

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, August 17, 1993 at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Raines presiding.

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

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager

Absent: Joe Pippin, City Attorney

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Police Captain Kenny Jackson.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the August 3, 1993 meeting as presented.

15772

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Thomas S. Rose, P. O. Box 457, Pound, Virginia, came forward and read a resolution in which he asked that the new bridge which will be constructed on the Norton By-Pass at the northern end of the City be named Veterans Memorial Bridge. He further advised he had been before the Wise County Board of Supervisors and they had agreed to pay for the sign and if, for some reason, they did not the veterans would.

15773

Mayor Raines advised Mr. Rose to have each of the five groups in the local veterans organization pass a resolution on this and bring it back to the City Manager. Mr. Ward will then begin work on this. Mr. Raines further stated that if the City could do this, Council would support the naming of this bridge Veterans Memorial Bridge.

Mr. David Meade, 809 E. Park Avenue, Norton, spoke to Council on the Hotel Norton. Mayor Raines advised him that this was an agenda item. Mr. Meade agreed to speak during that time.

15774

Council had information in their packets on a request for a sewer line extension in the Esserville Community. Mr. Ward advised this would entail the construction and extension of 1,050 feet of sewer to 11 potential customers. The approximate cost of this work is \$42,000. Projected revenues are \$5,100 annually based on the 11 customers. He further stated that normally unless there could be a possibility of a grant, the City Administration would not recommend this project.

However, the City Manager advised that Mr. Mark Dykstra and Mr. Salyers, who own property in this area and who are among those seeking this sewer line, advised that they would consider use of some of their equipment and an operator on this project. Mr. Ward advised that if this were the case then maybe City crews could assist with the work.

15775

Councilman Roberts asked those present if they would consider a friendly annexation request since the City could not initiate any annexation proceedings. Mr. Dykstra advised he would talk with the individuals involved on this.

Following a discussion and upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, the City Manager was authorized to proceed with the project provided the cost is less than \$15,000 and at least eight customers sign up.

Mayor Raines advised that in March of this year the City Council authorized the Norton Industrial Development Authority to advertise for sale the Hotel Norton and the old Park Avenue Hospital property. Bids were advertised and there were no viable offers for the properties. In May of this year, Council received a letter from then Chairman of NIDA, Byron Cantrell, seeking assistance from City Council in addressing the Hotel matter. At that time, Council was in the budget

process and advised the City Manager to bring this back at a future date.

Mr. Ward stated that other than selling these properties, there were only two options which Council had to look at and consider. These options are: 1. Demolish the hotel, level the lot, and try to sell it or do something else in the area, or 2. Restore the hotel. The City Manager advised that either option pursued has a substantial price tag. To demolish the hotel, the price range would probably be in excess of \$200,000. To restore the property in some form or fashion, the probable amount would be a minimum of \$375,000.

The City Administration is asking that before Council makes a decision they consider contracting a structural engineer once again to look at and assess the structure. The City Manager feels that this request will be beneficial to Council since it has been two years since this was done previously and this could provide Council with some information in order that they can determine which option they want to take. The cost for this analysis would run approximately \$10,000 - \$20,000; therefore the City Administration tonight is seeking permission to advertise for professional engineering services and to bring back a recommended engineering contract to Council at a future meeting. By that time the City should have been informed whether or not it will receive any funds from the Transportation Enhancement Program.

15776

At this time, Mr. David Meade again spoke to Council advising that he and his family would like to secure financing for the hotel to be used as a hotel and restaurant. He further stated he would like to look at the hotel if possible.

Mayor Raines advised Mr. Meade that if he were really interested that he should first approach the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to advertise for professional engineering services and to bring back a recommended contract to Council at a future date for Council's consideration.

Councilman Roberts added that he felt that after this is done, Council should take action one way or the other.

The City Manager advised Council that during the 1993 General Assembly Session through our Delegate, Bud Phillips, we were able to get into legislation Section 15.1-1399.18-1399.25 which outlines a Tourism and Development Authority for the Lenowisco and Cumberland Planning Districts. This encompasses seven counties, Buchanan, Dickenson, Tazewell, Lee, Russell, Wise, and Scott, and the City of Norton.

15777

Mr. Ward explained how this regional board will work and that Council will appoint five members to a local Committee. The responsibilities of the regional Authority are listed in 15.1-1399.23 and he went over these with Council. He further advised there is some funding available that we may be able to take advantage of.

This item is for information purposes.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, 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.

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

15778

Prior to Council's leaving the Chambers for Executive Session, Ms. Leola Yeary thanked Mayor Raines and Council for her recent appointment to the Library Board.

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

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in regular session.

157

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 Jack

Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. (Insert) 15780

Mayor Raines advised there were no announcements as to the appointments to the City of Norton Tourism Board or on the evaluation of the City Manager. 15781

In his comments, the City Manager advised that:

The public hearing on the hours of sale of alcoholic drinks will be held at the September 7th meeting.

Combined reservoir levels are 75.65 million gallons as of today.

We are anticipating the arrival of the two new pumper fire trucks in the City around the first of October. The aerial platform truck is due to arrive two or three weeks later. The Fire Department is currently advertising for bid the existing three trucks that are being replaced. The Department is doing very well, are very focused on getting these new trucks, and from an administrative standpoint, he has all the confidence in the world in the officers. They continue to do a very good job. Administratively, there is no long term solution to the Fire Chief position until after these trucks are in and training is completed. 15782

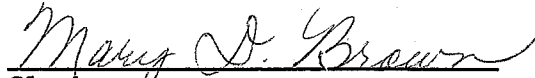
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk