

The regular scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, August 19, 2003 at the Hotel Norton at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the August 5, 2003 meeting as presented.

During the audience for visitors, Mr. Michael Jackson of 11th Street, NE, spoke to Council again regarding the condition of the house next door to him. He had been at a previous meeting on the same topic and advised that stated nothing had been done on this matter.

20578

Mr. Ward advised that the City had taken some action on this; however, he would again follow up on this issue and see that Mr. Jackson is updated on this problem.

A public hearing was held on a request for a Public Dance Hall Permit to Flanary-Sluss Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a Brownie's Café. Mayor Raines advised that this permit had been duly advertised.

Mr. Ward advised that this permit, if granted, would run for one year. He further advised that Council can either issue, deny, or delay the permit for 30 days from the date of the public hearing.

There being no questions or comments from Council prior to the public hearing, Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

Mrs. Judy Sluss, owner of this establishment, spoke briefly to Council, advising that she had purchased this business one year ago. She has made improvements, both inside and outside, and stated that she also controls activities inside the building. She feels this dance Hall Permit would be a great improvement to the business. Mr. Gregory Sluss also spoke briefly to Council on this request.

20579

Also speaking on this item and against the issuance of this permit were Mr. Larry Sturgill and Mrs. Linda Sturgill of 1703 West Main Avenue. Mrs. Sturgill advised that Council needs the Building Inspector to check the zoning of West Main Avenue as the majority of this area is Residential. She further stated there was nothing in the Zoning Ordinance regarding dance halls.

There being no further comment, Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

It was the consensus of Council to table this item and have the City Administration to check into the zoning and the impact on the residential area. Mayor Raines thanked all for attending and advised that, in order to make a fair decision on this matter, some items needed to be clarified. Mayor Raines advised Mrs. Sluss that someone from the City will be in touch with her on this item.

Council had been presented with A Resolution Supporting the Virginia Heritage Music Trail.

Mr. Fred Ramey, Assistant City Manager and member of the Steering Committee created for this trail, spoke briefly to Council. He advised that several counties, cities, towns, and music venues are working with the Commonwealth of Virginia to create a Heritage Music Trail in Southwest Virginia. This trail will primarily run along Route 58 from the eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge to Clintwood. This trail will be highlighted by the Blue Ridge Music Center in Galax, the Birthplace of Country Music in Bristol, the Carter Family Fold in Hiltons, and the Ralph Stanley Museum in Clintwood.

20580

The City of Galax has submitted an application to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for a \$40,000 matching grant. The City's amount toward this match would be \$5,000.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Supporting the Virginia Heritage Music Trail with said funds to come from unappropriated reserves. (Insert)

Council had before them A Resolution Supporting the Request for Re-Qualification of the Virginia Coalfield Coalition.

Mayor Raines advised that the City, in 1997, had adopted a resolution to participate in the Virginia Coalfield Coalition. One of the requirements for this program is that each partnership must reapply every five years. Although not funded during this year's General Assembly, there is work being done with state leadership to secure funding to allow the program to go forward.

Mayor Raines further advised Council of the many areas in which monies have been received from the Coalition and from which we have benefited.

20581

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous vote, YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Supporting the Request for Re-Qualification of the Virginia Coalfield Coalition. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed session to discuss personnel as per 2.2-3711(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

20582

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting.

20583

Mayor Raines declared Council in open meeting.

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering yes. The Clerk then read A Resolution of the Certification

of Closed Meeting. Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

20584

There was no action taken in closed meeting.

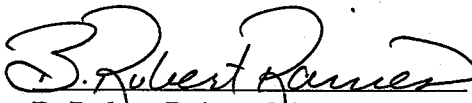
20585

There were no comments from the City Manager or the City Attorney.

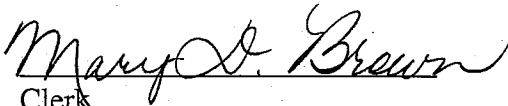
20586

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned to a work session with the Norton City School Board to discuss the Gymnasium/Cafeteria Project.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk