

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, August 4, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Council Chambers 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 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 Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the July 21, 1998 meeting as presented.

19102

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

19103

Mayor Raines welcomed Ms. Beth MacDonald, Director of Marketing and Member Services, Virginia Municipal League, to the meeting tonight.

Ms. MacDonald advised Council that she was very impressed with the City and that the City Manager had taken her for a tour this afternoon following lunch with the Kiwanis Club. She then gave Council a brief summary of the work that the VML does for its members including acting as lobbyists, publishing informational brochures and booklets, insurance programs in which the City participates, and various conferences. Ms. MacDonald inquired if there was anything the VML could do for the City.

19104

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines thanked Ms. MacDonald for her visit.

The City Attorney commended the VML for their booklet on Recodification 15.1-15.2 and advised it had been very helpful to him and he appreciated their good work.

Mr. Ward distributed to members of Council copies of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act Hand Books for Council's use.

The City Attorney advised the Virginia Freedom of Information Act is currently under review by a gubernatorial appointed committee. The General Assembly is receiving comments and holding meetings now on an extensive revision of the Act. They anticipate that the next General Assembly will have a bill in hand. The handbook presented to Council tonight by the City Manager is accurate and complete.

19105

Council had a request from the Commissioner of Revenue for a refund for erroneously assessed personal property taxes in the amount of \$351.50 to Subaru American Credit.

The City Attorney advised that he concurred with the City Manager's recommendation of a refund.

19106

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized a refund to Subaru American Credit in the amount of \$351.50 for erroneously assessed personal property tax.

Mr. Ward presented to Council a copy of the Comparative Cost Report of Local Government for the year ended 6/30/97 to the members of Council and briefly went over the summary he had included in Council's packet. This document contains very detailed information of Virginia cities, counties, and towns and is very beneficial. He further advised Council that he would answer any questions they may have pertaining to this document.

19107

Mr. Ward advised Council of the two Urban Transportation Projects the City currently has scheduled for funding in the Virginia Department of Transportation's Six Year Improvement Program. The first of these projects is the complete replacement of the traffic signals within the City at an estimated cost of \$620,000 and is scheduled in the time frame of 1999 through the year 2001. The City has a meeting scheduled with VDOT on this project on August 14th and Council is invited to attend.

19108

The second project is the four laning of the Tipple Hill section of Park Avenue with an estimated cost of \$965,000 and this is planned between the years 2001 and 2004.

Mr. Ward advised these two items were presented to Council for information purposes only.

Council had in their packets copies of two checks made payable to the Norton City Schools. One check is in the amount of \$160,000 and the second is in the amount of \$120,000.

19109

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joe Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve two checks to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$160,000 and \$120,000.

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

The base for the cannon is finished and a crane will be rented soon to put the cannon back on this base.

19110

The swimming pool will be closing on August 16th.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he had received an order from the judge of the Circuit Court of Wise County/City of Norton approving the last tax sale that was conducted. There is another pending tax sale and he hopes that will be in the next couple of months.

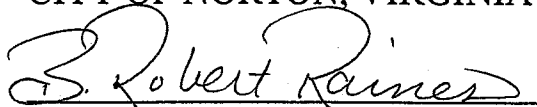
19111

Mayor Raines advised Ms. MacDonald that they appreciated her being in attendance at tonight's meeting and also recognized Mr. Jeff Lester of the Coalfield Progress and Mr. Steven Igo of the Kingsport Times News for their continual coverage of our meetings.

19112

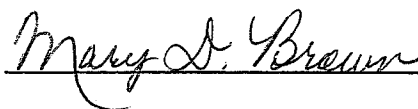
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

, Clerk