replacing the deck planking on the 12th Street bridge in Ramsey that will be used in bringing out the logs harvested in the Clear Creek Area. Currently the bridge has a posting of 6 tons and must be upgraded to handle Virginia legal load limits. The planking will be replaced with concrete. This will be done with the U. S. Forest Service and the City each paying 50% of the cost which is estimated to be \$15,000 - \$20,000.

18057

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to execute an Agreement with the U. S. Forest Service for the upgrade of the bridge at Ramsey to meet State regulations with the U. S. Forest Service and the City each paying 50% of the cost which is estimated to be \$15,000 - \$20,000. This is based on the City Attorney's approval of the agreement.

The City Manager is to have the City Attorney approve the contract before he signs same.

Council had in their packets A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Supporting the Lenowisco Planning District for the Inclusion of Certain Road Projects in the Virginia Department of Transportation Six Year Improvement Plan.

18058

Mayor Raines discussed each of the six areas which Lenowisco is asking us to support by passage of this resolution.

Mr. Ward advised this resolution, if adopted, will be submitted to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for consideration at their March 30, 1998 Pre-Allocation Meeting.

Mayor Raines advised that Lenowisco has adopted a similar resolution.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Supporting the Lenowisco Planning District for the Inclusion of Certain Road Projects in the Virginia Department of Transportation Six Year Improvement Plan. (Insert)

Council had a request from the City Manager for a budget amendment in the amount of \$1,500 to cover additional time required by the Courts for one of our prosecuting attorneys. This additional time became effective January of this year.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and approved by unanimous roll call vote, Council approved a budget amendment in the amount of \$1,500 for the budget year 1998-1999 with said funds to come from Contingency to cover additional time on appeals of our traffic cases.

18059

The City Manager passed out for Council's review pictures of the fencing currently at Flag Rock and the wooden fencing at the Powell Valley Overlook. The fencing at Flag Rock needs to be replaced prior to the opening this year.

18060

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to replace the fence with new chain link rather than the wood due to the safety factor involved.

Bill Stokes, Director of Social Services, spoke to Council regarding a request for a letter of support for a Welfare to Work Grant. This grant, if awarded, would be administered by the Private Industry Council. This letter of support is to be included in the grant application.

18061

Following a brief discussion with Mr. Stokes answering Council's questions, and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to prepare a letter for the Mayor's signature endorsing the concept of a Welfare to Work Grant.

In his comments, the City Manager:

Gave Council an update on the legislative issue covering the recent resolution adopted by Council in support of the Change in Composite Index for State Educational Funding. The bill passed the Senate and went through the House where it was amended. The final status of the bill is not yet determined.

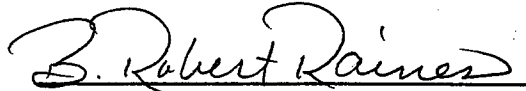
18062

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that some progress was being made on delinquent tax sales with a sale scheduled for March 14, 1998.

18063

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

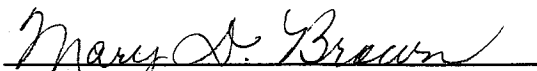
CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines

Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk