

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Thursday, May 21, 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

Absent: Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Rev. Steve Conerly and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by Mr. Bill Stokes, the Director of Social Services.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the May 7, 1998 meeting as presented.

19023

During the audience for visitors, Mr. Bill Passan, Superintendent of Norton City Schools, advised Council that the J. I. Burton Tennis Team is going to the state tournament to be held next week in Roanoke. Expenses will run approximately \$2,000. The School Board, at their last meeting, appropriated \$1,000 and he is asking Council for their support in the amount of \$1,000.

19024

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council appropriated \$1,000 to the J. I. Burton Tennis Team to help cover expenses to the state tournament with said funds to come from Contingency.

Mayor Raines advised Council that the 1998-99 School Board Budget had been duly advertised for a public hearing tonight. The total amount of the budget is \$4,649,406 with \$1,458,913 representing local funds. No action will be taken on this budget until the next council meeting which will be June 2nd.

Present at the meeting were Mr. Cliff Daniels, Chairman of the School Board and Mr. Bill Passan, Superintendent of Norton City Schools.

19025

There were no questions or comments from either Council or Mr. Ward prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Daniels and Mr. Passan for the work the Board had done. The Mayor then thanked Mr. Daniels for the contribution he has made to the City by serving on various boards, commissions, and Council.

The City Manager advised the public hearing for the City budget would be held at the next meeting.

Council had in their packets information regarding a support resolution for natural gas service in Norton from Ms. Stacey Varney, of Evan Energy Company.

Present and speaking on this matter were Mr. Ralph Miner, Mr. Ronnie Montgomery, and Ms. Varney. All are associated with Evan Energy Company.

Ms. Varney advised that in order to get a Certificate of Need they need to show that there is a demand and support for natural gas in this area. They are seeking from Council tonight a resolution in support of this venture.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of Support for the Application for Natural Gas Service in Norton and Southwest Virginia. (Insert)

19026

Mr. Ward had supplied Council with information regarding the Virginia Municipal League's "Virginians to Virginians" Program. This program is similar to the International Sister City Program. The goal is to give local officials an opportunity to visit and learn from another community. Communities will be matched for a period of one or two years.

19027

Mr. Ward briefly went over the schedule for implementation of this program.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to pursue participation in this program and the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Manager will schedule a meeting to work on this project.

The City Manager advised that our Audit Contract had expired. He further advised that the City Administration had advertised following procurement guidelines in February for proposals. It was the recommendation of the City Administration to award this Audit Contract to Thrower and Thrower for a three year period with a two year extension at a price of \$14,500 per year.

19028

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to execute a contract for auditing services with Thrower and Thrower for a three year period

(June 30, 1998 through June 30, 2000) with an optional two year extension at a cost of \$14,500 per year.

The next item on the agenda was an Executive Session to discuss personnel as per section 2.1-344(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia as Amended. This was an appointment to the Community Services Board which is currently held by Mrs. Barbara Caruso and whose term had expired 5/1/98.

19029

Due to the illness of Mrs. Caruso, Mayor Raines suggested that we table this item for now.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to table the Executive Session for an appointment to the Community Services Board.

In his comments, the City Manager advised:

Kids Fishing Day will be held Saturday, May 23rd, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the Norton Reservoir.

19030

City offices will be closed on Monday, May 25th for observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

All members of City Council are invited to attend the Industry Appreciation Luncheon to be held Friday, May 22nd, at Esserville.

In comments from Council, Mayor Raines advised that a Memorial Day Service will be held at Veterans Park on Park Avenue Monday at 5:00 p.m.

19031

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

B. Robert Raines

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Mayor

ATTEST:

Nancy L. Brown

Clerk