

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, March 7, 1995 at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Raines presiding.

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

Absent: Roy Roberts

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

The invocation was given by Rev. Bob Kespelher and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 21, 1995 meeting as presented.

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

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Council had been presented with a Resolution Authorizing the Preparation and Filing of An Application for a Community Improvement Grant for the Norton Downtown Revitalization Project Through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Mr. Ward advised that if this resolution is adopted it would authorize the City Manager to submit an application for a Community Development Block Grant for a redevelopment project in our downtown area and also states the amount of monies City Council is willing to commit to the funding of this block grant and also as leverage to obtain funding for this block grant. A public hearing was held at our last meeting and our planning consultants, K. W. Poore and Associates, were present and gave Council an outline of the proposed project and project activities along with an estimated cost of those activities. The City was thought to be eligible for a \$750,000 block grant; however since our last meeting, we have become aware of a Two Grant Rule that states that any locality applying for a grant that already has a grant underway already is only eligible for a total of one million dollars in grant funds. We have a Community Development Block Grant already underway that is for water, sewer, and housing improvements in the Anderson Hollow, Spring Avenue areas of the City in the amount of \$488,000. To come into the requirements of the Two Grant Rule, we will only be able to apply for \$512,000.

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The City Administration and Mr. Poore having been working on revisions to the project activities that were submitted to Council at the last meeting and gotten more definitive numbers on some of the estimated costs of some of the activities. Mr. Ward went over these changes with Council.

Following a discussion and upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the Preparation and Filing of An Application for a Community Improvement Grant for the Norton Downtown Revitalization Project Through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program with the change being made on the City's commitment from

\$225,000 for sanitary sewer rehabilitation to \$112,500.

Council had a request by Ms. Sue Brooks to encroach on City right-of-Way for an awning of a new business she is opening in Norton.

Mr. Ward advised this awning is similar to those already in place within the City and that the Building Inspector has no problem with this request. This would be issued to Ms. Brooks by a revocable Special Use Permit.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to issue a revocable Special Use Permit to Ms. Sue Brooks for an awning which will encroach on City right-of-way.

Ms. Brooks thanked Council for their consideration.

Council had in their packets a request to make application for a Local Government Challenge Grant offered by the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

Mr. Ward advised this grant is applied for on an annual basis; however this year instead of requesting \$2,800, we are applying for \$3,200 per a request from Ms. Daisy Portuondo of our local Pro-Art Association. This is a matching grant with Council agreeing to match the amount received in our grant. Deadline for submittal of this application is April 3, 1995.

Further advising this application has to be approved by Council, the City Manager asked for favorable consideration.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to apply for Local Government Challenge Grant.

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

Mayor Raines opened the floor for an appointment to the Housing Appeals Board for a five year term which will expire on February 18, 2000.

William Mays nominated Mr. Willie Winkles be reappointed to this Board.

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. Willie Winkles reappointed to the

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Housings Appeals Board for a five year term which will expire on February 18, 2000.

In his comments, the City Manager advised:

During the last meeting, Council approved an \$800,000 budget amendment for the Literary Loan Application for the schools. We were under the impression that the Literary Loan would be a 3% loan; however Dr. Armentrout has informed us that this would be a 2% loan.

We are about 95% complete on the design plans for the Anderson Hollow-Spring Avenue Water/Sewer Project. Once completed, they will be submitted to the Health Department for review and approval. We feel like we will be able to go to bid sometime this spring and should be under construction sometime mid-summer.

The Virginia Department of Transportation's Reallocation Hearing will be held in Abingdon on Thursday, March 23rd. Last year, Council submitted a resolution to the Department of Transportation asking that the construction of the fourth loop at the Holiday Inn Interchange be included in the 6 Year Plan. He intends to prepare a similar resolution for consideration at our next meeting. If Council has any other projects they wish to support to be included in the 6 Year Plan, please advise him prior to our next meeting. Also as many members of Council that can attend, please do so.

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Councilman Mays would like to have Rt. 83 in Dickenson County endorsed also.

Mr. Ward advised that the Lenowisco Board of Directors is endorsing several road projects within the Lenowisco Planning District and we may want to look at that.

Mr. Ward advised he would look at one resolution for our loop at the Holiday Inn Interchange and another resolution listing the others.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk