

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Wednesday, May 8, 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

Absent: Joe Pippin, City Attorney

The invocation was given by the City Manager which was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by the Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, Mr. William Passan.

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the April 16, 1996 meeting as presented. 17477

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 17478

A public hearing was held to consider the 1996-97 budget for the Norton City Schools which totals \$4,589,695 of which \$1,658,913 are local funds.

The City Manager advised this public hearing had been duly advertised. The total budget for operations is \$4,589,695 which represents a total budgetary increase over last year of \$160,614.00. The City's local share of \$1,658,913 represents a local share increase of \$118,500. The budget has been advertised just as it was presented to City Council with the exception of Capital Projects, which were originally identified as \$81,000, and have not been included for consideration at this time. This is based on the fact that the School Board was going to try to see if some of the Capital Projects could be done out of this year's budget due to an anticipated surplus. 17479

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

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

Answering a question from Mayor Raines, School Board Chairman Marty Hagy advised there were no questions asked during the School Board's public hearing.

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

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt the City of Norton School Board Budget in the amount of \$4,589,695 with \$1,658,913 being local funds.

Mayor Raines commended the School Board on the budget as presented and School Board Chairman, Marty Hagy, thanked Council on behalf of the students of the Norton School System for always giving Council's support to the schools.

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Article VI. Transient Occupancy Tax; Section 23-172 of the Norton City Code.

Mr. Ward stated the ordinance calls for an increase from 3% to 4% on the Transient Occupancy Tax and that this ordinance, if adopted, would be in effect July 1, 1996 and has been duly advertised.

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

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

Mr. Rick Ferree, Manager of the Holiday Inn, advised that the Norton Committee to the Regional Tourism Development Authority voted to oppose this tax unless this tax is dedicated to tourism and tourism development and not go into the General Fund. He advised he felt there were other areas where the City could get funds for the General Fund.

There were no other public comments during the public hearing.

Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Article VI. Transient Occupancy Tax; Section 23-172 of the Norton City Code. (Insert)

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Article VII. Meal Tax; Section 23-192 of the Norton City Code.

The City Manager advised this ordinance covers an increase from 4% to 5% on the Meals Tax and amends Section 23-192 of the Norton City Code. If adopted, this ordinance will go into effect July 1, 1996. This ordinance has been duly advertised.

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

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

Mr. Rick Ferree, Manager of the Holiday Inn, spoke against this raise in the Meals Tax.

There were no further public comments.

Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Article VII. Meal Tax; Section 23-192 of the Norton City Code. (Insert)

Mr. Ward introduced Mr. Vince Valenti, Urban Programs Engineer with the Virginia Department of Transportation, Richmond, who discussed with Council a new project which will be funded by the City's Urban Construction money which is approximately \$250,000 to \$270,000 per year. This money is set aside on a yearly basis and then pays for the project that has been selected. He further advised that the Second Street Bridge would be started before long and that this should be paid for within three years and now was the time to select another project to go into the Six Year Plan.

The project that he and Mr. Ward have selected is the Tipple Hill Project. This will widen this area to four lane beginning at the Druthers intersection. This is not a big project and should be paid for within 3-1/2 to 4 years for an estimated cost of \$965,000. The City will be responsible for 2% of the cost. Mr. Valenti advised that

VDOT will need a resolution from City Council in order that they may initiate this project and that the City commits to paying their 2% of the total cost.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Valenti for coming and discussing the Urban Transportation Program with Council.

Council had been presented with A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Supporting the Virginia Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Supporting the Virginia Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. (Insert)

17483

Council had been presented A Proclamation of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Recognizing National Police Week.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Proclamation of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Recognizing National Police Week. (Insert)

17484

Council had been presented a copy of a check in the amount of \$220,000 payable to the Norton City Schools to cover payroll and accounts payable.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$220,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

17485

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 discussion of prospective business locating in the community where no previous announcement has been made as per 2.1-344(A) (5) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

17486

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

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

17487

Mayor Raines declared the meeting back in regular session.

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)

17488

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Virginia Community Criminal Justice Board.

William Mays nominated Sheriff David Bradley of Smith County to serve on this Board.

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

17489

Mayor Raines declared Sheriff David Bradley of Smith County

appointed to the Southwest Virginia Community Criminal Justice Board.

In his comments, the City Manager advised:

Flag Rock and Legion Park were opened May 1st and urge Council members to visit each.

The Hawthorne Pump Station is now on line and the entire City is now on City water with the exception of the area in the vicinity of the Bowling Alley.

As for legal, Mr. Ward advised that the City had collected the Cellular Phone Tax from 360 Communications (formerly Sprint Cellular). A check was sent via Federal Express in the amount of approximately \$2,000.00.

Also, the City Attorney has been negotiating with Century Communications regarding the rate increase and the Federal Cable Act and he is still working on this. Mr. Pippin doesn't think there is anything we can do to prevent this rate increase that just went into effect.

Mr. Pippin is out tonight due to back problems.

During comments from Council, Mayor Raines advised he was asked by the Wise Skills Center to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Supporting the Wise Skills Center. The same resolution has been adopted by the Wise County Board of Supervisors. The Skills Center has been in operation for 32 years and is completely a federally operated program.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Supporting the Wise Skills Center.

Mayor Raines advised that in April of this year, City Council committed our share of the sewer project at Esserville. This is a \$500,000 grant to be matched locally by \$100,000. The City was assured several times that there was no problem and at this time, Wise County has not come up with their share. The big concern is that May 16th is the deadline and if we do not have the local share committed, then we will lose a \$400,000 ARC Grant. Mayor Raines advised that Wise County has made application to the Coalfield Economic Development Authority for their share (\$50,000); If CEDA funds the County's share, then the City should get \$50,000 from CEDA. Even though we have been advised this will happen, the City needs to have something in writing.

The Mayor has a letter, which will be sent to the Coalfield Economic Development Authority if that is Council's wishes, which states that if CEDA pays Wise County's \$50,000 on this project that it will, in turn, pay the \$50,000 for the City of Norton's share. It was the consensus of those present that Mayor Raines sign this letter.

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 S. Brown*

Clerk