

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, November 18, 1997 at the Municipal Council Chambers with Vice Mayor William Mays presiding.

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

Absent: Robert Raines

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

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by the Director of Social Services, Bill Stokes.

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the November 4, 1997 meeting as presented.

17963

During the Vice Mayor's call for visitors, Mrs. Renee Robinson, President-Elect of the Norton Education Association, read a proclamation which she asked Council to adopt declaring the week of November 16 - 22, 1997 as American Education Week. She also brought samples of some work done by the children from both schools and advised that the Assistant City Manager had taken some video of the students which will air on the City's access channel.

17964

It was the consensus of Council for Vice Mayor Mays to sign said proclamation.

Mrs. Robinson thanked Council for their support and Vice Mayor Mays thanked Mrs. Robinson for her presentation.

At this time, Mr. Ward gave Council an update on the WJHL-TV Non-Duplication Request. He had furnished Council copies of the correspondence which has transpired since our last meeting. He further advised that WJHL does plan to proceed with this action. He introduced to Council Mr. Al Fulk of Century Communications.

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Mr. Fulk advised Council that WJHL does have a legal right by Federal Law to proceed with the Non-Duplication Request; however, no subscriber or resident of Norton or Wise County will lose any service. Mr. Fulk then answered questions from Council.

Vice Mayor Mays thanked Mr. Fulk for his assistance in this matter.

Mr. Ward asked Council if they felt there was anything else that should be done on this. It was the consensus of Council that this had been taken as far as it could.

Council had in their packets A Resolution Supporting Property Development Near J. I. Burton High School. Mr. Ward advised the City had been asked by the Virginia Department of Transportation to support the development of property that is located across 11<sup>th</sup> Street from J. I. Burton High School and to vacate a Land Use Permit we have had with them since May 16, 1991. Two businessmen have purchased this property. Next to this is the property that is owned by VDOT and used as a parking lot for school activities as per our Land Use Permit with them. The developer wishes to purchase this property from VDOT and Mr. Ward has met with all those involved. He further went over the three major concerns that the City has with this. These being: 1. To protect our utilities on Wayne Avenue; 2. Protect parking for school activities (which the developer has said he would give the school a lease to cover this property); and 3. Would this have an adverse affect on the schools?

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During discussions with the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Passan advised he felt this would be an enhancement to the area and an asset to the school. Mr. Ward also feels this will be a positive image and an asset for the City.

VDOT has asked us to adopt this resolution and vacate our Land Use Permit for the use of this property in order that they may proceed with this development.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution which will support this project and vacate our Land Use Permit. (Insert)

Council had in their packets A Project Programming Resolution which asks that the Virginia Department of Transportation establish a project for the installation of traffic signals on Park Avenue from Tipple Hill to 11<sup>th</sup> Street by means of an Urban Project. The first step for this is the passage of this resolution which would authorize VDOT to put this in their Six Year Improvement Plan and where the State would pay 98% of the cost and the City would pay 2%.

17967

Mr. Ward advised there is one problem and that is we already have an Urban Project that is scheduled. This project is the four laning of Tipple Hill. If we want to expedite the traffic light project, then the four laning of Tipple Hill will have to be delayed. He feels that the traffic signals should take priority and he is asking Council to adopt this resolution in order that we can get this process started.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Project Programming Resolution. (Insert)

Council had a request for a water and sewer tap for Linda Sue Chester, 4826 Kentucky Avenue which is located in the County. Mr. Ward advised both were available and the City Administration recommends approval of this request.

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve a sewer tap for Linda Sue Chester.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following vote: Roberts - NO, Wallace, Mays, and McCall - YES, Council approved a water tap for Linda Sue Chester.

17968

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a prospective business where no previous announcement has been made as per 2.1-344(A) (5) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

17969

Vice Mayor Mays declared the meeting in Executive Session.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into regular session.

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Vice Mayor Mays 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 Jack Wallace, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. (Insert)

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Vice Mayor Mays advised there was no announcement to come from the Executive Session.

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In his comments, the City Manager advised:

City offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw announced that he had met with the City Manager and City Treasurer and gone over several outstanding legal matters involving the City. A number of these matters they think will be due for Council's consideration in the future. They are in the process of making a transition with respect to many of these matters and he expects everything to run very smoothly.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
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William J. Mays  
Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

 Clerk