

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, March 21, 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 the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 7, 1995 meeting as presented. 17157

There was no response to the Mayor's call for visitors. 17158

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance Providing for the Exemption of Real Estate Taxes for Qualified Property Owners Not Less Than Sixty-Five Years of Age or Permanently and Totally Disabled Property Owners.

Mr. Ward advised that this ordinance changes the criteria of the one that we currently have in place by changing the amount of annual income from not exceeding \$12,000 to not exceeding \$15,000 and net worth from \$20,000 to \$25,000. The City Manager advised that the question that arose from Section 7 of this ordinance, Nullification Upon Change in Status, has been corrected. 17159

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance Providing for the Exemption of Real Estate Taxes for Qualified Property Owners Not Less Than Sixty Five Years of Age or Permanently and Totally Disabled Property Owners. (Insert) Said ordinance will go into effect 30 days from adoption.

Council held a public hearing on An Ordinance Adding Division 3 to Article VIII of the Norton City Code on Taxation, Being Codified as Section 23-261 and Concerning A Tax of Mobile Local Telecommunication Services and Establishing Prcedures for Collection of the Tax.

Mr. Ward advised this ordinance had been before Council previously and there was a question as to the amount of the tax. Mr. Ward advised the tax would be no more than \$3.00 per month and advised that he felt the effective date would be best to coincide with our fiscal year in order to allow the companies time to get this tax into their systems.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing. 17160

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

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Ron McCall,

seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance Adding Division 3 to Article VIII of the Norton City Code on Taxation, Being Codified as Section 23-261 and Concerning a Tax of Mobile Local Telecommunication Services and Establishing Procedures for Collection of the Tax. (Insert) Said ordinance will become effective July 1, 1995.

Council had been presented A Resolution Supporting Certain Road Projects in the upcoming VDOT Six Year Improvement Plan.

Mr. Ward advised this resolution endorses the projects adopted by Lenowisco, the Coalfield Expressway in Southwest Virginia as recommended by Vice Mayor Mays, and the fourth loop in the Norton Bypass which City Council would again like brought before the Commonwealth Transportation Board at the Pre-Allocation Public Hearing to be held in Abingdon on March 23rd at 9:00 a.m.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Supporting the Inclusion of Certain Road Projects in the Virginia Department of Transportation Six Year Plan. (Insert)

Copy of this resolution is to be sent to the Executive Director of the Lenowisco Planning District, Mr. Ron Flanary.

17161

In his comments, the City Manager advised:

The annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner will be held on April 8th at the Holiday Inn. The City has a table reserved. Please advise him if you plan to attend.

On the walls in Council Chambers were the winning posters in the Keep Norton Clean Poster Contest which was held in City Schools in grades 1 - 12. 175 posters were entered in the contest with cash prizes and ribbons awarded and he would like to publicly congratulate the winners.

1716

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Pippin presented Council members with a file containing his findings on the procedure of the election of school board members as requested by Council in December of 1994. Copies were also given to members of the press who were present.

Mr. Pippin's recommendation was for Council to digest this information, come back to him with questions, and then schedule a time for citizen input.

Mayor Raines advised this resulted from the Voters Referendum passage to elect school boards and Council asked the City Attorney to start this process.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to advertise a public hearing on the findings of the City Attorney for the election of school board members.

17163

Mr. Pippin then went over his Ten Principle Findings and Recommendations for Council. Mayor Raines advised the City Manager to make this information available to those who request it.

There were no comments from Council and no further business to come before them; therefore the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

B. Robert Raines

B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mary D. Brown

Clerk