

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 19, 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

Mayor Raines welcomed and recognized Father Tim Drake of St. Anthony's Catholic Church who was present to give the invocation tonight. Following the invocation, the pledge of allegiance was led by the Assistant City Manager, Fred Ramey.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the June 5, 2001 meeting as presented.

19926

During the audience for visitors, Mr. Jack Kennedy of Norton spoke briefly to Council asking that the ordinance stating that no political signs can be erected until 30 days prior to an election be rescinded. According to Mr. Kennedy, this ordinance is unconstitutional.

Mayor Raines advised both the City Manager and City Attorney to look into this matter and to bring back their findings to Council.

19927

Mr. Charles Lowdermilk, Principal of John I. Burton High School, spoke briefly to Council and asked if the meeting could be held until members of the School Board arrived to speak to Council.

19928

Mayor Raines advised Mr. Lowdermilk that the meeting would proceed and that they would come back to the audience for visitors and address the School Board.

Council had in their packets An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2001 Thru June 30, 2002 Appropriating Funds for all Contemplated Expenses of the City for the Fiscal Year and Placing Levies Upon All Real Estate, Personal Property and Bank Stock, Licenses, Fees, User Charges, and All Other Levies as Previously Imposed or Modified Herein.

Mayor Raines advised that a public hearing had been held at our last meeting and there had been several work sessions on this budget.

Mr. Ward gave a brief synopsis on the budget.

Councilman Hunnicutt advised that he would like to have the funds which were removed from line item 3200-1003 in the Fire Department Salaries put back in for a part time employee for the Fire Department. These funds were transferred after the last meeting into Line Item 9600-0050 Vacant Home Demolition.

19929

Mayor Raines asked the City Manager if a job description could be done on this position. Mr. Ward advised that this could be done.

Mayor Raines advised that, if Council should choose to do so, both projects could be funded by moving \$10,000 from Undesignated Capital Projects which would leave a balance of \$51,256 in this account.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to amend the budget to add \$10,000 from Undesignated Capital Projects to the Fire Department Salaries for a part-time employee. This will leave a balance of \$51,256.00 in the Undesignated Capital Projects.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: Yes - Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO - None, ABSENT - None, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2001 Thru June 30, 2002 Appropriating Funds for All Contemplated Expenses of the City for the Fiscal Year and Placing Levies Upon All Real Estate, Personal Property and Bank Stock, Licenses, Fees, User Charges, and All Other Levies as Previously Imposed or Modified Herein and as amended. (Insert)

At this time, Mayor Raines recognized a delegation from the Norton City School System. Dr. Charles Lowdermilk spoke briefly to Council and introduced Mrs. Cheryl Redman, who represented the teachers at Norton Elementary School. Mrs. Redman spoke briefly to thank Council for their support and for providing funds for the schools. Representing John I. Burton High School was Mr. Bud Stewart, who also thanked Council for their support on behalf of the faculty at Burton High School and his family.

19930

Mayor Raines spoke briefly to this delegation and thanked them for this presentation tonight.

Council had a request from the Norton City Schools requesting that Council approve an additional appropriation for the 2000-2001 school year budget in the amount of \$14,177.90 which was received from E-rate funds.

Mr. Ward advised that Dr. Sessoms and members of the School Board were present to answer any questions Council may have.

19931

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the 2000-2001 school year budget in the amount of \$14,177.90 to cover E-rate funds received.

The City Manager had included in Council's packet information on the Vacant Home Demolition Program and a Contract Agreement, all of which are in draft form.

Mr. Ward gave Council a synopsis of this program. He advised that the City Attorney feels that the draft Contract Agreement needs some changes.

19932

In comments from Council, Councilman Hunnicutt noted two changes he thought should be made.

Mayor Raines advised the City Manager to work with the City Attorney on the items mentioned tonight and to bring this program back to Council for confirmation.

Council had two resolutions in their packets commending Dr. L. Jay Lemons, Chancellor of the University of Virginia's College at Wise, who recently left for another position, and Robert H. "Bobby" Sandel, President of Mountain Empire Community College, who will be leaving shortly for another position.

19933

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, 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 of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Commending the Service of Dr. L. Jay Lemons and A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Commending the Service of Robert H. Sandel. (Inserts)

Included in Council's packet was a copy of the Norton Industrial Development Authority's 2001-02 budget.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the Norton Industrial Development Authority's budget in the amount of \$312,652.

19934

The City Manager requested the transfer of \$125,000 from the General Fund to the Water/Sewer Fund to cover a deficit in that fund which results from the purchase of water due to drought conditions last summer and fall.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized a transfer of \$125,000 from the General Fund to the Water/Sewer Fund to cover a deficit in this account.

19935

Council briefly discussed their next scheduled meeting, which will be July 3rd. Due to vacations and the 4th of July holiday, it was the consensus of Council to cancel this meeting. The only meeting to be held in July will be the meeting on Tuesday, July 17th.

19936

Council had in their packets A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Adopting a Five Year Capital Improvements Program.

Mr. Ward advised that Council, by adoption of this resolution, is only obligated to the first year projects that are included.

19937

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, 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 Adopting a Five Year Capital Improvements Program. (Insert)

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

19938

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed session.

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

19939

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open session.

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 William Mays, 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)

19940

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five year term which will expire on June 2, 2006.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Mr. Mike Reed to be appointed to this Board.

19941

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

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Mike Reed as a nominee to the Circuit Court for appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five year term which will expire on June 2, 2006.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Virginia Community Corrections Board for a two year term which will expire on June 30, 2003.

Jack Wallace nominated Mr. Sam Mongle to be reappointed to this Board.

19942

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

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Sam Mongle reappointed to the Southwest Virginia Community Corrections Board for a two year term which will expire on June 30, 2003.

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

Last week, the Norton Industrial Development Authority opened bids on Phase II of the Hotel Project. The low bid of approximately 2.2 million dollars was submitted by BurWil Construction of Bristol. The Authority and City staff will be working to finalize the financing, negotiate the contract with BurWil, and hopefully issue a Notice to Proceed.

The Planning Commission was presented with a draft Telecommunications Tower Ordinance last week. They discussed it and want to take it under advisement for 30 days. At their next meeting, they hope to approve it and send it on to City Council for adoption. They also authorized a contract with Marsh-Witt of Roanoke for a new Comprehensive Plan and the kick-off meeting will be held on July 12th.

19943

He had hoped to have on tonight's agenda the drainage issue that was discussed at our last meeting. However, he was not able to do so. He still wants to bring this item back for another look at the drainage situation in the City. The Public Works Department has done a lot of work on the open ditch and the culvert going up Chestnut Street.

He will be on vacation and out of the City June 22nd through June 30th.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that:

Both he and Mr. Ward were working on several issues, none of which are ready to be brought to Council.

He will promptly start work on the appointment of Mr. Reed to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

19944

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

B. Robert Raines

B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mary D. Brown

Clerk