

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 19, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Robert Raines, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Jack Wallace

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

The invocation was given by Rev. Bob Kespelher which was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Bill Stokes, Norton Social Services Director.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the January 5, 1999 meeting as presented.

19229

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

19230

Mr. Ward advised Council that in the fall of 1997, the City had applied to the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development Agency for a \$500,000 grant to establish a Revolving Loan Fund for economic development projects within the boundaries of the City. During the Spring of 1998, Congressman Rick Boucher announced the award of a \$250,000 grant to be matched by \$30,000 from the City. Council, by the adoption of a resolution, accepted this grant and advised the City Administration to proceed in setting up a program.

The City Administration had prepared a draft of a Revolving Loan Fund Program and submitted to Council in their packets.

During discussion of this, Mr. Ward advised that the City Attorney will be closely involved in this program which the City will administer. He also gave a brief overview, gave Council a synopsis of this program, and answered questions from Council.

19231

After a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to transfer \$30,000 to this Revolving

Loan Fund for a total of \$280,000, and adopted the Revolving Loan Fund Program as presented.

Mr. Ward advised that the Code of Virginia mandates that cities in the Commonwealth perform a general reassessment of real estate every four years. The City's last reassessment was in 1996 and the next scheduled one will be effective on January 1, 2000.

19232

Both the Commissioner of Revenue and the City Manager are requesting for approval to advertise for an assessor to perform this work at an estimated cost of \$25,000 - \$35,000.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager and the Commissioner of Revenue to advertise for professional service for a real estate reassessment.

Council had been presented in their packets copies of the audits for the year ended 6/30/98 for the Norton Industrial Development Authority and the Coeburn-Norton-Wise Regional Wastewater Authority. These audits were conducted by the accounting firm of Thrower and Thrower.

Mr. Ward briefly went over each of these audits with Council.

19233

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Ward for this information as the city does have vested interest in these two authorities.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel as per 2.1-344(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended and acquisition of real property for public purpose as per 2.1-344(A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

19234

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

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

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in regular session.

19235

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Executive Meeting with each answering aye. The Clerk then read the entire Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the follow-

19236

ing unanimous vote: Hunnicutt, Mays, Fawbush, Raines - YES, NO - None, ABSENT - Wallace, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract which he has negotiated with Mrs. Clella Minor for the purchase of two parcels of land on 11th Street for the purpose of building a water pump station.

19237

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the City of Norton Highway Safety Commission for two year terms which will expire on January 31, 2001.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Mr. Randy Castle, Mr. Bruce Rose, Mr. Gary Call, and Mr. Linville Reed to be reappointed to the City of Norton Highway Safety Commission for two year terms which will expire on January 31, 2001.

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

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Randy Castle, Mr. Bruce Rose, Mr. Gary Call, and Mr. Linville Reed reappointed to the City of Norton Highway Safety Commission for two year terms which will expire on January 31, 2001.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the annual Capital Improvement Program Meeting will be held on Friday, February 26, 1999 at Noon at the Holiday Inn.

19239

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he had endorsed and forwarded to the Circuit Court a final order to end the Hagy Funeral Home suit which will bring some taxes to the City and place that property back on the tax rolls. He further advised that he would move forward on a title search for the property for the new pump station and hope to be able report back to Council at the next meeting.

19240

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

B. Robert Raines
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mary D. Brown
Clerk