

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal 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 the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by the Director of Social Services, Mr. Bill Stokes.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the January 4, 2000 meeting as presented.

19505

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

19506

Mr. Ward advised Council that as of January 11th we had a total combined capacity in our reservoirs of 39.460 million gallons. Due to the weather conditions, our men could not get our weekly reading. As soon as weather permits, they will give us a current reading and once we get to a comfortable level in our reservoirs, we will discontinue having this item on the agenda.

19507

Mr. Mike Hatfield of Thompson and Litton was present and gave Council a brief update on the Esserville Sewer Project. Estes Brothers Construction of Lee County got the contract on this job and contracted it out to Franks Construction of Coeburn. They are a little behind schedule now; however they should come in under budget.

19508

Mr. Ward advised the section of the project they are now working on is the most difficult. Funds in the amount of \$402,000 for this project came from the Appalachian Regional Commission with the City putting up local funds in the amount of \$100,000. All local funds have been met.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Hatfield for this update.

Council had a request from Ms. Margaret Blair who is requesting to use City Property to access a new home she plans to build at 1029 Ridge Avenue. This request concerns a rear access from a City alley which will be extended out to her property.

Mr. Ward advised that the Administration has no problem with this request.

19509

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the issuance of a revocable Special Use Permit to Ms. Margaret Blair for the purpose of accessing her property from the rear alley.

Council had in their packets a request to approve the Chief Elected Officials Agreement of the Workforce Investment Act. Mr. Ward briefly went over this agreement

with Council and advised that once the agreement is established, then a Local Workforce Investment Board can be appointed.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the Chief Elected Officials Agreement which states that the chief elected official be appointed to a consortium on this Workforce Investment Act.

19510

Mr. Ward had provided to Council an update of the 2000 General Assembly Session which runs from January 12 through March 11, 2000. He had included in Council's packets information covering this. He advised Council of the pieces of legislation that could affect the City, one of which regards the tax on E-911 which would be taking this tax out of local control.

19511

He further advised that Wise County is organizing a joint effort with the towns and the City for a trip to Richmond on February 15th and 16th to personally sit down and meet with our local legislators, other legislators, and other state staff persons to discuss and promote our local objectives and initiatives. This has caused us to look at what our initiatives are in the City and county. He briefly went over several items that have been compiled. Should we decide to participate, this trip will conflict with our second regularly scheduled council meeting in February.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to prepare a resolution regarding the E-911 Tax for Council's consideration.

Mr. Ward advised Council that the City had been successful in getting funding from Lenowisco in the amount of \$10,000 for a preliminary engineering report for the replacement of some water lines in the City.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the General Fund Budget in the amount of \$10,000 to cover this funding.

19512

Council had a copy of a check in the amount of \$111,181.98 to Estes Brothers Construction for the Esserville Sewer Project.

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 \$111,181.98 to Estes Brothers Construction for the Esserville Sewer Project.

19513

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 2.1-344(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

19514

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

19515

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering aye. The Clerk then read the entire Resolution of the

Certification of Closed Meeting. Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and adopted by the following unanimous vote: Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines - YES; NO - None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert) 19516

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four year term which will expire on January 28, 2004.

William Mays nominated Mr. John Elmore to be reappointed to this Authority for another term. 19517

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. John Elmore reappointed to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four year term which will expire on January 28, 2004.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for two year terms which will expire on January 31, 2002.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Mr. Dennis Brummitte, Mr. Frank Gravely, Mr. J. T. Caruso, and Mr. Bobby Cassell to be reappointed to this Commission.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease. 19518

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Dennis Brummitte, Mr. Frank Gravely, Mr. J. T. Caruso, and Mr. Bobby Cassell reappointed to the Norton Highway Safety Commission for two year terms which will expire on January 31, 2002.

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

a work session is planned on water issues at the next meeting on 2/1/2000 and he hoped all members of Council would be able to attend.

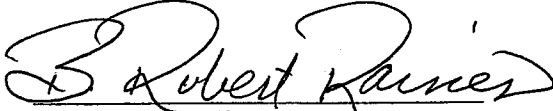
a new police cruiser, a 2000 Chevrolet Impala, is parked in front for Council's observation. 19519

prior to the next meeting at approximately 6:45, Council is invited to view the newly redecorated Sheriff's Offices.

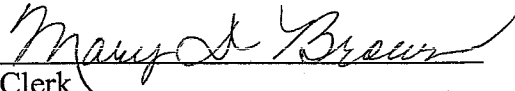
In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he had received communications from Special Commissioner Steven Kalista, who has been appointed to hold a hearing in connection to a law suit in which the City is named the defendant. This is a non-event for the City. It is a law suit to repay a funeral home out of the estate of the decedent for funeral expenses since the only property chargeable is real estate owned by the decedent. It will be necessary to ascertain the extent and due dates of any real estate taxes that are owing. He will attend the hearing and represent the City's interest. 19520

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk