

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 17, 1998 at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Absent: Roy Roberts

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

The invocation was given by Rev. Bob Kespelher and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 3, 1998 meeting as presented.

18064

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

18065

Council received a request by the Virginia Department of Transportation to abandon a portion of excess right-of-way on Lost Creek Drive. This abandonment will, in turn, help them in having a property transfer with an adjacent property owner, Lost Creek Development Corporation. Mr. Ward further advised that the City Attorney had met with VDOT and was advised that the developers have expansion plans and need the area designated on maps given to Council. Mr. Bradshaw advised that we need to publish Council's intent to vacate this property for two consecutive weeks and then hold a public hearing. The ordinance can then be adopted and put on the deed books. As of this time, everything is proper for Council's action.

18066

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for Mr. Ward to advertise for a public hearing on this request.

Council had a request for the City to make an application for a Local Government Challenge Grant. Mr. Ward advised this is done annually and the local funds are matched for the Pro-Art Program. In the '97-'98 fiscal year, we had a \$3,500 matching grant plus \$400 we paid for the rent at the Va-Ky. Opry Building for a Pro-Art activity. The Pro-Art Association is requesting \$4,000 from

the City this year. The deadline for the submission of this application is April 1, 1998.

Present and speaking on behalf of the Pro-Art Association were Mrs. Mary Fraley and Mrs. Daisy Portuondo who provided Council members with a packet covering Pro-Art activities.

18067

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to apply for a \$4,000 Local Government Challenge Grant for the Pro-Art Program which, with matching funds, will total \$8,000.

Mr. Ward presented to Council an update on the CMB Timber Sale. The U. S. Forest Service had provided the City Manager with their landscape architect's maps which show the potential visual impact to the area resulting from the planned timber harvest. These maps showed that most of the harvest will not be visible from the roadways.

18068

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Ward for this presentation.

The City Manager requested a budget amendment in the amount of \$10,597 to incorporate recently funded police grants. Mr. Ward advised that the Police Department had received two grants from the Department of Criminal Justice Services. One was in the amount of \$6,887 and will apply to overtime in the Police Department and the second was in the amount of \$3,710 and will be used to update the VCIN computer that is used on a daily basis and needs to be updated by July 1st.

18069

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to amend the Police Department budget in the amount of \$10,597 to include the recent fundings of two grants from the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

Council had a copy of a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$130,000 to be confirmed.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to confirm a check in the amount of \$130,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

18070

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, 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. This covers

an appointment to the City of Norton Tourism Board for the unexpired term of Mr. Rick Ferree. Mr. Ferree has resigned from this Board as he has been transferred out of state due to his employment. Mayor Raines commended the work Mr. Ferree had done for the City and extended best wishes for success.

18071

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.

18072

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in regular session.

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

18073

Mayor Raines advised no action had been taken in the Executive Session.

18074

In his comments, the City Manager:

Advised Council that we had our 1,000<sup>th</sup> hit on our Web Page. Also the City is in the process of revising the layout to make it more accessible. At our next meeting he will have an update on the comments we have received regarding this site.

On Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. the annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the City Park on Virginia Avenue.

18075

City decals are now on sale. The deadline for purchasing them is April 15, 1998.

The Police Department has started the Citizen Police Academy. At this time, Police Chief Sam Mongle spoke briefly on this new program.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he had met with the City Planning Commission and discussed proper amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. They have outlined a plan for revisions and will bring them to Council in the next few months.

18076


He also advised that one tax sale is almost completed with the auction held last Friday, the 13th. He has received authorization from the Circuit Court to sell two lots adjoining to the lot sold last week and hopes to have that sale in April.

Mayor Raines inquired as to when the ban on trucks went into effect and was advised by the City Manager that it would be this Friday, the 20<sup>th</sup>.

18077

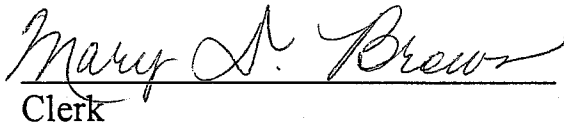
There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines  
B. Robert Raines  
Mayor

ATTEST:



Mary A. Brew  
Clerk