

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, March 17, 1992, at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Raines presiding.

Present: Linda Sturgill, Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, William Mays, and Ron McCall

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Kenneth P. Asbury, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Rev. Steve Emery and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Superintendent of Schools Al Armentrout.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 3, 1992 meeting as presented.

15318

During the Audience for Visitors, Mr. Richard King of Mid-State Oil Company spoke to Council regarding a water and sewer tap for their business which is to be located in the Wise Industrial Park.

The City Manager advised that Mr. King had gone before the Planning Commission on March 12th, had received approval from them, and wanted to go before Council at this time. Mr. Ward showed Council a site plan that was presented to the City and advised the concern was for sewer line protection.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council that no recommendation be made at this time and that both the City Manager and the Building Inspector get the necessary drawings of this building and that it be brought back to Council once the Administration feels comfortable with the information supplied.

15319

Mayor Raines announced there was a change in the agenda due to the presence of several high school students. Item 7-A which is A Proclamation Declaring S.A.D.D. Awareness Week would be addressed at this time.

Mrs. Cheryl Roop, Sponsor of the newly formed group at J. I. Burton High School, Students Against Driving Drunk, was present and presented Council with a Proclamation declaring the week of March 30 through April 3, 1992 as SADD Week in the City of Norton.

15320

After signing this Proclamation, Mayor Raines expressed his thanks to the students in attendance and Mrs. Roop and advised Council commended them for their involvement in this organization.

A public hearing was held on a budget amendment in the amount of \$121,850 to the Norton City Schools.

Mr. Ward advised this request had been presented previously to Council with their Capital Improvement Projects. The projects for which this money is to be used for are: purchase of an activity school bus, replace Superintendent's car, the installation of a Key Board Laboratory at the elementary school, and replace restroom partitions at the elementary school. Funds will be from surplus state funds and not local funds. Mr. Ward further advised that the Superintendent of Schools and the Chairman of the School Board were present to answer any questions of Council.

The Mayor opened the floor for public comments.

15321

There were no public comments and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the City of Norton School Board Budget in the amount of \$121,850 to come out of school surplus funds.

Prior to the public hearing held on the request of the City of Norton Rescue

Squad, Mr. Mays advised he would not participate in any discussion or vote on this item as he is the Captain of the Norton Rescue Squad.

15322

A public hearing was held on a request of a budget amendment to the City's General Fund in the amount of \$287,000 for the Norton Rescue Squad.

Mr. Ward advised the Rescue Squad is seeking a loan in this amount to be paid back in eight years at 0% interest. The money is to be used to pay off the property located on West Main Avenue, to remodel interior of building on West Main Avenue, pay-off of crash truck and equipment, and to build new bays for the ambulances thus allowing them to move their entire operation to West Main Avenue. The squad proposes that the City could sell the Kentucky Avenue property and the proceeds from that sale go toward the \$287,000 loan. The City Attorney advised our Charter will not allow us to loan them money; however we can enter into a rent or lease agreement on the West Main Avenue property. If this is to be done, the following should be done by the City Attorney: 1. Authorize the City Attorney to do the necessary legal work so that the Kentucky Avenue property can be sold or whatever disposition Council would deem necessary and the proceeds from that sale would be put into the City Treasury on behalf of this \$287,000 loan. 2. Authorize the City Attorney to do the necessary legal work on the property on West Main Avenue. This property is to be deeded to the City as consideration for this loan pay-off. 3. The City Attorney is to draw up either a lease or rental agreement with the Rescue Squad providing for the terms or conditions as set forth by City Council on the West Main Avenue property.

15323

The Mayor opened the floor for public comment.

There was no public comment and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

In Council comments, Ms. Sturgill advised that in checking with some citizens on this, no one was aware this was coming before Council even though it had been advertised. She would like for it to be tabled until the next meeting in order that more people would be aware of it and there would be more public input.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by the following roll call vote: Sturgill - NO, Wallace, Raines, McCall - YES, Mays - ABSTAIN, Council authorized an appropriation in the amount of \$287,000 from the General Funds to the Norton Rescue Squad from the City's Unappropriated Reserves with the condition that simultaneously with the delivery of the appropriation for the property, a deed should be presented to the City for both properties and also a lease on the Rescue Squad Building. Council also directed the City Attorney to do all the necessary legal work as mentioned previously by the City Manager. The lease agreement, once prepared, is to be brought back to Council by the City Manager for concurrence.

Council had in their packets A Resolution of Participation supporting the Virginia Tourism Accreditation Program. Ms. Sheila Kuczko and Mr. John Moody were present on behalf of this resolution and Ms. Kuczko spoke briefly to Council on this item.

15324

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of Participation supporting the Virginia Tourism Accreditation Program. (Insert)

Council had in their packets A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, Requesting that the Virginia Department of Transportation Complete the Construction of the U. S. 23/58A By-Pass Through the City of Norton, Virginia.

Mr. Ward advised Council that this resolution, if adopted, would be presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board at the Virginia Department of Transportation Spring Allocation Meeting to be held March 27, 1992 at 10:00 a.m. at the Virginia Highlands Community College in Abingdon. Council is invited to attend.

15325

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Linda Sturgill, 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 Requesting that the Virginia Department of Transportation Complete the Construction of the U. S. 23/58A By-Pass Through the City of Norton, Virginia. (Insert)

Mr. Ward asked members of Council to advise him as soon as possible if they will be able to attend this meeting in order that he may schedule transportation arrangements.

Mr. Ward advised Council that the City Attorney had an update for Council on the proposed financing for the Norton Hotel Project for the Norton Industrial Development Authority following the outcome of their meeting last week with representatives of NationsBank.

The City Attorney told Council he was advised by the Chief Bond Counsel of Hunton and Williams that legally there was no way the City could issue \$700,000 worth of their General Obligations Bond for the use of the NIDA to renovate the Hotel to be sold to a third party. This is per Article 10 - Section 10 of the Constitution of Virginia.

15326

Following a brief discussion, Council advised NIDA to keep them informed as to what direction they would now take and for the City Manager to share with the NIDA the information the City Attorney had given to Council tonight.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, 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.

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

15327

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

Mayor Raines declared the meeting back in regular session.

15328

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 Linda Sturgill, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. (Insert)

15329

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for the unexpired term of Mr. Jack Kennedy which will expire May 10, 1993.

Linda Sturgill nominated Mr. Greg Stewart.

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

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Mayor Raines declared Mr. Greg Stewart appointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for a term which will expire May 10, 1993.

Mayor Raines advised that the Constitutional Officers' request for wage and salary supplements would be taken under advisement by Council.

15331

In his comments, the City Manager advised that the public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant for the Josephine Sanitary Sewer System was held on March 5, 1992 at 11:00 a.m. for public input. There was no one from the public present except a representative of the Coalfield Progress.

The City recently received A Clean Virginia Award which is based on information sent to the Virginia Department of Waste Management in our yearly performance and accounting report of our City activities in litter control and recycling. This is the first award the City has received since 1982 of this type and he credits the efforts being made through the Wise Clean County Committee and

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through our Parks and Recreation Director, Michele Knox.

There were no comments from the City Attorney or Council.

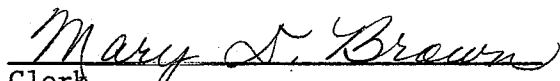
Mayor Raines inquired as to what information the City Manager had as to the removal of the clock and thermometer from the NationsBank building. Mr. Ward advised the City has received numerous complaints from citizens. He had been advised by Wayne Perry of NationsBank that this was a corporate decision nationwide for all their facilities and the overriding factor was cost; however after all these are taken down, they will go back and evaluate whether or not to put some of them back up.

15333

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


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk