

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, November 4, 1997 at the Norton Rescue Squad Building with Mayor Raines presiding. The change of location was due to the election and the use of Council Chambers as a voting precinct.

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

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

The invocation was given by Dr. Miller Liston and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the October 7, 1997 meeting as presented.

17948

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Ken Lyons, Craig Street, Norton, spoke to Council commending the revitalization work being done in the downtown area of Norton and, as a member of the Downtown Business Development Association, offered a meeting place for this group at his place of business, 1115 Kentucky Avenue.

17949

Mayor Raines advised him that Mr. Ward and Mr. Ramey would be willing to help get this group activated again.

At this time, Mr. Ward introduced to Council Mr. Art Meade, a former manager of Bluefield and now an employee of the University of Virginia Center for Public Service.

17950

Mr. Skip Skinner of Lenowisco presented Council with a brief overview of the Wise County Water and Sewer Study which is now nearing completion. He asked Council to allow Mr. Ward to continue serving on the Task Force which they have established. It was the consensus of Council that Mr. Ward continue serving on this Task Force.

17951

Mr. Ward advised that the Downtown Revitalization Project is coming to a close and gave Council an update. He advised the demolition of Super Service went well; however we have encountered below and above ground storage tanks and several hydraulic cylinders under concrete pads. During the removal, there was

a release of a small portion of fuel on the property. We are currently working with the Department of Environmental Quality doing corrective action and have hired Environmental Monitoring Incorporated in Coeburn to perform an assessment of the site. Monitoring wells have been set and will determine what the next step will be. The paving of Federal Street depends on this situation. Hopefully, it will be done this fall. If not, it will have to be done next spring.

17952

Mr. Ward advised that the City has sought and received a time extension from the Department of Housing and Community Development due to the Facade Program. This extension runs until August of 1998.

Mr. Ramey gave a brief update on the facade program advising they had received five applications in the three block area. One has been approved and we are in the process of receiving \$15,000 from the State. We may have enough funds to do another three of the projects. They have also received five letters from outside the area for participation in this project.

Mr. Ramey also advised of a problem that was encountered in providing power for the two pay phone booths by the AT&T Relay Center. After working with both Bell Atlantic and Old Dominion Power, this service has been restored by the placement of underground cable and Bell Atlantic is going to install two antique phone booths at this location.

Mayor Raines thanked both the City Manager and Mr. Ramey for their updates.

Council had in their packets A Resolution as pertains to the City's Cable TV Franchise. Mr. Ward advised that Mr. Al Fulk, Manager of Century Communications, has advised that WJHL-TV in Johnson City has invoked its non-duplication rights by November 20th of this year and that our citizens will lose up to 14-15 hours of programming from WDBJ in Roanoke and WYMT in Hazard. He asked that Council adopt this resolution and that copies be sent to those listed in this resolution.

17953

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution as Pertains to the City's Cable TV Franchise. (Insert) Also, the City Attorney is going to check further into this matter.

Council had a request for a Special Use Permit for Mr. Don Fields, Forever Yours Photograph, located at 540 Park Avenue for an awning which has been installed and which is hanging over and encroaching City right-of-way.

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to sign a Special Use Permit for Mr. Don Fields, Forever Yours Photography, 540 Park Avenue.

17954

Council had in their packets a Proclamation Supporting November as National Hospice Month. Present and speaking on behalf of the Hospice Choice, Incorporated was Mr. Barry Simmons. Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt a Proclamation Supporting November as National Hospice Month. (Insert)

17955

Council had a Resolution Supporting the Coalfield Coalition in their packets for consideration.

Mayor Raines supplied Council with the background information on this in which the Lenowisco and Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commissions had joined together forming this Coalfield Coalition and that they will seek funding under the Regional Competitiveness Program enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia in 1996.

17956

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt a Resolution Supporting the Coalfield Coalition. (Insert)

Included in Council's packets were copies of two checks in excess of \$100,000.

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

17957

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$214,603.51 to the Downtown Development Fund.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, 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, and the acquisition of real property as per 2.1-344(A) (3) 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.

17958

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Bradshaw as our new City Attorney and extended an invitation for him to join Council in Executive Session.

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.

17959

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 Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. (Insert)

17960

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Tourism Board for two 4 year terms which will expire on 9/30/2001.

William Mays nominated Paul Kuczko and Joyce Payne to be reappointed to this Board.

17961

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

Mayor Raines declared Paul Kuczko and Joyce Payne reappointed to the City of Norton Tourism Board for two^{four} year terms which will expire on 9/30/2001.

In his comments, the City Manager advised:

Flag Rock and Legion Park have closed and, in their packets, Council has a breakdown of the activities for the season.

On Tuesday, November 11th, a Veterans Parade will be held on Park Avenue at 6:00 p.m. All activities will be held in the 700 Block of Park Avenue near Veterans Park.

17962

That he wished to thank the Public Safety and Public Works People for their work during the Halloween holiday.

There were no comments from the City Attorney other than to thank Council for the opportunity to serve the City.

There were no comments from Council and no further business to come before them; therefore the meeting was adjourned.

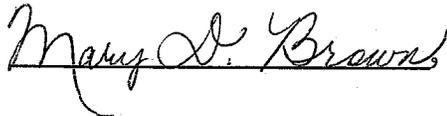
CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines

Mayor

ATTEST:

 Clerk