

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, November 19, 1991, at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Raines presiding.

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

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Kenneth P. Asbury, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Rev. Paul Henschen followed by the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Dan Still, City of Norton Fire Chief.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the October 15, 1991 meeting as presented.

15213

Mayor Raines announced an amendment to the agenda under Item No. 8 - New Business. Item 8-C will be A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Strongly Opposing the Recent Proposal of Secretary John G. Milliken to Increase the Local Contribution on Urban and Secondary Road Construction Projects.

15214

During the audience for visitors, Ms. Shirley McConnell Simpler, 1131 Rose Avenue, spoke representing a delegation of residents from the Ramsey and Hawthorne sections of Norton demanding they be taken off the Wise County Public Service Authority water and be put back on City reservoir water and presented Council with a petition stating this. They also advised they wanted the PSA water tested by someone other than the City of Norton, their agents, the PSA, or the State Health Department in Abingdon. Others speaking on this topic were Betty Coffey and Lisa Burnette.

15215

Mayor Raines advised that Council had no solution to their complaints at this time and that Norton had experienced water problems for years.

Councilwoman Sturgill spoke stating she was solidly behind the citizens of Ramsey.

Following a lengthy discussion, Mayor Raines thanked the Ramsey residents for coming, invited them to come back, and advised that Council had their comments, petitions, and assured them that Council would certainly consider them.

Mr. Steve Hensley of Hoot Owl Hollow spoke on behalf of residents from that area asking why they had not been given water and sewer since it was in a Court Order in 1975 during annexation proceedings.

Since no member of Council, City Attorney, or manager were involved at that time, the City Attorney is going to check into this for Council and will inform them of his findings.

15216

Mayor Raines advised that he felt that Council morally had a responsibility to these residents.

Also speaking from Hoot Owl Hollow was Mr. Billy J. Robinette.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Linda Sturgill, and passed by unanious roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to expend up to \$5,000 out of Contingency for a preliminary engineering report to determine the cost of providing utilities to Hoot Owl Hollow.

Council had been presented in their packets a list of financial encumbrances for the year ending June 30, 1991 totaling \$290,417 of which \$188,802 is attributed to the General Fund and \$101,615 is attributed to the School Fund.

The Mayor opened the floor of the public hearing for public comments. There was no response from the audience.

15217

The Mayor closed the public hearing and asked for comments or questions from Council.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve financial encumbrances in the amount of \$290,417 for the year ending June 30, 1991. Of this amount \$188,802 is attributed to the General Fund and \$101,615 is attributed to the School Fund.

Council held a public hearing on An Ordinance Requiring Satisfactory Evidence that All Delinquent Taxes and Licenses Be Paid Prior to the Issuance of a Business License.

Mr. Ward advised the City Treasurer had asked for the passage of this ordinance and that it had been duly advertised.

City Treasurer Joe Stallard advised he would encourage Council to pass this ordinance.

The Mayor opened the floor for public comment.

There was no comment from the audience and the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

15218

There were no questions or comments from Council and upon a motion by Linda Sturgill, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance Requiring that No Business License Shall Be Issued in This Municipality Until the Applicant Has Produced Satisfactory Evidence That All Delinquent Business Licenses, Business Personal Property, Meals, Transient Occupancy and Admission Tax Owed to the Municipality Have Been Paid Which Have Been Properly Assessed Against the Applicant by This Municipality. (Insert)

Mr. Ward advised this ordinance would go into effect 30 days after its adoption.

Council held a work session on November 7th with the members of the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals on the proposed City Zoning Ordinance. Still having approximately one-third of the ordinance to review, it was the consensus of Council to have a short agenda for the January 7, 1992 meeting and conduct a work session after that meeting. Mr. Ward is to invite the members of the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals.

15219

Mayor Raines expressed Council's appreciation to all those who have helped with the revision of this ordinance.

Council had in their packets a Resolution Establishing a Drug Free Work Place.

The City Attorney advised that our auditor advises this policy must be implemented in order for the City to receive any Federal Grants. The City must be a drug free work place and all employees will be advised if this resolution is adopted. The employees will have to comply with the terms of the statement which states what is to be done if any employee is convicted for a drug violation occurring in the workplace. The statement further lists the various action the City may take should this occur. Basically, rehabilitation is the primary goal.

15220

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Establishing a Drug-Free Workplace, Providing for Notice to Employees and Specifying the Actions That Will Be Taken Against Employees, Definitions Applicable to Drug-Free Workplace, Establishing a Drug-Free Awareness Program to Inform Employees, Distribution of Copies of the Statement of a Drug Free Workplace to Employees. (Insert)

Council had been presented in their packets A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Recognizing the Coalfield Christmas Cooperative as a Vital Service to the City of Norton.

The City Manager advised that the Coalfield Christmas Cooperative is made up

of civic organizations, churches, schools, and other interested parties to help the needy of the area and urged passage of this resolution.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Linda Sturgill, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton Recognizing the Coalfield Christmas Cooperative as a Vital Service to the City of Norton. (Insert)

15221

Council had been presented tonight A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Strongly Opposing the Recent Proposal of Secretary John G. Milliken to Increase the Local Contribution on Urban and Secondary Road Construction Projects which had been prepared by the City Attorney.

The City Manager advised that Virginia Department of Transportation Secretary John G. Milliken is proposing to shift the amount of money that local and state governments participate in on urban projects which would affect the City of Norton. This proposal is that the local government share of the urban projects shift from 5% to 20%. Mr. Ward feels this would be a tremendous financial burden on the City.

15222

Mr. Ward has written a letter stating our opposition to be presented at a public hearing held tonight in Bristol by Mr. Fred Ramey, Assistant City Manager. This letter was addressed to Mr. Milliken with copies going to members of the Transportation Board and our legislators.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Strongly Opposing the Recent Proposal of Secretary John G. Milliken To Increase the Local Contribution on Urban and Secondary Road Construction Projects. (Insert)


In his comments, the City Manager advised the following:

1. The City Employees Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, December 5, 1991 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center.
2. Saturday, December 7, 1991, at 7:30 p.m. Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held at the City Park located at Pine Street and Virginia Avenue.
3. An Aluminum Can Recycling Contest was held recently at Norton Elementary School Sponsored by the City Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with the Wise Clean County Committee. 41,423 aluminum cans were collected in grades Kindergarten through 6th. Across the county, just under 200,000 cans were collected.
4. At the next meeting, the audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 1991 will be presented.

15223

There were no comments from either the City Attorney or Council.

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


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

, Clerk