

The regular meeting of the Town Council met in the temporary town hall on the above date at 7:30 P.M. with Mayor B.E. Ball presiding.

All members of the council were present and answered to the roll call.

Minutes of the previous meetings were read and approved.

The Mayor announced it was now time to have the public hearing on the 1953-54 budget as preliminarily adopted on May 7, 1953. The manager announced that the budget had been advertised as required and the public hearing was now open.

Mr. C.L. Porter, Mr. George Bloomer and Mr. Joe Caruso, & Mr. J.T. Franklin spoke against the proposed increase of 15¢ for merchants capital tax. A brief discussion was held on the proposed increase and it was pointed out to those appearing that certain benefits would be directly derived by town for such an increase after which two of the merchants withdrew their objection. #153

The Mayor ask if there were any other additional comments to be made and after some various explanatory remarks a motion prevailed that the budget for 1953-54 be adopted.

A taxi application from David Preston Wells was read and receiving no adverse criticism from the town manager and police deaprtment the same was unanimously approved. #154

The town manager announced there was a vacancy on the school board as of July 1st and he further advised that Mr. Frank R. Jones term was expiring.

A motion then prevailed that Mr. Frank R. Jones be reappointed to Town of Norton School Board for term of ~~three~~ years beginning July 1, 1953. #155

A brief discussion was held on the existing business license after which a motion prevailed that the existing committee on business license appointed in 1952 be discharged and that the Mayor be empowered to appoint a new committee to study revisions to the business license code. #156

Mr. McCord announced that he had secured information on the insurance question discussed at the last meeting and he read a proposal from the Norton Insurance Agency concerning a builders risk policy on the new municipal building and public health center after which a motion prevailed that the new building as constructed and to be constructed be insured by a builders risk policy in a total of \$140,000. #157

A discussion was then held on the possible rental of the two properties owned by the Town which are part of the right of way for the new viaduct, after which a motion prevailed that the manager be empowered to rent these properties on a thirty days cancelable lease basis for not more than \$50.00 per month. #158

The manager announced that the State Health Department required an official signator on papers concerning the public health building construction. He further announced that the town manager had been the authorized signator. #159

On motion of Fred H. King duly seconded by W.R. Hammer and adopted, the Mayor B.E. Ball, is hereby authorized to sign all necessary papers for the Town of Norton, Virginia, in connection with the Hill-Burton Project for Wise County, Virginia.

A brief discussion took place on the question of out of town fires and on motion prevailing the matter was tabled. #160

Mr. J.B. Taggart appeared before council representing the committee appointed by council to study city transition. Mr. Taggart reported that the committee had held three meetings and they were progressing satisfactorily. He further petitioned council to permit the committee expenses for consultation with various state offices in an amount of approximately \$250.00. He further requested that council clarify to the public the purposes for which the committee was appointed in order to relieve any misunderstandings that might be in various persons minds. #161

On motion prevailing the committee was authorized \$250.00 for consultation expenses and further authorized the mayor to consult with the town attorney and prepare a suitable resolution for public presentation to the effect that the city transition committee was appointed to study the question "Should Norton Become a City of Second Class" and not any questions or problems concerning tax increase or decrease or tax valuations.

Mr. George Wharton appeared before Council relative to use of his property for airplane facilities. He advised that landings and takeoffs would be in line with the railroad right of way, therefore, he did not feel that there would be any danger to the residents of the town. #162

A motion then prevailed that Mr. Wharton's request be given favorable consideration and that he be so advised and suggested that he carry adequate liability insurance.

Mr. John Leho appeared before council relative to the road in the Dotson Southside addition requesting something to be done to the road. This matter was referred to the town manager. #163

Mr. Ball read a letter from the Virginia Magazine which letter advised that they were preparing a special issue of Norfolk & Western Railroad's one hundredth year anniversary and suggested that Norton take an advertisement in the magazine. After a brief discussion a motion prevailed that the Town of Norton enter into advertising with civic clubs in the amount of \$60.00. #164

A brief discussion was held on the appointment of an acting Town Manager and a motion prevailed that Mr. W.P. Kanto be appointed acting town manager until a successor for Mr. McCord is obtained at a salary to be agreed on by the mayor and Mr. Kanto, such salary not to exceed the amount paid to Mr. McCord. #165

The following resolutions were introduced by Mayor B.E. Ball who moved their adoption:

Whereas, the Highways running thru the Town of Norton are very much in need of center line striping, and

Whereas, the Town Council has not been successful in doing this work with its own forces and has been unable to contract for this work. #166

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Norton Town Council requests the State Highway Department to perform said center line striping at its earliest convenience at the expense of the Town of Norton.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Fred H. King and unanimously adopted.

Whereas, the Guest River Bridge at Esserville, just inside the corporate limits of the Town of Norton has been damaged, and

Whereas, it is the opinion of the Town Council of Norton, Virginia, that this damage can be repaired more economically by State forces than any other way.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Norton Town Council requests the State Highway Department to repair said damage at Town of Norton expense, which damage is estimated at \$467.50. #167

The motion was seconded by Mr. Fred H. King and unanimously adopted.

There being no further business before the council same adjourned.