

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, August 18, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

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 Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the August 4, 1998 meeting as presented.

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

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Mr. Chris Jones acting as a spokesman for the Norton Fire Department and the Old Dominion Sportsman Association and presented to Council several suggested improvements that could be made at the City Reservoir. These improvements included: a bathroom facility (preferably a permanent structure), a 3 Day Permit, allowing special stockings for non-profit organizations, a park ranger during fishing season, construct parking areas (particularly a handicap area), and allow the use of two fishing rods after the first day of the season.

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Mr. Jones then answered questions from Council members. Mayor Raines thanked him for his presentation and advised that Council would take these suggestions under advisement.

The City Manager advised Council that he was in receipt of a letter from Ms. Beth MacDonald of the Virginia Municipal League informing us that the City of Buena Vista had been selected as our Sister City in the Virginians to Virginians Program. He then briefly went over their community profile with Council.

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Following a brief discussion, it was then decided that the City Manager should proceed with making an initial contact with the City of Buena Vista and follow up with a meeting during the Virginia Municipal League Conference in October.

Mr. Ward brought back to Council the item of discussing An Ordinance Regulating Truck Traffic on Park Avenue which had been discussed several months ago.

There was no response from the audience on this topic and Mr. Ward advised he had talked with Mr. R. L. Whitehorn, spokesman for residents of Kentucky Avenue at the previous meeting, and he advised there was no problem with increased truck traffic on Kentucky Avenue and that the trucks were using the by-pass.

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Mayor Raines advised he also had talked with a resident of that area and he had advised him the same; therefore it was the concurrence of Council that this ordinance is working well and it will be left as is.

Mr. Ward presented to Council an update on the Water Tank Maintenance Program. Prior to the meeting, he had given out copies of the inspection reports the City had received. He advised that Council had funded monies in the Water and Sewer Budgets for this program and that he had gone through the procurement procedure, selected a company, and crews will start Friday on the two tanks to be worked on this year. The remaining three will be done next year.

Present to answer questions from Council was Mr. Tommy Roberts, our Water Plant Superintendent.

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Mr. Ward advised most of the City will be on PSA water during the time the water tank at the Filter Plant is being worked on. This tank has a capacity of one million gallons. Those residents left on City water will experience some low pressure.

The Flag Rock Tank, which holds 15,000 gallons, will have work begun after the Flag Rock Park is closed and this will affect no citizens.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Ward for bringing this information to Council.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised:

The City is working to replace the decking on the bridge in Ramsey and he expects to have a design from the engineer by the end of the week. Concrete will be used rather than wood. Cost of this project will be shared with the Forestry Service and should be completed in the next thirty (30) days. A temporary bridge will be put in when construction is ready to start.

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The City Attorney advised that the City has three (3) tax sales remaining. He further advised he has submitted the necessary paperwork to the Circuit Court for Larry Hamilton's appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

*B. Robert Raines*

B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

*Mary D. Brown* Clerk