

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, April 6, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. 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 William Bradshaw, City Attorney

Mayor Raines advised that Councilman Wallace's wife is experiencing some health problems and he is unable to attend tonight's meeting.

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

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 16, 1999 meeting as presented.

19287

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

19288

A public hearing was held to consider a budget amendment in the amount of \$71,413 to the 1998-99 Norton City School Budget.

Mr. Ward advised that Council, at their last meeting, was advised by Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of Norton City Schools, that they would like to use these funds to apply to the cost of new bleachers for the high school gymnasium. He further advised that this money resulted in a savings from the school year construction grant funds.

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

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

19289

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 voted to amend the 1998-99 Norton City Schools Budget in the amount of \$71,413 with these funds to go toward the purchase of new bleachers for the high school.

Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City School Systems, presented to Council their 1999-2000 budget. He briefly highlighted the budget and answered questions from Council.

Mayor Raines thanked Dr. Sessoms for his presentation.

19290

At this time, Mr. Ward asked the Mayor if Council wanted to go ahead and schedule a budget workshop. It was the consensus of Council to hold a budget workshop after the regularly scheduled council meeting of April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Rudi Whitehorn, Chairman of the Lions Club White Cane Committee, asked for Council's favorable consideration in the signing of a Proclamation Declaring April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 1999 as Lions White Cane Days.

19291

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt a Proclamation Declaring April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 1999 as Lions White Cane Days. (Insert)

The next item for Council's consideration was a discussion of an amendment to the City Code as pertains to water/sewer payment due dates.

Mr. Ward that we have experienced some problems due to state and federal holidays that the Constitutional officers receive and the City does not. Constitutional offices are closed and City offices are open. This has caused a problem when these holidays fall on the 15<sup>th</sup> of a month which is also the due date for water bills. He suggested changing our Norton City Code Section 25.52 with wording to have the due date be the following business day rather than the 15<sup>th</sup> when the 15<sup>th</sup> is a holiday.

19292

The City Attorney advised this could be done with the addition of a second paragraph to the above code section.

It was the consensus of Council that the City Attorney and City Manager work on this and bring a draft back for Council's review.

Council had A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Declaring the Month of April 1999 as Keep America Beautiful Month in Norton. Mr. Ward advised Council of all the activities the City is participating in during the ten day period of April 9<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> and also asked for Council's favorable consideration on this resolution.

19293

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous vote: Hunnicutt, Mays, Fawbush, Raines - YES, NO - None, ABSENT - Wallace, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Declaring the Month of April, 1999 as Keep America Beautiful Month in Norton. (Insert)

Council had in their packets a Certificate of Recognition from the Lonesome Pine Office on Youth proclaiming the month of April 1999 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt a Certificate of Recognition proclaiming April 1999 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. (Insert)

19294

Council had in their packets a copy of a check in the amount of \$160,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$160,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

19295

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

The annual Chamber Gala will be held April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn with festivities beginning at 6:00 p.m. The City has a table reserved and Council members and their spouses are invited to attend. Those attending should notify him as soon as possible.

19296

On April 17<sup>th</sup> at Noon, the City reservoir will open. Also at this time, the Fire Department is sponsoring the Big Benge Fishing Contest.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised:

At Monday night's NIDA meeting, the members of this Board authorized the execution of a new note with Powell Valley National Bank in the amount of \$575,000 which is the balance on the Hotel Norton property. The terms are essentially the same as the last note and the note is for a period of five (5) years.

There is a possibility of some litigation regarding the Freedom of Information Act. He further advised that the City had been in receipt of inquiries from Mr. Brian Bouton of Appalachia regarding some personnel information on law enforcement personnel. The City has steadfastly maintained the confidentiality of employee personnel information and he has so advised Mr. Bouton. Mr. Bouton has advised that he may seek a Writ of Mandamus from the Circuit Court to secure the release of these records. If he is advised by the Circuit Court Judge that he has to release these personnel records, he will do so. Until then, he has advised the City Manager that we should maintain the policy of keeping personnel records of employees confidential.

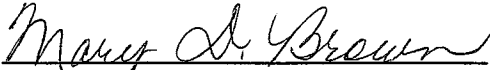
19297

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk