

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, October 20, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: William Mays

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

The invocation was given by Rev. Steve Conerly and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by the Fire Chief, David Mullins.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the September 15, 1998 meeting as presented.

19148

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Dr. John Pellegrini spoke to Council regarding the penalty on three of his water bills. He stated that he had not received these bills in the mail. He received the second notices with the penalty on them. After talking to the Water Department and to the City Administration, he found that no one other than Council can remove these penalties. He suggested that the ordinance should be changed to allow the City Manager or someone in the Water Department authority to remove these penalties.

19149

Following a brief discussion, Dr. Pellegrini asked Council to advise him of their decision. Mayor Raines advised him that he would be notified.

Mrs. Caynor Smith, wife of the Mayor of the Town of Wise, introduced her husband. Mayor Smith came to present to Mayor Raines the winning softball from the recent game between the Town of Wise and City of Norton employees. The Norton team won this year's game.

19150

A public hearing was held on considering a budget amendment in the amount of \$151,479.50 to the 1998-99 Norton City School Budget.

There were no comments from Council or Mr. Ward prior to the public hearing. Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of Norton City Schools, presented Council with a new list of renovations for which this money is to be used.

19151

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

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

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$151,479.50 to the 1998-99 Norton City School Budget.

Council had a request for a budget amendment in the amount of \$38,874 for a School Safety Officer.

Mr. Ward advised the City had applied for and received a grant in the amount of \$29,155 with a local match of \$9,719 for a total of \$38,874 for a School Safety Officer at J. I. Burton High School.

19152

Mr. Ward asked Council for authorization for him to accept the grant and to amend our General Fund Budget in the amount of \$38,874 which includes a recommendation to fund the local match of \$9,719 from unappropriated reserves.

At this time Vice Mayor Mays took his seat on Council.

During a brief discussion, it was brought up that this position is for one year only and is subject to the renewal of the grant on a yearly basis and that whoever is selected for this position should be made aware of this.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to accept this grant and to amend our 1998-99 General Fund Budget by \$38,874 which includes a recommendation to fund the local match of \$9,719 from unappropriated reserves.

Mayor Raines advised this would be the second resource officer in Wise County.

Mayor Raines recognized Fire Chief David Mullins who spoke briefly to Council. He then presented Council with a slate of working officers for Council's appointment.

19153

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the list of working officers of the Norton Fire Department as submitted.

Mayor Raines expressed appreciation to the members of the Fire Department for their dedication and hard work.

Council had a request from Ms. Dorothy Willis, 4317 McKinley Road in the Josephine section of Wise County for a sewer tap.

19154

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council approved a sewer tap for Ms. Dorothy Willis, 4317 McKinley Road in the Josephine section of Wise County.

Council had a check in the amount of \$115,000 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 \$115,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

19155

Mayor Raines asked Council if they wished to take any action upon the request of Dr. Pellegrini to change our ordinance regarding water bills. Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to leave the ordinance pertaining to water bills as is.

19156

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, 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.

19157

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

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

19158

Mayor Raines declared the meeting back in regular session.

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 Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous vote: Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines - YES, NO - NONE, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. (Insert)

19159

Mayor Raines advised no action had been taken pertaining to personnel.

19160

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

Halloween will be celebrated on Saturday, October 31st. The City will have a variety of public safety and public works employees out.

This week-end will be the closing for Flag Rock Recreation Area.

The first council meeting date in November will be Tuesday, November 3rd, which is Election Day. Council Chambers will be used as a polling place. Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the November 3rd Council Meeting will be held at the Norton Rescue Squad Building.

19161

In comments from City Council, Mayor Raines advised he was wearing a pin from our sister city, Buena Vista, which their mayor had sent to him. He further advised that he had met with Mr. Smith, CEO of Food City, at their ribbon cutting ceremony recently.

19162

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

He is currently scheduled to be in Richmond on November 3rd and will be out of town for that Council Meeting.

19163

He would publicly like to thank Council and Mr. Ward for his invitation to attend the Virginia Municipal League Conference held recently in Roanoke. He felt it was very informative and rewarding.

In the tax sale scheduled October 16th as one of the remaining suits, the City Treasurer and the property owner worked out an agreement for the back taxes to be paid. The suit will be continued and kept on the docket. In the event the agreement is not fulfilled, the suit will be able to be revived within a 15 day notice. There are two more tax suits pending.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

, Clerk