

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, January 3, 1995 at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Raines presiding.

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

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

The invocation was given by Rev. Bob Kespelher followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by Police Chief Sam A. Mongle.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the December 20, 1994 meeting as presented.

17098

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

17099

Mr. Fred Ramey, Assistant City Manager, gave Council an update on the Sidewalk Replacement Program. He presented several handouts to Council and also used an overhead projector to show areas where work has been done. Since the beginning of this program in 1991, the City has expended \$210,000 on the estimated 14 blocks of residential sidewalks done with an estimated 50 blocks remaining to be done.

On the Downtown Sidewalk Replacement Program which began in 1989-1990, the City has expended \$347,000 with some funds remaining.

Mr. Ramey also advised that the City had expended \$100,000 on the Down Town Facade Improvement Program since its inception in 1988-1989 and which ran for three years only.

17100

Also given to Council was a brief discussion on other down town improvements such as the AT&T Project, the Chamber renovation, the Norton Hotel, the Breezeway Project, and the Parking Lots which were improved upon. Mr. Ramey advised that 2.5 million dollars was spent on these projects.

Mr. Ramey advised that all of the handouts he had presented to Council tonight were done by the new Geographic Info System that the City had purchased for the Engineering Office and had been done by Gary Call and Kevin Edwards, City Intern.

Council had in their packets a sample ordinance pertaining to the Elderly Exemption for Real Estate Taxes.

Mr. Ward advised this had been brought to Council's attention at a previous meeting and the Commissioner of Revenue and he were to get additional information for Council's review. He further advised that Judy Miller, Commissioner of the Revenue, was present at tonight's meeting.

The City Manager advised that they had used the 1990 census information and determined that there are approximately 287 households in the City of age 65 and older who had income of \$15,000 or less and that there was a potential of 184 homeowners eligible for this exemption for a maximum impact of \$18,400.

17101

Councilman Mays advised he had been contacted by a citizen who was totally and permanently disabled and wanted to know why this could not

be included in this ordinance.

After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of Council that the totally and permanently disabled should be included in this ordinance and that the City Manager and Commissioner of Revenue should get more information on this, how it would be implemented if adopted, and how this is handled by other areas.

The Commissioner advised the applications did not have to be in until May.

Council had received an application for a water and sewer tap for the Christian Church of God located in the Josephine section of Wise County.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve a sewer tap to the Christian Church of God in the Josephine area and that tap will be made within a six month period or the request will have to come before Council again.

17102

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following vote: YES - Wallace, Mays, McCall, Raines, NO - Roberts, Council moved to approve a water tap to the Christian Church of God in the Josephine area and that tap will be made within a six month period or the request will have to come before Council again.

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.

17103

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 in regular session.

Mayor Raines declared the meeting back in regular session.

17104

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

17105

Mayor Raines advised there were no appointments made tonight.

17106

In his comments, the City Manager advised that we have received all the equipment for the Municipal Access Channel and that we have a video being shown at regularly scheduled times of Mayor Raines doing an summary of the Centennial Year.

Mayor Raines expressed the appreciation of Council to Fred Ramey and Eddie Baker who have worked hard on getting this on line.

In comments from Council, Councilman Roberts advised he had received a letter from Century Cable advising of a price increase. He also advised he thought Council had to be informed on any increases before they could be implemented.

Mr. Ward is to contact Mr. Taylor, Manager of the Century Cable

Company, and check into this.

Mayor Raines wished everyone a Happy New Year.

17109

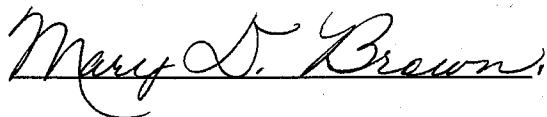
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:



Mary D. Brown, Clerk