

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 6, 2001 at the Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Absent: Jack Wallace

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 the Assistant City Manager, Mr. Fred Ramey.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2001 meeting as presented.

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

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A public hearing was held to solicit public input on local community development and housing needs in relation to a CDBG Project in the Norton area.

Mr. Ward advised that this is the first of two required public hearings which need to be held if the City applies for a CDBG Grant.

Included in Council's packets is a list of how the CDBG funds we have been awarded in the past have been spent. The deadline to apply for this grant is April 18th. If Council decides to proceed, the second public hearing will be held on April 3rd.

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

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There being no public input, Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

Mr. Ward advised that the second public hearing will be held on April 3rd and more information will be given to Council as to the specific project for which Council is seeking grant funds. The project the Administration is favoring at the present time is the Big Stone Gap/Norton water interconnect.

A presentation on the Southwest Regional Jail Task Force and the formation of a Regional Jail Authority was to be given by Mr. Bill King of Thompson and Litton and Mr. David Rose of Davenport and Company. Due to weather conditions, Mr. Rose was unable to get to Norton. Therefore, they have requested that this item be put on the agenda for the March 20th meeting.

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Mr. Ward advised Council that he had included in their packets an excerpt of the planning study, which is quite detailed. He has the complete study in his office and, if any Council Member would like to read the entire document, they may do so.

Council had in their packets a copy of an Agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation which covers the installation of new traffic lights in the City and requires the signature of the City Manager.

Mr. Ward briefly discussed this project with Council.

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Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement between the City of Norton and the Virginia Department of Transportation for the new traffic signals with the concurrence of the City Attorney.

Mr. Ward advised Council that it was time for the 2001-2003 Virginians to Virginians Program to begin. This program, sponsored by the Virginia Municipal League, had previously paired the City of Norton with the City of Buena Vista and both the City Administration and Council felt that it was a worthwhile program. He asked Council for guidance as to whether they wanted to again participate and, if so, whether they again want to be paired with our sister city of Buena Vista or to have the VML select another city for us.

It was the consensus of Council to again participate in the program, with the VML selecting a City for us. This city should have its own school system, be the same size, and have the same departments that our City has.

Mr. Ward advised that he would fill out and send in the questionnaire furnished by the VML.

Council had been presented a check in the amount of \$210,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools for approval.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$210,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

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

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

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

Mayor Raines opened the floor for an appointment to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a five (5) year term, which will expire on February 18, 2006.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Mrs. Barbara Benko Collins to be reappointed to this Board.

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

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Mayor Raines declared Mrs. Barbara Benko Collins reappointed to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a five (5) year term which will expire on February 18, 2006.

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

The City had purchased a new dump truck and it is parked outside for Council to view.

He was in receipt of a bulletin from the Virginia Municipal League regarding the impact of the state budget. He then read an excerpt from this bulletin to Council and advised that as the City undertakes its budget, they need to be as conservative as possible. The budget adopted in March of 2000 is in effect until the City hears otherwise.

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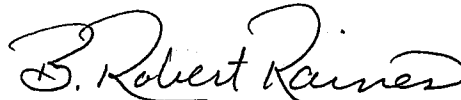
He is in receipt of a copy of a proposed budget of the Coeburn-Norton-Wise Regional Sewer Authority for 2000-2001. They are seeking a raise from each municipality. There was a brief discussion on this by Council.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised he had inspected the proposed agreement between the City and the Virginia Department of Transportation regarding new traffic signals and approved it as to form.

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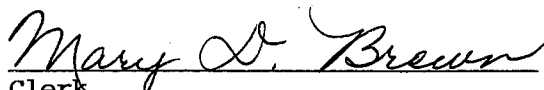
There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk