

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, October 17, 1995 at 7:30 p.m. with the City Manager, E. W. Ward, presiding.

Present: Roy Roberts, Jack Wallace, and Ron McCall

Absent: Robert Raines, William Mays

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

Due to the absence of both the Mayor and Vice Mayor, the City Manager opened the floor for nominations of Chairman to conduct the meeting.

Jack Wallace nominated Councilman Roy Roberts. 17327

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

The City Manager declared Councilman Roy Roberts as Chairman of Council for tonight's meeting.

Councilman Roberts took the Mayor's chair and began tonight's meeting.

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by the Police Chief, Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the October 3, 1995 meeting as presented. 17328

At this time, Chairman Roberts recognized and welcomed members of the Senior Government Class of J. I. Burton High School. 17329

There was no response to the Chairman's call for visitors. 17330

A public hearing was held to consider recodifying the City's ordinances relating to criminal offenses.

There were no comments or questions from Council.

Mr. Ward advised these ordinances had not been updated for ten years and Mr. Gary Gilliam of the Commonwealth Attorney's Office presented these to Council at the October 3rd meeting. He was instructed by Council to advertise a public hearing for public input. 17331

Chairman Roberts opened the public hearing.

The City Attorney briefly discussed some of the changes in these ordinances with Council and advised it brings us in line with State and neighboring jurisdictions.

There were no public comments and Chairman Roberts closed the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the City of Norton Code of Criminal Ordinances 1995-1996. (Insert)

The City Manager introduced Mr. Mike Hatfield of Thompson and Litton Engineers who gave Council an update on the Norton Upper Dam Project. Mr. Hatfield went over the work that had been done since the 17332

last meeting. He advised the contractors were a little behind due to the weather; however the contractor still anticipates being completed by the date of November 4th if the weather holds out.

Mr. Ward advised that hopefully by our next Council Meeting this project will be almost completed.

Council had a request to sell mixed alcoholic beverages on Sunday, December 31, 1995 due to the New Year's Eve falling on that day.

Mr. Ward advised these requests are from the Holiday Inn, Le Meilleur Restaurant, and Brownie's Cafe and if granted, they will be issued a Special Use Permit for this date only. Each business had a different start up time; however they all had the same closing hour of 2:00 a.m. Monday, January 1, 1996.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to issue Special Use Permits to the Holiday Inn, Le Meilleur Restaurant, and Brownie's Cafe for the Sunday sale of mixed alcoholic beverages on Sunday, December 31, 1995 beginning at 4:00 p.m. and ending at 2:00 a.m. Monday, January 1, 1996 in observance of the New Year's Eve holiday.

Council had in their packets a Resolution of the City Council of Norton, Virginia Authorizing the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority to Exercise Its Powers Within the Norton Downtown Redevelopment and Conservation Area and Declaring Said Area as Blighted.

The City Manager advised this item and the following item are the result of our receiving a \$512,000 Downtown Redevelopment Grant this past summer. The grant is the result of our receiving a Planning Grant the previous year. A study was conducted by K. W. Poore and Associates that revealed that a three block area of the City had a blighting influence. The grant application that was submitted proposed to eliminate the blight conditions by doing several things: Acquiring and rehabilitating property, Improving our infra-structure in that area, and developing a Streetscape Program. According to Title 36 of the Code of Virginia, the Housing Authority must participate in this project. They will more or less be a conduit to the City by which we will accomplish our goals and objectives and they will also assist us in adopting a Redevelopment and Conservation Plan.

A meeting for downtown merchants is to be held on Thursday, October 19th for input and comments from them and all will be taken into account as we develop our Conservation Plan. He further asks that Council look favorably at this resolution and the following item which will authorize him to sign a Cooperation Agreement with the Housing Authority.

The City Attorney also is in concurrence with the City Manager on this.

Following a brief discussion and the reading of the title of this resolution, a motion was made by Ron McCall, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote to adopt A Resolution of City Council of Norton, Virginia Authorizing the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority to Exercise its Powers Within the Norton Downtown Redevelopment and Conservation Area and Declaring Said Area as Blighted. (Insert)

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed

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by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to sign a Cooperation Agreement with the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority. (Insert)

The City Manager advised he had given Council in their packets information on the COPS Fast Grant which was from the U. S. Department of Criminal Justice. This is a piece of Federal legislation that authorizes communities across the country to hire policemen.

He further advised the Police Department had applied for this grant and received notification that it had been awarded; however the City Administration held off until the City had received something in writing. The grant runs for a three year period and runs from March 1, 1995 to February 8, 1998 and is in the amount of \$9,435 for one police officer assigned to the City. 75% of the funds will come from the Federal Government and 25% will be local funding. This comes to \$59,345 Federal funding and \$19,812 local funding. Since written notice was just recently received, Mr. Ward advised the funding from the Federal Government will be pro-rated.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to sign the necessary documents to accept this COPS Fast Grant.

Chief David Mullins of the Norton Fire Department presented Council with a list of the working officers for the 1995-96 year for their approval.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to accept the working officers of the Norton Fire Department as recommended by Chief Mullins.

Council discussed the first meeting in November which should be November 7th; however that is Election Day.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to cancel the November 7th council meeting due to Election Day and have only one meeting on November 21st for the month.

In his comments, the City Manager advised:

Halloween will be on Tuesday, October 31st, and City employees will be out working to make it a happy and safe holiday.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

In comments from Council, Councilman McCall had a question regarding the Quarterly Report which was answered by the City Manager.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

Roy R. Roberts  
Roy R. Roberts, Chairman

ATTEST:

Mary D. Brown  
Clerk