

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, January 16, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert 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 Rev. Jim Jenkins which was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by the City Manager, E. W. Ward.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the January 2, 1996 meeting as presented.

17392

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

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A public hearing was held on A Resolution Endorsing the City of Norton Application for Funding Through the Transportation Enhancement Program.

Mr. Ward advised this resolution authorizes the City Administration to apply for this ISTEA Grant through the Virginia Department of Transportation. He advised the City has applied several times for this grant without success; however we would like to apply for a grant totaling \$214,200 which would require 20% local dollars or \$42,840. If funded, this grant money will be used for streetscape work and street lighting on our Downtown Revitalization Project. To qualify for this grant, there are several requirements which have to be met and one of these is conducting a public hearing. Deadline for applications is January 31, 1996.

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

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Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Endorsing the City of Norton Application for Funding Through the Transportation Enhancement Program. (Insert)

Mayor Raines extended a welcome to the new Clerk of the Circuit Court, Jack Kennedy, and his Chief Deputy, Gracie Hensley.

Mr. Kennedy spoke briefly to Council regarding new technology for the Clerk's Office which has a cost of \$85,000.00. This is the Record Indexing System with the RMS Imaging Enhancement System.

Mr. Kennedy then showed to Council a twenty minute video taken at the Bedford County Circuit Court Clerk's Office which showed how these systems work.

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Following the video, Mr. Kennedy asked Council to think about this and asked that the City pay 10% of this cost or \$8,500. He further advised he is going to seek donations from the private sector also and

answered several questions from Council. Mr. Kennedy thanked Council for their time and hospitality and Mayor Raines, in turn, thanked the new Circuit Court Clerk and his deputy for presenting this information to Council.

The City Manager advised Council that our Audit Contract of June 7, 1993 with Thrower and Thrower has expired; however we have the option of extending this contract for two additional years. This extension will run to June 30, 1997.

Mr. Ward advised that Bardin Thrower of Thrower and Thrower would like the extension; however since the City has acquired several additional grants and more time is involved in the audit, Mr. Thrower would like for the City to consider the addition of \$500 per year to the yearly amount of \$9,750.00 making the audit cost a total of \$10,250 for each of the two extended years.

The City Manager advised he feels this is an adequate increase.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to extend the City of Norton Audit Contract with Thrower and Thrower an additional two years at a price of \$10,250 each year.

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

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

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

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 Roy Roberts, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. (Insert)

The Mayor opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Redevelopment Housing Authority for a four year term which will expire on January 28, 2000.

William Mays nominated Mr. John Elmore to be reappointed to this Authority.

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

Mayor Raines declared Mr. John Elmore reappointed to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four year term which will expire on January 28, 2000.

The Mayor opened the floor for nominations to the Highway Safety Commission for two year terms which will expire January 31, 1998.

Jack Wallace nominated Mr. Dennis Brummitte, Mr. Frank Gravely, Mr. J. T. Caruso, and Mr. Bobby Cassell for reappointment to this Commission.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Dennis Brummitte, Mr. Frank Gravely, Mr. J. T. Caruso, and Mr. Bobby Cassell reappointed to the Highway Safety Commission for two year terms which will expire on January 31, 1998.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Development Financing, Incorporated for a two year term which will expire January 1998.

Ron McCall nominated Mr. Paul Kuczko to be reappointed to this Board. 17402

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

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Paul Kuczko reappointed to the Southwest Development Financing, Incorporated for a two year term which will expire in January 1998.

In his comments, the City Manager advised:

He would like to publicly thank the Norton Rescue Squad for providing City Public Works employees with hot meals during the blizzard of 1996 earlier this month.

The annual Capital Improvement Project Meeting will be held on February 9, 1996 at 1:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn. 17403

Councilman Mays advised that the Norton Police Explorers Group will be attending a competition in Gatlinburg in the near future and they have been trying to raise funds to cover their expenses. He asked Council to appropriate funds for this group of up to \$700.00 to meet their expenses. 17404

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to appropriate up to \$700.00 from the Contingency Fund for the Norton Police Explorers Group to attend a competition in Gatlinburg.

Mayor Raines advised that the City Manager and he had attended the Coalfield Expressway Public Hearing held recently. 17405

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk