

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2001 at 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. Roy Laduke and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by Chief of Police Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the January 16, 2001 meeting as presented.

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At this time, Mayor Raines amended the agenda under Old Business - Item B - Discussion of Down Town Parking.

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

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Mr. Ward briefly went over the information furnished to Council at the last meeting regarding the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Task Force. Since the last meeting, Mr. Ward has talked with the Department of Criminal Justice Services and has concluded that the City does not have to participate as a full member unless they desire to do so. Mr. Ward will continue to research the existing arrangement with Wise County and report back to Council.

The City Manager advised that the City of Bristol and Tazewell County will not participate. The City of Norton is the only remaining jurisdiction that is deliberating on whether to participate or not. The counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Washington, and Wise are participating. Full membership contribution is \$25,000 per locality.

Present tonight to discuss this Task Force with Council is Mr. Bill King of Thompson and Litton, who is heading a planning study for the Task Force.

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Mr. King spoke briefly to Council and answered questions from Council.

After a lengthy discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES - Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines; NO - None; ABSENT - None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing a Full Membership in the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Task Force with expenditures not to exceed \$25,000 with said funds to come from Unappropriated Reserves. (Insert)

Mayor Raines advised Council that Chris Jones of Vic's Decorating appeared at the last Council Meeting complaining about the parking situation on Park Avenue. Mayor Raines had a copy of the Blue Ribbon Committee to study parking in Norton that was dated 11/22/78. He briefly went over the findings of this Committee and advised that many of their recommendations had been completed. He advised that, at this time, he

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would like to have Council's consensus to form another committee to study the parking problems. Those individuals, who have not yet been contacted are: Chris Jones, Margaret Bolling, Kathy Swanson, Bill Sturgill, William Sturgill, Wilma Stallard, and Linville Reed. He also asked that Assistant City Manager, Fred Ramey, serve as a liaison between the City and the committee.

It was the consensus of Council for this committee to be formed.

Council had information in their packets regarding the upcoming Cable TV Franchise Renewal.

At this time, Vice Mayor Mays advised that after discussion with the City Attorney, he would be abstaining from any discussion on this topic at this time due to his wife's employment with Adelphia, our local cable provider.

Mr. Ward advised that at the last meeting the City had been presented with a draft franchise agreement from Adelphia and stated that the City, along with some of the other towns in Wise County, have met a couple of times to discuss what could be done jointly to go through the franchise negotiations with Adelphia. Spearheading this effort is Jack Kennedy, who shared information at the last meeting that was held with the different entities. Mr. Kennedy spoke tonight to Council to discuss the possibility of a joint negotiated franchise with Adelphia. Handling this negotiated franchise would be Adrian E. Herbst, a noted lawyer specializing in cable television franchising and regulation.

Mr. Kennedy passed out to Council a file containing information on this topic and Mr. Herbst. The City's cost on hiring Mr. Herbst would be \$3,090.

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Following a lengthy discussion, Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Kennedy for his work on this matter and his presentation tonight. He further stated that Council should digest all the information given to them, consult with the City Attorney, and bring this item back to Council within a six week time frame.

Mr. Jack Kennedy, representing Anderson and Associates, spoke to Council on a proposed GIS upgrade to the E-911 System. Also submitted to Council in their packets was a proposal from Anderson and Associates. The City's cost for this proposal is \$15,517.25 with Lenowisco paying \$1,000 upon receipt of a signed contract.

Mayor Raines suggested that the City Manager put this on the agenda for the Capital Improvement meeting for discussion.

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Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Kennedy for the information he furnished to Council tonight.

Council had a copy of a check in the amount of \$190,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$190,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

19800

Council had been presented a copy of a memorandum from the Commissioner of Revenue to the City Treasurer for personal property tax refunds which covered erroneous assessments. The memorandum contained four refunds; however, the City Attorney

These erroneously charged taxes must come before Council and, if they have been already paid, must have the concurrence of the City Attorney.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve refunds for erroneous assessments to World Omni Financial Corporation in the amount of \$240.08 for 1999 and \$125.53 for 2000; Nilt/Nissan-Infinity Leasing, Inc. in the amount of \$143.28 for 2000; and James B. Peters in the amount of \$42.68 for 1998.

19801

On their agenda, Council had listed a request for the use of City property by Middle Norton Land Company.

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Mayor Raines advised that this item will be postponed until the February 20th agenda.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section 2.1-344(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia as amended.

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Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

At this time, Councilman Joseph Fawbush left tonight's meeting and did not participate in the closed meeting.

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

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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.

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

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Social Services Advisory Board for a four year term to expire November 21, 2004.

William Mays nominated Mr. Kenny Boyd to be appointed to this Board.

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

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Kenny Boyd appointed to the Social Services Advisory Board for a four year term which will expire on November 21, 2004.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Housing Authority for a four year term which will expire on January 28, 2005.

Jack Wallace nominated Mr. Charlie Litton to be reappointed to this Authority.

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Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Charlie Litton reappointed to the Norton Housing Authority for a four year term which will expire on January 28, 2005.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for two year terms which will expire on January 31, 2003.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Mr. Randy Castle, Mr. Bruce Rose, Mr. Gary Call, and Mr. Linville Reed to be reappointed to this Commission.

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

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Randy Castle, Mr. Bruce Rose, Mr. Gary Call, and Mr. Linville Reed, reappointed to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for two year terms which will expire on January 31, 2003.

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

Councilman Fawbush, Mayor Raines, and himself will be leaving in the morning for Richmond along with representatives of Wise County to meet with legislators.

Hanging in Council Chambers tonight are the winning posters of the Stop Roadside Litter Contest sponsored by the Wise County Clean Team and the City of Norton.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

In comments from Council, Mayor Raines complimented the City crews for the picking up of 60 bags of trash from the East Park Avenue area recently.

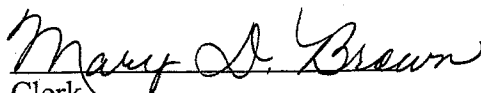
Mr. Ward advised that citywide, the crews had picked up 300 bags of trash.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk