

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, June 18, 1991, at 7:30 p.m. with Vice Mayor William Mays presiding.

Prior to the roll call, Vice Mayor Mays advised there was not a quorum of Council members present; therefore no action would be taken on any items tonight. He further advised there would be the Audience for Visitors and Acting Manager Ramey would read aloud the resolution honoring Bruce Robinette of Lenowisco.

Present: Jack Wallace, William Mays

Absent: Linda Sturgill, Robert Raines, Ron McCall, and E. W. Ward

Also Present: Kenneth P. Asbury, City Attorney and Fred L. Ramey, Jr.,  
Acting City Manager

The invocation was given by Director of Social Services, Bill Stokes, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

During the audience for visitors, Mrs. Bibbie Fraley, 324 Chestnut Street, who is part-owner of Wise Hardware and Bibbie's Gift Corner spoke to Council expressing her deep concern over the blocking of two downtown city blocks in the main business district due to the Best Friend Festival activities. She further stated it killed the business for merchants on Father's Day week-end and inquired as to the reasoning in blocking off the two main downtown blocks for a festival or anything else. She stated she felt Council should have some sympathy for the downtown merchants.

The owner of Anchor Book Shop, which is located on Park Avenue, also spoke on the blockage of Park Avenue on a holiday week-end.

Ms. Jenay Rockett, Chairman of the Best Friend Festival Committee, was present and spoke to Council on behalf of this committee. She stated the intent of the Festival was to bring something positive to the City of Norton and business to the downtown merchants. Ms. Rockett further stated that the Committee had tried working with the merchants, but had no response from them.

Mr. Bill Stokes, 1125 Virginia Avenue, spoke in support of the Best Friend Festival as did Tootie Scott of Shannon's Corner Store, 6th Street, Norton.

Both representatives of Anchor Book Store and Wise Hardware said they were not against the Best Friend Festival - just the timing.

Following a brief discussion by Vice Mayor Mays, Councilman Wallace, and Acting Manager Ramey, Vice Mayor Mays advised that a transcript would be prepared and made available to all members of Council for their consideration.

Mr. Ramey read aloud to those present A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Honoring Mr. Bruce K. Robinette advising this was in recognition of Mr. Robinette's 23 years of service to Lenowisco.

All other agenda items were continued until the next meeting.

In City Manager comments, Mr. Ramey inquired as to the availability of the next meeting date of July 2nd to those council members present. There was no problem with either Mr. Mays or Mr. Wallace.

There were no comments by the City Attorney and in Council comments, Vice Mayor Mays invited those present at tonight's meeting to come back again.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned until July 2, 1991.

NOTE: The above notes taken from this meeting are for informational purposes only and not minutes of this meeting since there was no quorum in attendance.