

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, July 17, 2001 at the Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: William Mays

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

Mayor Raines welcomed all those in attendance at tonight's meeting, which included members of the Norton Little League teams.

The invocation was given by Rev. Roy Laduke and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by the members of the nine and ten year old girls' Little League Team.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the June 19, 2001 meeting as presented.

19945

At this time, Mayor Raines amended the agenda to include under New Business, Item 7-E-1 Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing Grant Application for Family Crisis Support Services.

19946

During the audience for visitors, Mr. Gary Hampton, President of the Norton Little League, spoke briefly to Council. He advised that both the boys and girls teams had won their District 13 championships and will be playing in state tournaments in the near future. While they have worked on fund raising and have \$2,500, they are in need of \$3,500 in order to have enough funds to cover the costs of these two tournaments.

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt advised that he would be abstaining from discussion and vote on this item as he is a Little League Coach and Vice President of the Little League.

19947

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following vote: YES – Wallace, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Mays, ABSTAIN – Hunnicutt, Council moved to authorize \$3,500 to the Norton Little League for expenses to state tournaments with said funds to come from Contingency.

Mayor Raines congratulated the players, coaches, and parents for their hard work and support of these children.

Council had before them a copy of the Vacant Home Demolition Program. Mr. Ward advised that this had been brought to Council earlier and that a change has been made in the Approved Housing Type on page 2 of this program. The City Attorney has forwarded to the City Manager the copies of the legal documents that will be needed to execute contracts with perspective participants in this program. Administratively, once Council approves of this program, the City is ready to proceed with this program.

19948

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve this program as presented. (Insert)

A brief recess was held in order that the Little League delegation may leave. Mayor Raines invited them to come back and visit another meeting.

Council had a discussion on the City's existing storm water system. Mr. Ward had provided Council with a copy of the Comprehensive Study of the Existing Storm Water System Within the City of Norton that had been prepared by Dewberry and Davis in 1992.

Mr. Ward advised that this had been discussed briefly recently due to the storm water problems we have encountered this spring and summer and he felt that the City needed to revisit this document. In 1991, we had a three to four million dollar problem. We have made some corrections in our storm drainage system due to the findings in this study; however, the bulk of the corrections that had been recommended had not been done.

Present to go over this study with Council was Mr. Bobby Lane, who prepared this study.

At this time, Vice Mayor Mays took his seat on Council.

Following a brief synopsis on this study, Mr. Lane advised that the cost estimates are still fairly accurate and the recommendations to solve the drainage problems are still valid. He would recommend that Council do this work by the two phase approach with the main trunk line being done first at an estimated cost of \$1.7 million dollars and the remainder of the problem areas done second at an estimated cost of \$1 million dollars. He further advised that funding is difficult to find.

It was the consensus of Council that the City Manager and Mr. Lane work on this project together and see if there are funds available. This issue should be brought back to Council at a later date.

In their packets, Council had a copy of the City Sign Ordinance for discussion on the portion of it that relates to political signs.

Mayor Raines advised that at a previous Council meeting there was a question regarding political signs and the City Attorney was directed to look into this matter and render his opinion.

Mr. Bradshaw advised that he had reviewed his cases and had found a 1994 U. S. Supreme Court opinion. The City in this case had a sign ordinance that is similar to ours and the findings of the Supreme Court were that it was a violation of free speech. He further advised that, if the City were to be taken to Court on this ordinance, the City would not win any lawsuit. His recommendation to Council is that we bring our ordinance in line, which could be done simply by amending Section 21-21 Sub Paragraph 12 by eliminating all wording after "Political Signs on Private Property". In order to make this alteration, Council would need to schedule a public hearing.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was the concurrence of Council that the City Manager work with the City Attorney to eliminate the wording in Section 21-21 Sub Paragraph 12 by eliminating all words after "Political signs on private property" and advertise a public hearing for the first meeting in August if possible. If not, the public hearing should be for the second meeting in August.

Council had in their packets A Resolution Approving the Planning District One Community Services Board Performance Contract.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Approving the Planning District One Community Services Board Performance Contract. (Insert)

19952

Council had a request for a water tap for Susie Gibson, 4561 Dorchester Road.

Mr. Ward advised that the water line that was at this location is not valid and that the applicant will have to run the line from her house to the Dorchester Community Center, a distance of about 900 feet. The construction of this private line will have to meet the standards of the City.

19953

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve a water tap for Ms. Susie Gibson, 4561 Dorchester Road with the stipulation that the 900' of private line must meet City standards.

Council had a copy of a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$230,000.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to confirm a check in the amount of \$230,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

19954

Council had been presented A Resolution Authorizing Grant Application for the Family Crisis Support Services.

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 Authorizing Grant Application for the Family Crisis Support Services. (Insert)

19955

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

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

19956

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.

19957

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, 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)

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Lonesome Pine Regional Library Board for a four year term which will expire June 30, 2005.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Virginia Horne to be reappointed to this Board.

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

Mayor Raines declared Virginia Horne reappointed to the Lonesome Pine Regional Library Board for a four year term which will expire June 30, 2005.

19958

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Planning Commission for a four year term which will expire on July 31, 2005.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated T. J. Flanary 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 T. J. Flanary reappointed to the City of Norton Planning Commission for a four year term which will expire on July 31, 2005.

19959

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

He had passed out to each member of Council a completed budget document.

The Pilot Housing Study is complete and he has the final documents. This study will be submitted to The Coalfield Coalition to get some reimbursement money. This matter will be put on one of our August agendas for discussion by Council.

Lane Engineering has been selected as the top firm on our Water Line Replacement Project. We are working on a contract, which will be brought back to Council for approval.

19960

Work on the Comprehensive Plan has begun. It will take approximately 15 months to complete. The consultant will be down to conduct some interviews later this month. If any member of Council is interested, please advise him and he will schedule an appointment.

We have a draft Telecommunication Tower Ordinance, which will be brought to Council once it is finalized.

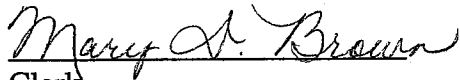
Phase 2 of the Hotel Norton Project is underway.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk