

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, December 3, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers 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 Rev. Amy Alcorn and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by Assistant City Manager Fred Ramey.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the November 19, 2002 meeting as presented.

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During the audience for visitors, Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, spoke briefly to Council advising them that the J. I. Burton Drama Team is in Charlottesville representing Region D for the state championship. Coaches Lisa Davis and Ricky Clemons took the team up and, as of yet, he has not heard the results of the competition. The expenses for this trip were approximately \$1,300 and Dr. Sessoms asked Council if they could help defray the cost of this trip.

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Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, City Council authorized \$1,000 to the Norton City Schools to help defray the cost of the drama team's trip to Charlottesville to participate in the State Drama Championship Competition. Said funds are to come from Contingency.

Also speaking during the audience for visitors was Mr. T. D. Lassiter of Locust Avenue. He spoke of a problem at the railroad crossing below Coeburn Road where one would turn onto Rt. 74 and Kentucky Avenue. He stated that there is a large hole by the railroad track which causes damages to vehicles. The second item Mr. Lassiter discussed with Council was the lack of a street sign for Maple Avenue. The sign, which had been there, had been taken down during the construction of the Norton By-Pass.

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Mayor Raines asked the City Manager to check with the railroad regarding the large hole and to have crews install a new sign on Maple Avenue.

Dr. Terrance Suarez, President of Mountain Empire Community College, spoke briefly to Council giving them an update on activities at that facility. He discussed briefly the financial situation the state is in and the affects it will have on the college. He thanked City Council for their continued support and then presented to Mayor Raines and City Council a framed and matted picture of the Mountain Empire Community College Campus.

20330

Mayor Raines, on behalf of Council, thanked Dr. Suarez for both his presentation and the picture.

Dr. Suarez answered questions from the members of Council and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to speak to Council tonight.

The members of Council had been presented with individual copies of the audit for the year ending June 30, 2002, which had been conducted by the firm of Thrower, Livesay, and Blanton.

Mr. Brian Blanton was present and briefly went over with Council the highlights of each department contained in the budget. He advised that the City had received a clean opinion and that he would be willing to answer any questions from Council either tonight or after they have a chance to inspect it.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Blanton for his presentation.

Michele Knox, Director of the Norton Parks and Recreation Department, gave Council an update on the operations of her department for the year. She discussed the various capitol improvements done this year, activities at the swimming pool and community center, Flag Rock, Flag Rock campgrounds, and special events.

Following her presentation, Ms. Knox advised that she would be willing to answer any questions which Council may have.

Councilman Fawbush advised that Ms. Knox was to be commended for the work done in her department.

Mayor Raines thanked Ms. Knox for her presentation.

Council had been presented in their packets a copy of the C-N-W Regional Sewer Authority audit for the year ended June 30, 2002. Mr. Ward briefly discussed this with Council and advised them that they also had received a clean opinion. He also advised that the \$15.5 million dollar bonds issued in 1989 for the formation of this authority have been paid down to \$7.7 million dollars.

Mr. Ward also advised that the Authority had presented him with a proposed budget for the next fiscal year and that he would evaluate it. A public hearing will be held on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and it does contain an increase to the City of approximately \$39,000. He has discussed this budget with the Executive Director of the Authority and the other managers involved and will bring this to Council in the near future for discussion.

Mr. Ward advised that he is willing to answer any questions from Council regarding this audit.

In their packets, Council had been presented a copy of a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$260,000 for approval.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$260,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

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

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the certification of closed meeting with each answering aye. 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)

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Mayor Raines advised that no action had been taken in closed meeting.

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In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that:

The City Christmas Dinner will be Thursday, December 5, 2002 at 7:00 at the Norton Rescue Squad Building and he hopes that all of Council and their guests will be able to attend.

The Christmas Tree Lighting will be held Saturday, December 7, 2002 at 5:15 p.m. in the lobby of the Hotel Norton, followed by the Christmas Parade at 6:00 p.m.

20339

City taxes are due Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

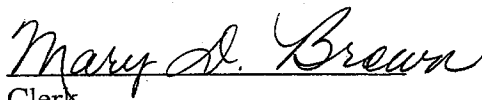
There were no comments from the City Attorney.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk