

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, November 19, 1996 at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Joe Pippin, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Rev. Jim Jenkins 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 November 5, 1996 meeting as presented.

17666

During the audience for visitors, Rev. Jim Jenkins, Minister of the First United Methodist Church in Norton, thanked Council very much for the new sidewalks by the Church and also for the paving of the alleyway behind his home.

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Mr. Ward advised the sidewalk paving was ongoing and that all sidewalks are to be replaced.

Mr. Pippin, City Attorney, advised that Mr. Jeff Elkins, Attorney for Loreto Heights, was scheduled to be present at tonight's meeting for an update on the Lee Clemons Property. However, Mr. Pippin was advised late this afternoon and that an emergency had arisen and that neither Mr. Elkins or Mr. DelForge, Administrator of St. Mary's Hospital, could be present at tonight's meeting. Mr. Pippin had been advised that Loreto Heights is trying to negotiate with the other owners of this property to buy it outright and, if they are unsuccessful, they will take a loader in and finish the clean-up.

17668

Mr. Jim Price, adjoining property owner, advised this had been going on for over a year and there has not been much progress.

Mr. Ward is to have Mr. DelForge present at our next meeting for another update.

Council was given an update on the Downtown Revitalization Plan by Mr. Mike Hatfield of Thompson and Litton. Also present with sketches and assisting Mr. Hatfield was Mr. David Hill of Hill Studios.

Mr. Hatfield advised that the budget numbers appear to exceed what monies are available and they are present to see if they can get to a point to advertise this project for bid. Handouts were provided to Council on this and a schedule was presented showing the datelines for this project which run from advertising for construction on December 2, 1996 to the closeout on September 9, 1997. Also enclosed for Council was each section of the project with costs. These sections are the Park Avenue Improvements, 8th Street and 8th Street Parking Improvements (Park Avenue to Federal Street), Federal Street Parking Lot Improvements, and Federal Street Improvements (7th Street to 8th Street). There are additional funds for the demolition of Super Service and a Downtown Facade Improvement Program; however these funds are not included in the Construction Budget being discussed tonight.

Mr. Hatfield advised that the time frame allotted in the Community Development Block Grant was two years or October 30, 1997 which is a tight schedule but it can be met.

17669

Following a lengthy discussion in which each section of this project was discussed and also discussed were items that could be eliminated to bring costs back down, it was the consensus of Council that solicitation of bids should proceed on the entire project and have in this bid package items that can be deducted to bring the total cost down. The total cost of this project is \$780,811.79 and available money totals \$697,000.00 with an estimated shortfall of \$83,811.79.

Mayor Raines thanked both Mr. Hatfield and Mr. Hill and his associate for their presence tonight. Mr. Hill will leave his sketches which will be displayed in the lobby of the Municipal Building.

Council had been presented in their packets copies of the audits of the C-N-W Authority and the Norton Industrial Development Authority and went over the highlights of these audits which were prepared by Thrower and Thrower. This information is just for information and discussion purposes only.

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There were no questions or comments from Council on either of these audits.

Mr. Ward advised that the City's audit would be presented at our next Council Meeting.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the personnel as per 2.1-344(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

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Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

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

17672

Mayor Raines declared the meeting back in regular session.

The Clerk polled each member of the 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 William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt a Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. (Insert)

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Mayor Raines advised there was no action to be taken on the item of personnel.

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

The City offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28th and 29th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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Mayor Raines advised the Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 7th at 6:00 p. m.

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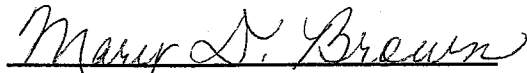
There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines, Mayor

Attest:



Clerk