

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 4, 1997 at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Roy Roberts, Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, William Mays, and Ron McCall

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Joe Pippin, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Rev. Jim Jenkins followed by the pledge of allegiance which was lead by the Police Chief, Sam Mongle .

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 18th meeting as presented.

17749

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

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At this time, Mayor Raines advised the City had received a letter from Senator William Wampler regarding the proposals for the Virginia Relay Center and advised that the language in this proposal reads: the Center shall be located in Norton, the vendor provide the same level of services currently provided, employment levels be at least equal to the average levels experienced from July 1, 1996 to February 28, 1997, existing equipment be utilized to the extent feasible, and the contract shall be renewable for up to five years.

17751

Mayor Raines expressed appreciation to our delegates for getting this language into the proposal and directed the City Manager to send letters to these delegates expressing our thanks.

Council had a request to amend the General Fund Budget in the amount of \$23,759.00. The City Manager advised this amendment covers a Regional Development Planning Grant for the Lenowisco Planning District Commission in the amount of \$23,759.00 which was approved by Council during their May 2, 1995 meeting. Mr. Ward is seeking approval on this amendment in order that we may be allowed to accept the monies for Lenowisco.

17752

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the General Fund Budget in the amount of \$23,759.00 to cover this planning grant for the Lenowisco Planning District.

Council had a second request to amend the General Fund Budget in the amount of \$2,200. Mr. Ward advised these funds have come from the Police Department's being awarded two Highway Safety Mini-Grants. One of these grants is in the amount of \$1,500 for the purchase of a radar unit at a cost of \$1,200 and a tint meter at a cost of \$300. The second grant is in the total amount of \$700 and covers the purchase of an alco sensor.

17753

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the General Fund Budget in the amount of \$2,200 to cover the two Highway Safety Mini-Grants awarded to our Police Department.

An update, for informational purposes, was given to Council on the Esserville Sewer Line Project. Mr. Ward went over key dates with Council advising that the design completion will be 5/1/97 and final completion is expected to be 6/29/98.

17754

Council thanked the City Manager for this update.

Council had a request from the Commissioner of Revenue for a refund of a Business License Tax for Industrial Gas and Supply Company in the total amount of \$7,618.45. Mrs. Miller advised the office for this business had moved into the County and they had continued paying their City business license for the years of 1994, 1995, and 1996.

17755

The City Attorney had researched and advised that three years is as far back as we can go to refund this money.

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized a refund for Industrial Gas and Supply Company in the amount of \$7,618.45 covering business licenses for 1994, 1995, and 1996.

A check in the amount of \$165,000 to the Norton City Schools was included in Council's packets for approval.

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$165,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

17756

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, 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.

17757

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

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

17758

Mayor Raines declared the meeting back in regular session.

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Executive Meeting which each answering aye. The Clerk then read the entire Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt a Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. (Insert)

17759

As to the recommendation from Council to the judge of an appointment of a Special Commissioner for the City's delinquent tax cases, Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations.

17760

Ron McCall submitted the name of Mr. Joseph Hunnicutt of Adkins, Elkins, and Hunnicutt.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared the name of Mr. Joseph Hunnicutt of Adkins, Elkins, and Hunnicutt be submitted to the judge for consideration as a Special Commissioner for the City's delinquent tax cases.

The Mayor advised the City Attorney to do the necessary paper work.

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

The Lost Creek Development Corporation is holding a ground breaking Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and City Council is invited to attend.

He has been advised verbally that the Department of Housing and Community Development has approved the recommendations on the Downtown Revitalization Project to award the contract to Corte Construction with the removal of the sewer line and bumpouts.

17761

He has been approached by the Superintendent of Schools for some funding consideration from the City for the upcoming basketball playoff game coming up Friday in Radford. Last year, we appropriated \$1,000.

In comments from the City Attorney, he advised there has been a slow and steady clean-up at Loreto Heights and that there is a slow steady pick-up of items on the Helen Bolling property.

17762

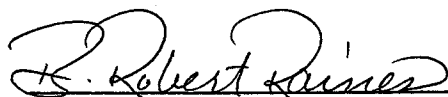
In comments from Council, Vice Mayor Mays extended congratulations to the Burton Basketball Team for their season as Co-District Champions, Runner-Up in the LPD, and Region D.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to allocate \$1,000 to the Burton Basketball Team for their trip to Radford with said funds to come from Contingency.

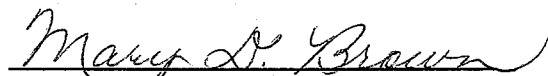
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There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
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B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk