

The regular City Council meeting was held in the Municipal Court Room on December 15, 1970 at 7:30 P. M. with Mayor Flanary presiding.

Present: V. O. Flanary, Ike Fultz, Robert Leonard, C. W. Bryant.

Absent: Archie Woods

Also Present: Evan Norton, City Manager.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Lawrence Black, President of the Greater Norton Association, Inc., appeared before the City Council to present a statement from the Merchants expressing their feeling about the proposed high rise public housing apartment building expressed at a meeting of the association on December 14, 1970. Mr. Black read the following statement: Joey Caruso moved that the Greater Norton Association, Inc. wished to express a vote of confidence to the City Council in any decision that they may make with regard to the high rise building. This motion was seconded by Charlie Daniels and approved by a vote of 18 to 8, which vote included proxies.

5455

Mr. Hoge Horne appeared before Council to ask about the installation of a traffic light at 9th Street and Park Avenue. Mr. Norton reported that a study for this had been completed and that a report is expected from the State Highway Commission regarding this traffic light.

5456

There were a number of merchants and citizens at the Council meeting regarding the new high rise apartment building. Among those present were Joe Tom Howard, Lawrence Black, E. O. Breeding, Jr., Rev. David Gregg, William Cohen and others. To give a general answer to many of the questions posed, Mayor Flanary asked Mr. Norton to give a brief summary of several aspects of the project. The Assistant Clerk was asked by Mayor Flanary to read two letters in opposition from C. E. Parks of the Parks-Belk Company and from Kent Rigg, President of Piggly Wiggly. After some brief discussion of the details of the project and costs that were involved, Mr. Leonard commented that he felt the best financial arrangement had been achieved that could possibly be made and that he wished to make a motion on the project.

5457

Mr. Leonard moved that the Mayor and Assistant Clerk or Clerk, whichever the case might be, be authorized to execute an option on the Municipal parking lot to the Turnkey Development Corporation for \$70,000 contingent on the corporation providing adequate truck entrance at the back of the property and further contingency upon the replacement of the 79 parking places at a cost to the City of \$30,000, further contingent upon the Housing Authority exercising a 40-year renewable lease to the City of Norton for these parking facilities and the Turnkey Development Corporation utilizing this property to construct the high rise 70-unit apartment building, which would in turn be accepted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority. This motion was seconded by Mr. Fultz, and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Tate remarked to the Council that he would give them the utmost cooperation and would like to congratulate them on having finalized action on the high rise building.

5458

Mr. Leonard also moved that the Mayor and the Assistant Clerk or Clerk, 5459
whichever the case might be, be authorized to execute an option on approxi-
mately ten acres of the CC Camp property to the Turnkey Development Corporation
at a price of \$48,500 contingent upon their construction of 40 public housing
units on the property approved and accepted by the Department of Housing and
Urban Development and the Norton Redevelopment & Housing Authority and further
contingent upon the deed for the property be turned over to the Norton Redevelop-
ment & Housing Authority. This motion was seconded by Mr. Fultz and unanimously
approved by roll call vote.

The Area Regional Juvenile Court System was next discussed by Council. 5460
Mr. Norton advised the Council that the sufficient number of governing bodies
had approved this proposal and he had learned this from Lenowisco and that
this was being further taken up with the Circuit Court towards organizing the
Juvenile Court System. He also advised that no further consideration or action
by the City Council is needed at this time.

Mr. Norton advised that there was nothing further to report on the 60-day 5461
emergency period for ambulance service as requested by the Council at the last
meeting. He reported that he had discussed this with the City Attorney but
that the Attorney was not ready to make a report on this at this time. Mr.
Norton also described briefly the cooperative efforts already being made by
the City with the Rescue Squad in providing ambulance service.

Mr. Norton reported on the Neighborhood Facilities project and the meeting 5462
attended the week before on this project. He advised that HUD had approved the
project and a \$225,000 grant toward the construction. He advised that the
initial application for \$932,000 ~~could not be met by HUD~~ since they only have
\$1,600,000 to spread over six states for this type of facility. HUD officials
had advised that the building could be built in phases beginning with this
first increment and suggested that further plans be made to do so so that
the facility as originally proposed could be constructed in stages over the
next few years. Mr. Norton recommended that the City provide \$50,000 cash to
add to this grant and \$50,000 to be provided on the public housing program,
the budget for initial construction would amount to \$325,000. Mr. Charles
McElroy, the architect for the project, advised that a good start could be
achieved with this fund.

Mr. Leonard moved that the City Manager be authorized to proceed with
plans for the Neighborhood Facilities Center based upon a grant of \$225,000
from HUD, \$50,000 from the public housing and a matching fund of \$50,000 local
cash if needed and if there is any overrun on their contribution during the
first phase, it will be credited to their local contribution in future phases.
This motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant and approved.

Mr. Norton reported to Council that he had discussed the ETV channel 5463
with the TV Cable people and he was advised that the ETV channel had priority
in this area. He was also advised that the Cable people are making plans
for some additional channels.

Mr. Norton reported that there has been a Townlift meeting held this 5464
past week and that a committee had been set up and there were plans to proceed
in January.

Mr. Norton reported that they were still working on the EDA project. 5465
He advised that this would be advertised in the first part of January.

Mr. Norton advised Council that there was to be a meeting in Huntington, West Virginia on January 20th in the EDA office to discuss the Flag Rock Project. He said this will be a meeting to make plans to formally apply for these funds. 5466

Mr. Norton advised that he had discussed with the City Attorney the City Status and he reported that Mr. Stump was going into the legal aspect of this. Mr. Norton made mention of a letter that he had received from Mr. Harold Baumes, President of the Virginia Municipal League, regarding City Status. 5467

Mr. Norton advised that there had been a program started on the City Organization and the public relations program. He said this program had been started to acquaint the public with the City organization. He reported that he had begun a program with the radio and newspaper to inform the public. 5468

Mr. Flanary asked if there was anything new on the Wyoming people. Mr. Norton advised that the agreements had been prepared and he reported that they were ready to be executed, but no further word had been received at this time. 5469

Mr. Fultz asked about the street light situation. Mr. Franks reported to him that Old Dominion had started on these street lights and had run out of materials again but several have been installed. 5470

Mr. Daniels asked the Council about awarding Ab Still for his heroic deed performed at a wreck about two months ago. This matter was discussed at some length and Mr. Norton was asked to write a letter to Congressman Bill Wampler to find out what awards could be given for this. 5471

Mr. Leonard remarked that since Mr. Stallard had resigned as Councilman, this left a member of the Lenowisco Board to be appointed. 5472

Mr. Leonard made the motion that Mayor Flanary be appointed as a member of the Lenowisco Board to fill the position that Mr. W. G. Stallard held. Mr. Fultz seconded this motion and all approved.

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

Armin Carter
ASSISTANT CLERK

Wernson C. Flanary
MAYOR