

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2000 at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt and Bill Bradshaw

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by the Chief of the Norton Fire Department, D. C. Mullins.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the October 3, 2000 meeting as presented.

19721

During the audience for visitors, Rev. Harding, Pastor of the Community Church in Josephine, spoke briefly to Council requesting a water and sewer tap for the church.

The City Manager advised the water was available at this location; however, our Public Works Department needs to do some checking as to whether the sewer will be available. Mr. Ward advised Rev. Harding he would advise him as to the availability of sewer at this location.

19722

During this discussion, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council.

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending the Consumer Utility Tax on Electricity.

Mr. Ward advised this item had been discussed previously as to the need of this ordinance. Legislation deregulated the electrical and gas utilities; this requires us, if we wish to continue to assess the Utility Tax to amend the method by which we assess it. Currently we assess the tax as a maximum of \$3.00 per month on residential connections and a maximum of \$7.50 per month on commercial connections. We currently assess those based on the bill that the consumer receives monthly. According to the changes required by deregulation, we now have to modify that to assess the tax based on kilowatt hours used monthly. We have configured that and have determined that the approximate rate per kilowatt hour to levy the same amount of tax on the consumer is one cent per kilowatt hour. This is stated in the ordinance. This ordinance has been duly advertised. The utility company needs to receive a copy of this by October 31, 2000 so that they will have the statutory time of 60 days to implement the ordinance which will be effective January 1, 2001.

19723

There were no questions or comments from Council prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines - YES, NO - None, ABSENT - None, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council

of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending the Consumer Utility Tax on Electricity.  
(Insert)

Present at tonight's meeting representing the Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority was Ms. Shelly Knox, Ms. Geneva O'Quinn, and Ms. Louise Henegar. A brief video was shown to Council which was produced from funds received from an Ecotourism Grant they received last year.

Ms. O'Quinn then presented members of Council with a booklet containing information on their Authority and advised Council that she would be happy to answer any questions they may have.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines thanked Ms. O'Quinn for her presentation.

Council had a request for one (1) water tap in the county for Mr. Robert Boggs of 6115 West Norton Road in the Josephine section of the county.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve a water tap for Mr. Robert Boggs of 6115 West Norton Road in the Josephine section of the county.

Council had been presented in their packets a list of the working officers of the Norton Fire Department for approval. Fire Chief D. C. Mullins spoke briefly to Council and respectfully submitted this list of working officers, which has no changes from last year, to them for their approval.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the list of working officers of the Norton Fire Department for the year 2000/2001.

Mayor Raines extended appreciation to Chief Mullins and his department for their efforts.

Council had a list of documents to be approved in order to be in compliance with the regulations of the Department of Housing and Community Development for funds for the Hotel Norton Project. These documents are: 1. Local Business and Employment Plan. 2. Fair Housing Certification. 3. Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan. 4. Non-Discrimination Policy. Mr. Ward briefly discussed each of these documents with Council. The City received notice today that the grant had been awarded in the full amount of \$538,500. The City is now working towards seeking other funding so that all money can be in place in order to implement this grant and project.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the Local Business and Employment Plan which is to be signed by the Mayor.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the Fair Housing Certification which is to be signed by the City Manager.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan which is to be signed by the City Manager.

19724

19725

19726

19727

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopted the Non-Discrimination Policy which is to be signed by the Mayor.

Council had a copy of a check in the amount of \$100,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools to be approved.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$100,000.

19728

Due to the regular meeting date of our next City Council meeting being Election Day, it was the consensus of Council that this meeting be held at the Norton Rescue Squad Building on West Main Avenue at 7:30 p.m. on November 7, 2000.

19729

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

Mr. Ramey, Mr. Fawbush, Mayor Raines, and he will be attending the Virginia Municipal League Conference October 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2000.

A Civic Future Symposium will be held on October 30<sup>th</sup> at the University of Virginia's College at Wise beginning at 9:00. Councilman Fawbush will be attending. If anyone else is interested in attending, please advise him and he will make arrangements.

19730

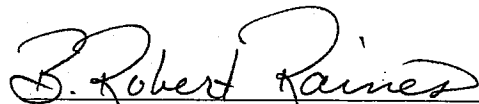
Thompson and Litton will be attending the next meeting to give an update on the Comprehensive Water Study.

In comments from Council, Mayor Raines advised that he and Mr. Ramey will be attending a technology meeting in Tupelo, Mississippi Thursday through Saturday of this week. Members of Planning Districts 1 and 2 will be in attendance.

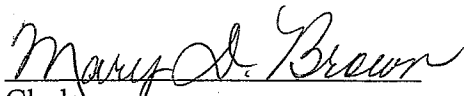
19731

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk