

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, November 2, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. at the Norton Rescue Squad Building with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt

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

The invocation was given by Dr. Miller Liston and was followed by the pledge of allegiance 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 approve the minutes of the October 5, 1999 meeting as presented.

19451

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

19452

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City of Norton Regulating the Keeping of Animals and Fowl.

Mr. Ward advised that this ordinance has been discussed at several council meetings and that at the last meeting in September he was advised to advertise a public hearing on same. Both he and the City Attorney had worked on the preparation of this ordinance and there is only one change from the proposed ordinance to the one being presented tonight. That change is for the penalty to be a criminal misdemeanor penalty rather than a civil penalty.

This item is on the agenda for public comments and action by City Council.

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

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

Mr. Emmitt Greear of Laurel Avenue spoke to Council regarding this ordinance. He lives at the end of Laurel Avenue and has horses housed there. He inquired as to there being a grandfather clause on this ordinance.

19453

The City Attorney advised there was no grandfather clause; however, the ordinance does state that Council or its designee can issue a permit for exceptions to this ordinance.

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

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

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines - YES; NO - None; Hunnicutt - ABSENT, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City of Norton Regulating the Keeping of Animals and Fowl with the amendment added that the City Manager is appointed as Council's designee to issue permits under Sub-Section 4 of this ordinance. (Insert) This ordinance will go into effect in 30 days.

Mayor Raines advised Mr. Greear to see the City Manager before this ordinance went into effect.

Mr. Ward advised Council that as of this morning we had a total combined capacity in our two reservoirs of 26.13 million gallons of water. Council declared an emergency on October 5, 1999 and that caused several restrictions to be placed on residents and businesses. When and if we reach the level of 15 million gallons combined total capacity, Council will meet and put into effect the second phase of the Water Emergency Contingency Plan which will have even more restrictions.

19454

Following a brief discussion on the water situation, Mayor Raines expressed Council's appreciation to the citizens and businesses for water conservation and also advised that the City has done some things to utilize water and minimize the leakages and losses.

Fire Chief D. C. Mullins presented to Council a list of the working officers of the Norton Fire Department for the 1999-2000 fiscal year for appointment by Council.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council accepted the list of working officers of the Norton Fire Department as presented to them by Chief D. C. Mullins.

19455

Mayor Raines expressed the thanks and appreciation of both Council and the citizens of Norton for the job done by the members of the Fire Department.

Chief Mullins expressed thanks to Council for their continued support.

Council had two requests for water taps located outside the corporate limits. One of these taps is for Ms. Alice Smith of 1540 Spotswood Road, Esserville. The second is for Mr. Jack Ronald Flanary II of 4423 Dorchester Road. Both locations have water available.

19456

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council approved the two water taps for Ms. Alice Smith and Mr. Jack Ronald Flanary, II at the above listed locations.

Mr. Ward is to inform the applicants of Council's approval.

The City Manager had submitted to Council in their packets a draft Resolution Amending the Fishing License Restrictions at the Upper Reservoir.

Council had discussed this at one of our March meetings and had asked Mr. Ward to bring this back to them before fishing licenses are printed for the following year.

Mr. Ward advised that all restrictions are listed on the back of licenses. His thought on this was not to change the ordinance but adopt a resolution issuing another restriction. This restriction would be that a ticket would need to be purchased in order to participate in the Big Benge Contest.

19457

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to table this resolution until the next meeting.

Council had a copy of a check dated October 27, 1999 made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$245,000.00.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check dated October 27, 1999 made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$245,000.00.

19458

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, 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.

19459

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.

19460

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering yes.

The Clerk then read the entire Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous vote: Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines - YES; NO - None Hunnicutt - ABSENT, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

19461

Mayor Raines advised that no action had been taken in the closed meeting.

19462

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward passed out to members of Council a monthly report for the month of October covering happenings in the City. He hopes to have a similar report prepared each month for distribution to Council.

19463

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that Council, in their packets, had received a copy of a letter advising that the City is involved in a land dispute. The City's only role in this dispute is that we will collect the delinquent real estate taxes that are due on this property.

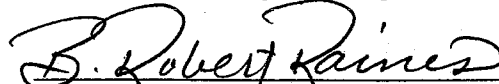
19464

In comments from Council, Mr. Fawbush advised that the Mayor, Mr. Ward, Mr. Ramey, and he had attended the Virginia Municipal League Conference in Williamsburg and that it was very informative.

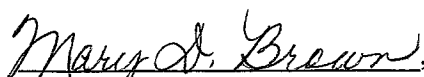
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There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk