

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, February 20, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager

The invocation was given by Rev. Jim Jenkins which was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by the Director of Social Services, Bill Stokes.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 6, 1996 meeting as presented.

17419

In response to the Mayor's call for visitors, Mrs. Toyao Andrews, 401 Kentucky Avenue, S. W., spoke to Council regarding a problem in payment of her last two water bills. She paid her water bill after 5:00 p.m. on January 15 thinking the City had observed the Lee/Jackson/King holiday. She then received a second notice and had to pay a penalty on this bill. When paying her water bill on February 15, she brought coins to pay her bill and the money was refused by the City Treasurer. After a discussion with the Treasurer and the City Manager on this date, Mrs. Andrews came back and paid the bill with rolled coins.

17420

Mrs. Andrews stated that she thought it was unfair the City wasn't closed on the 15th and that it had caused confusion. Also she stated that she wanted apologies from the Treasurer's Office and two other City employees.

Also speaking on this matter was Rev. Jim Jenkins and Frank Gravely.

A public hearing was held to solicit public input on an application for a Microenterprise Development Grant.

Mr. Ward advised that the Community Development Grant Funds are being requested for use in a Microenterprise Program. The request is for \$160,000, \$100,000 of which will be used to help to capitalize a revolving loan fund and \$60,000 will be used for staff support for a two year period. Loans would be available to self-employed individuals or businesses that employ less than 5 people. Both start-up businesses and existing businesses are eligible to apply for these loan funds; however either the business owners or individuals employed must be low to moderate income. The City of Norton will be the lead applicant in a multi-jurisdictional application. The other jurisdictions will be: Lee County, Scott County, Wise County, and Dickenson County. If block grant funds are allocated, then each jurisdiction would be awarded \$20,000.00 in available monies. Tonight's public hearing is the first of two and will require no action by Council.

17421

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

After a brief discussion, Mayor Raines advised the second public

hearing would be held at the next meeting.

Council had in their packets a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Requesting the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Governor to Keep the Virginia Relay Center Located in the City of Norton, Virginia.

Mayor Raines advised that the Board of the Lenowisco Planning District passed a similar resolution at their February meeting and that this was a regional issue and not just a City of Norton issue. He urged favorable consideration for the passage of this resolution.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Requesting the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Governor to Keep the Virginia Relay Center Located in the City of Norton. (Insert)

Mayor Raines advised Mr. Ward to forward copies of this resolution to the appropriate individuals.

Council was presented with A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Requesting the Virginia Department of Transportation to Approve the Street Lighting of Sections of U. S. Route 58A.

Mr. Ward advised the City has been working for several years trying to get street lighting on 58-A from Tipple Hill to the Hawthorne Intersection. He further advised that Old Dominion Power Company had formed a plan for this lighting and that it was ready to go to VDOT for formal approval. The lighting will actually run from the Rt. 74 intersection up Tipple Hill and on out past Walmart to the Hawthorne Intersection on both sides of the road.

With the passage of this resolution, Council will be accepting the financial aspects for it also. The amount of \$9,296.64 annually will provide this lighting and for underground wiring an estimated amount of \$11,880.00 will be needed up front. For over head wiring, there will be no up front money needed.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Requesting the Virginia Department of Transportation to Approve the Street Lighting of Sections of U. S. Route 58A and to go with the underground wiring. (Insert)

Mr. Ward advised the appropriation will be built into the 1996-97 budget.

Council was advised there is no lighting to be installed on the bridge as it has no conduit and no mechanism for installing poles on the bridge.

Mr. Ward also commended the City of Norton Highway and Safety Commission for their diligent work in securing this lighting.

Council was presented with A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Establishing a Drug and Alcohol Training Program Policy.

Mr. Ward advised as of January 1, 1996, organizations with fewer than 49 employees and holding Commercial Drivers Licenses must have federally mandated drug and alcohol testing in place. The City currently has 17 employees that do hold Commercial Drivers Licenses

which are primarily in the Public Works Department.

Enclosed in the packet is a resolution and a proposed policy for Council's consideration. If the policy is adopted, it will be implemented almost immediately and the testing and training programs will begin. The City has been working with OccuMed in the Norton Shopping Square to provide the necessary testing and help us comply with regulations.

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Establishing A Drug and Alcohol Training Program Policy. (Insert)

Mr. Ward advised it would cost approximately \$500 a year to comply with this program.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Ron McCall, 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.

17425

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

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

Mayor Raines declared the meeting back in regular session.

17426

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

17427

Mayor Raines announced there were no appointments to be made.

17428

In his comments, the City Manager:

Advised Council of the latest update on the BPOL Tax. As it stands now and with passage, our BPOL Tax will not change and will remain in tact; however all local governments will have to adopt a uniform ordinance.

17429

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Pippin advised that Section 25-52 of the City Code states that a 10% penalty will be added if the water bill is not paid by the due date. In the Treasurer's defense of the situation discussed earlier by Mrs. Andrews, Mr. Stallard had no authority to take this penalty off the bill. Council could consider amending this ordinance to provide for waiver of penalty. Another thing that could be done is to determine who has the discretion to determine the manner and method of payment.

The ordinance could also deal with the policies of collection/disconnection and be clearly posted in the lobby. Mrs. Andrews also was under a misunderstanding that the Treasurer had authority to disconnect her water. The City Code clearly states that the City Manager makes this call.

17430

Rev. Jenkins spoke again stating the water bills do not state that

they are due by 5:00 p.m. on the 15th.

Another discussion on this issue was held and the City Manager was advised to review the 8 holidays the City takes versus the 11 holidays taken by the State in order to make a clear policy of the City's closings.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved that the City issue a refund on penalties collected on water bills paid on January 16, 1996, due to the Lee/Jackson/King holiday.

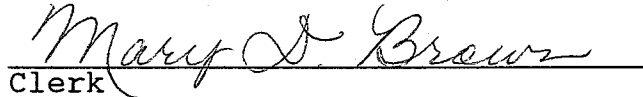
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:



Mary D. Brown
Clerk