

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, December 16, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., Assistant City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

Absent: Joseph Fawbush and E. W. Ward, City Manager

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

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, the minutes of the December 2, 2003 meeting were approved as presented.

20670

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

20671

At this time, Mayor Raines presented Employee Service Awards to the employees, present at tonight's meeting, for their years of service to the city. Of the twelve employees to receive awards, eight employees were present. Ten year pins were given to Jonathan Carter and David Mullins. Fifteen year pins were given to Fred Ramey and Lonnie Williams. A twenty year pin was given to Gary Farmer. Twenty five year pins were given to Gary Call and Mary Brown, and a thirty year pin was given to Lonzo Williams.

20672

Receiving awards but not present at tonight's meeting were: Ten year pins – James Freeman and James Mefford; Fifteen year pins – Timothy Burns; and Twenty year pin – Garry Smith.

Mayor Raines expressed appreciation from Council for the hard work and dedication of these employees present as well as for those who were not in attendance.

Mayor Raines declared a short recess in order that those who wished to leave the meeting and could do so and to set up the projector for a presentation by Mrs. Muiread Craft of the Lonesome Pine Soil and Water Conservation District.

20673

Mayor Raines declared Council back in session and introduced Mrs. Craft of the Lonesome Pine Soil and Water Conservation District. Mrs. Craft presented a brief discussion on the total maximum daily load document received from the Department of Environmental Quality.

20674

Mrs. Craft advised Council that the Guest River Group has been selected to write a plan that pleases all watershed stakeholders and that they are inviting any group that is involved with the land-use decision in the Guest River watershed to participate in the writing of this plan; therefore, they would like the City Council to appoint a representative for this purpose.

Mayor Raines thanked Mrs. Craft for her update this evening and advised her to contact the City Manager when they are ready for an appointment to be made to represent the City on this plan and that Council would take action on this appointment

The next item on the agenda is the presentation of the financial audit for the C-N-W Regional Wastewater Authority for the year ended June 30, 2003. Mr. Ramey advised that, due to the illness and absence of the City Manager at tonight's meeting, Mr. Ward had asked that this item be rescheduled so that he may discuss this with Council.

20675

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to table this item until Council's next meeting.

Council had been presented with A Resolution Authorizing Up To A Three Month Extension on the General Reassessment of Real Property. Mr. Ramey advised that Mr. Ed Stacy of Old Dominion Appraisal Company, who has conducted our general reassessment, asked the City Administration to present this resolution to Council. Mr. Stacy has finished the reassessment and is meeting with the individuals who are questioning their new reassessments. The purpose of the adoption of this resolution is that if for some reason Mr. Stacy is unable to complete these meetings before December 31st, the entire process would have to start over from the very beginning.

20676

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Fawbush, Council moved to adopt a Resolution Authorizing Up To a Three Month Extension on the General Reassessment of Real Property. (Insert)

This resolution has to be presented to the Circuit Court Judge for approval before December 31, 2003.

Council had a request from the Commissioner of Revenue to the City Treasurer for a refund of erroneously assessed taxes to Mr. Archie Maggard for the years of 2001 and 2002 for the total amount of \$92.80.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, City Council authorized a refund to Mr. Archie Maggard in the total amount of \$92.80 as requested.

20677

In comments from the Assistant City Manager, Mr. Ramey advised that the commercial development plans are proceeding and moving forward. He would like for the City Council to authorize a public hearing be held on January 6, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. for a minor boundary line adjustment with Wise County.

20678

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved for the City Administration to advertise a public hearing to be held on January 6, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. for a minor boundary line adjustment with Wise County.

Mr. Ramey, on behalf of the City Administration, wished Council a safe and happy holiday season and expressed appreciation for all Council had done for the City employees this year.

20679

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he would be taking a certified copy of the resolution adopted tonight for the three month extension on the General Reassessment to the courthouse tomorrow in efforts to get it approved by the Circuit Court Judge prior to December 31st.

20680

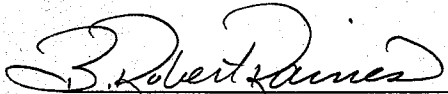
Mr. Bradshaw then thanked Council for the continuing opportunity to serve the City of Norton.

Mayor Raines, on behalf of Council, thanked the City Administration and employees for the basket of food items and card presented to them tonight. The Mayor then thanked the City staff and employees for the fine work done by them.

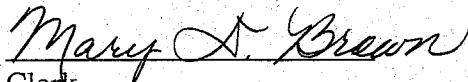
20681

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk