

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, December 5, 2000 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

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the November 21, 2000 meeting as presented.

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During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Michael Tate of Oak Street spoke briefly to Council regarding comments he had made at a City of Norton School Board Meeting recently regarding J. I. Burton High School leaving the Lonesome Pine District and going into the Cumberland District. Instead of concerning ourselves with which district we compete in, he requested City Council to begin looking into consolidation of schools because he felt the citizens of Norton would not be able to afford a quality school system in the future.

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Mr. Tate thanked Council for this time to speak with them.

Also speaking to Council tonight was Mr. Ralph VanWinkle of Hoot Owl Hollow regarding City utilities which were promised to the residents there upon annexation into the City in 1974.

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Mayor Raines advised Mr. VanWinkle that Council hoped to remedy the water situation with the interconnection to the Town of Big Stone Gap which is on the agenda tonight.

Council held a public hearing on the consideration of a budget amendment in the amount of \$127,063 to the 2000-01 Norton City School Budget.

Dr. Sessions, Superintendent of Norton City Schools, was present and discussed the various grants with Council.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$127,063 for the Norton City School Budget for the year 2000-01.

Council held a public hearing to consider filing an application to Rural Development for funding a Water Line Replacement Project and an Interconnection with the Town of Big Stone Gap.

Mr. Ward advised this hearing had been duly advertised. Also included in Council's packets is an excerpt from the Preliminary Engineering Report which was conducted by

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Dewberry and Davis and Lane Engineering. This report stipulated that the City has approximately 24,000 feet of water line to be replaced.

From the Comprehensive Water Study, one of the primary concerns listed and needed to be addressed in order to make the study work is accountability, which is now approximately 50%. The City hopes to achieve 70% in the future. The recommendation to reach this goal of 70% in the future is the massive water line replacement project. There are different funding sources available and the one that is now potentially available is an application through Rural Development. Part of the requirements to file an application is to solicit public input on this proposal. Council has also agreed to work with the Town of Big Stone Gap for an interconnect between the two systems. The City is very hopeful that they will be able to get grant funds to do the majority of that project; but the agreement Council passed at the last meeting stated that any expenses incurred would be split evenly with the Town of Big Stone Gap.

Mr. Bobby Lane of Lane Engineering, whose firm worked with Dewberry and Davis on the Preliminary Engineering Report and who also represents the Town of Big Stone Gap on the Interconnect Project, is present at tonight's meeting. Mr. Lane spoke briefly to Council prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

Following a brief discussion and 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 file an application to Rural Development for grant funds.

Mr. Pat Murphy of Thompson and Litton Engineering was present to discuss with Council the Comprehensive Water Study. He passed out to Council members a handout to be added to this draft document. He asked that Council authorize the submission of this plan to regulatory and financing agencies.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, City Council adopted the Comprehensive Water Study and authorized submission of this plan to regulatory and financing agencies.

Mayor Raines advised that the Implication Plan should be brought back to Council at their Capital Improvement Meeting to see where it will fit.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Murphy for the work done on this Comprehensive Water Study.

Council had in their packets A Resolution Recognizing the Virginia Relay Center's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Following the Clerk's reading of this resolution and upon a motion by Jack Wallace, 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 Recognizing the Virginia Relay Center's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. (Insert)

Mayor Raines advised this resolution would be presented at a reception being held on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

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In Council's packets was a copy of a check in the amount of \$210,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, 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.

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

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Mayor Raines declared Council in closed session.

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

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open session.

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Mayor Raines advised no action had been taken during the closed session.

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The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the certification of closed meeting with each answering yes. The Clerk then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, 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 Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

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

The City Christmas Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Norton Rescue Squad Building at 7:00 p.m.

The audit for year ended June 30, 2000 will be presented at the next Council Meeting.

The City of Norton and the Wise County Richmond Legislative Trip is tentatively scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup> - February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Please advise him if you would like to attend.

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In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that the Wise County Industrial Development Authority had moved forward with plans on the property adjacent to the airport and have surveyed the land.

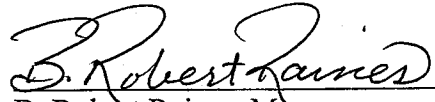
Following a brief discussion, Mr. Ward was advised to advertise a public hearing for the January 16, 2001 meeting on the transfer of this land, which the City jointly owns with Wise County, to the Wise County IDA.

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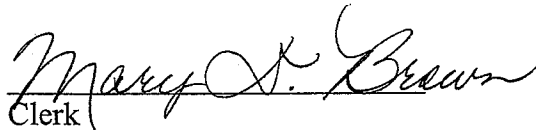
Council also cancelled the meeting of January 2, 2001.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
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B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk