

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, April 15, 1997 at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Raines presiding.

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

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

The invocation was given by the City Manager and followed by the pledge of allegiance which was lead by the Chairman of the Norton City School Board, Mr. Cliff Daniels.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the April 1st meeting as presented.

17787

At this time, Mayor Raines amended the agenda under Item 7-C Executive Session to include Discussion of Potential Contract for the Disposal of Solid Waste as per 2.1-344(A) 7 of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

17788

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Superintendent of Schools, Bill Passan thanked the City Manager, Richard Hurt, and City workers for the new softball field at the high school location.

Also during this time, Mr. Jack Kennedy asked Council's permission to speak on an agenda item since he had to return to his office. Mayor Raines advised Mr. Kennedy he could do so. Mr. Kennedy spoke on an agenda item up for discussion which was the potential of relocating the voting precincts to the Community Center from Norton City Hall. He was against any such move.

17789

A public hearing was held to consider the reissuance of a Public Dance Hall License to Mosby's Steak House, Inc.

There were no questions or comments from Council prior to the public hearing. Mayor Raines opened the public hearing and there were no public comments. Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

Council was advised that there had been only one police call to this location in the last 12 months.

17790

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to reissue a Public Dance Hall License to Mosby's Steak House, Inc. for the period of one (1) year.

The 1997-98 budget for the Norton City Schools was presented to Council by the Chairman of the School Board, Mr. Cliff Daniels. Also present was the Vice Chairman, Kathleen DePonte, and the Superintendent of Schools, Bill Passan.

Mr. Daniels gave a brief synopsis of this budget advising it is based on 762 Average Daily Membership and is balanced. The total budget of \$4,542,737 is \$46,958 lower than the '96-'97 budget.

The School Board Chairman answered questions from Council.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Daniels and the School Board for the work they have done.

At this time, Council set the date of May 6, 1997 for their Budget Work Session following the regularly scheduled Council Meeting and May 20, 1997 as the public hearing date for the School Board Budget.

Council had on their agenda for discussion the item of the potential of relocating the voting precincts to the Community Center.

The City Manager advised of problems which have occurred over the years with the voting precincts being located at City Hall. These include the parking problem, accessibility (especially in the Fire Hall location), safety aspect of moving the voting machines especially to the Fire Hall. The Community Center has ample parking spaces, easy accessibility, and the voting machines could be stored there.

Mr. Pippin, City Attorney, stated that Section 24.2-307 of the Virginia Code provides that the governing body may decrease the number of precincts. This will be done by ordinance, must be enacted more than 60 days preceding any general election, and after the change, notices shall be mailed to all registered voters at least 15 days prior to the election. Polling places must comply with the Virginians With Disabilities Act, the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. He further advised that the relocation, if this is enacted upon, met the requirements for polling places as per Section 24.2-310 of the Virginia State Code. Mr. Pippin stated the procedures that would have to be followed if this change took place.

Present and speaking against this proposed relocation was Marie Muir, Registrar for the City of Norton, Sandy Earls, member of the Electoral Board, read a letter from Ruth Woods, Chairman of the Electoral Board, who was out of town, and Don Earls representing the Republican Party. Mrs. Earls also supported the

view of Mrs. Woods. Their main concerns are lower voter turnout, traffic safety in the area of the Community Center, and child safety in the area of the elementary school.

After this discussion, it was the consensus of Council to have the safety aspect of both traffic and children checked out and brought back to Council at a later time.

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 2.1-344(A) 1 of the Code of Virginia as amended and discussion of potential contract for disposal of solid waste as per 2.1-344(A) 1 of the Code of Virginia as amended.

17794

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back in regular session.

17795

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 yes. The Clerk then read the entire Resolution of the Certification of Executive Session. Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt a Resolution of the Certification of Executive Session. (Insert)

17796

Mayor Raines announced no action had been taken during the Executive Session.

17797

In his comments, the City Manager advised:

Council should go down and view the Clear Creek Park in Ramsey which now has a walking track and volleyball area. A softball field will be constructed.

Flag Rock will open no later than May 1st.

17798

In his comments, the City Attorney advised that the Helen Bolling Case is scheduled for the first Friday in May.

17799

In comments from Council, William Mays announced he had walked the track at Clear Creek and it is a nice park.

17800

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

B. Robert Raines

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Mayor

ATTEST:

Mary S. Brown
Clerk