

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Tuesday, November 13, 1990, at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Robert Raines, William Mays, and Ron McCall

Absent: Linda Sturgill, Jack Wallace, and Kenneth Asbury

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager

The invocation was given by City Manager Ward and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the October 16, 1990 meeting as presented.

14923

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

14924

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance Regulating Bingo and Raffles, Providing for Permits, Accounting and Regulations Thereof, and Prescribing Penalties for Violations.

Mr. Ward advised Council that State Law had changed and our previous ordinance needed to be redone. Mr. Ward advised Council that there was a cover sheet in their packets listing the changes in the new ordinance and that the City Attorney had approved this ordinance.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for public comments.

There were no public comments and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

14925

Council briefly discussed the changes and decided to defer passage of this ordinance until the next meeting.

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 8-38 of the City of Norton Code.

Mr. Ward advised this ordinance changed Section 8-38 of the City Code wherein the City and Fire Department had experienced a timing problem. This ordinance states that Council will appoint the working officers of the Fire Department except the Fire Chief following their annual September meeting. This position of Fire Chief comes under the City Manager who shall hire and fire same.

The Mayor opened the floor for public comments.

14926

There were no comments and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 8-38 of the City of Norton Code. (Insert)

Mayor Raines advised that as of 1:00 p.m. today the City had 60.4 million gallons of water and we have maintained this for approximately one month. He expressed his appreciation to the City Manager for his efforts in keeping Council informed.

14927

Mr. Ward advised Council that it had come before them to consider increasing the membership of the Planning Commission from 5 to 7 members and that Council had sent this matter on to the Planning Commission for their consideration. In Council's packets is a copy of the Planning Commission minutes of October 11, 1990 wherein it is stated that the consensus of the Planning

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Commission is that they should stay at five members.

Following a brief discussion, Council agreed to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to remain with five members.

Mr. Ward showed Council and the audience a short video showing how the new Dual Party Relay Service Center which is to be located in Norton will work. Mr. Ward informed Council that this Center will be the only one in the country that will handle both inter and intrastate calls.

14929

The City Manager advised Council that the work on the AT&T facility is moving very rapidly and presented Mr. Fred Ramey, City Planning and Development Director to present an update on the project.

Mr. Ramey advised the work on this project is staying on schedule and that the latest revised Construction Budget is over; however AT&T have agreed to increase the lease rate to cover these overruns. Mr. Ramey also expressed thanks to Sovran Bank for supplying office space for AT&T.

It appears that Norfolk-Southern is not going to donate or finance the land and it will have to be purchased before we can start drawing down on our loan money from the Coalfield Economic Development Authority. Mr. Ramey further advised that Council had previously committed to purchasing this land and this will have to be done within the next three weeks in order that we can start drawing down on our loan funds.

He advised Council had several routes to go for financing the purchase price of \$220,000. These being: 1. Get a conventional loan. 2. Issue bonds. 3. Use reserves. 4. Borrow the money from the Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund which is with the Housing and Community Development. The City Administration recommends that the City Council authorize the City Administration to take the necessary steps to borrow the money from the Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund.

Mr. Ramey advised he was available to take any member of Council on a tour of this project and also answer any questions they may have.

14930

Mr. Ward further advised Council that the loan from the Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund would be at 8% interest and that the City has been approved for this loan.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved that the City Manager continue to pursue the 8% funds from the Department of Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to use City reserve funds for interim financing if necessary on this project.

Councilman McCall asked that Mr. Ramey furnish Council with an updated proforma based on the cost overruns at a future meeting.

The Commissioner of Revenue had supplied Council with information regarding refund on 1989 Personal Property Tax by Siemens Corporation in the amount of \$68.45 which had been assessed in error.

14931

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to reimburse Siemens Corporation \$68.45 to cover payment of 1989 Personal Property Taxes which had been erroneously assessed.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous 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.

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The Mayor 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 into regular session.

14933

The Mayor declared the meeting in regular session.

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Executive Session with each member answering aye. The Clerk then read the entire Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt a Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. (Insert)

14934

The Mayor announced there were no announcements to be made regarding the appointments to the Cumberland Airport Commission and the Social Services Advisory Board.

14935

In the comments by the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the City Christmas Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 6, 1990 at 7:00 p.m. and that all Council members and spouses are invited. He further advised that the City offices will be closed November 22 and 23 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Mr. Ward informed Council of an Aluminum Can Recycling Contest during the month of October at Norton Elementary conducted by the City Parks and Recreation Department which netted 19,571 aluminum cans.

During the monthly area managers luncheon held last week, Mr. Ward advised that solid waste management had been discussed. Each locality must have a Solid Waste Plan by July 1, 1991 and the managers decided to have one plan for the entire area which is applicable to the law. The County is going to pursue this plan with each locality paying their share of the costs on a per capita basis. The money for the City of Norton's share is included in the current budget and Mr. Ward was seeking a consensus from Council as to whether they wished to proceed in this manner. Estimated total cost of this plan is \$25,000 to \$30,000.

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Following a brief discussion, Council advised Mr. Ward to proceed with the joint Solid Waste Plan paying the City's share from budgeted funds in the operating budget.

The City Manager advised that he would be bringing the Blackwood Sewer Project back to Council at the next meeting for discussion.

Mr. Ward advised Council that one City employee, Mr. Lonnie Williams, is a member of the National Guard Unit in Big Stone Gap, and that there is a good possibility that he will have to report to Fort Eustis, Virginia for additional training for possible deployment to the Middle East.

Councilman William Mays spoke regarding the traffic at the Holiday Inn/Walmart area. As Captain of the Norton Rescue Squad, he stated there have been many serious accidents in this location. Even though the City Administration is working on this with VDOT, he urges that the Mayor write a letter to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

14937

Mr. Ward advised that the City has requested VDOT to look at two different items - one being the speed limit going from 45 to 55 at the bridge to be reduced and secondly, installation of a traffic light. VDOT has advised they will reduce the speed limit to 45 and they are still looking at the possibility of installing a traffic light.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council that the Mayor forward a letter to the Virginia Department of Transportation regarding this area.

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

*B. Robert Raines*

B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

*Mary D. Brown*, Clerk