

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, August 20, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by the Executive Director of the Wise County-City of Norton Chamber of Commerce, Joyce Payne.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the August 6, 2002 meeting as presented.

20253

During the audience for visitors, Fire Chief David Mullins advised that the Norton Fire Department had worked, in conjunction with the Wise County Shriners Club, on a fund raiser at the Wise County Fair.

Mr. Chris Jones, of the Norton Fire Department, advised that the joint venture earned approximately \$8,000 in profits.

Present on behalf of the Wise County Shriners Club were Jerry White, President, Ray Watson, and Gary Burgess, who presented the Fire Department with a plaque of appreciation. The Fire Department, in turn, presented the Shriners Club with a check in the amount of \$4,000 covering one-half of the profits from this project. These funds will go to the Crippled Children's Hospital.

20254

The Shriners' members expressed to Council their appreciation for the work that the Norton Fire Department and Rescue Squad do in conjunction with their organization.

Also during the Mayor's call for visitors, Michele Knox, Parks and Recreation Director for the City, advised Council that the winning posters for the Keep Norton Clean Poster Contest were hanging in Council Chambers. One of the winners, Shelby Carico, was present with her mother and her grandparents and was recognized by Mayor Raines.

20255

Mayor Raines thanked the representatives of the Wise County Shriners Club, the Norton Fire Department, and the Parks and Recreation Department for their work with children.

Council had been presented with A Resolution Extending a Non-Exclusive Franchise to Century Virginia Corporation, d.b.a. Adelpia Communications to Operate a Community Antenna Television System in the Jurisdictional Areas of the City of Norton, Virginia.

Mr. Ward advised that this franchise date had been extended once before and since Adelpia has declared bankruptcy, our consultant feels that this deadline of December 31, 2002 will take care of this franchise until the restructuring takes place.

20256

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines,

NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Extending a Non-Exclusive Franchise to Century Virginia Corporation, d.b.a. Adelpia Communications to Operate a Community Antenna Television System in the Jurisdictional Areas of the City of Norton, Virginia. (Insert)

Council had a request to amend the contract with K.W. Poore and Associates, the City's consultants on the proposed housing project. Mr. Ward advised that he and Mr. Poore had met with representatives of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development on the City's submitted project application, which did not receive funding. They advised of changes that could be made and encouraged the City to resubmit this project during the next funding period.

In order to do this resubmission of the application, the City Administration recommends amending the current contract with K. W. Poore and Associates to increase the scope of their services in the amount of \$8,500, with said funds to come from Contingency.

20257

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve an amendment in the amount of \$8,500 to the contract with K. W. Poore and Associates for the scope of services provided, with said funds to come from Contingency.

Council had in their packets a draft ordinance amending Section 13-68 of the Norton City Code as pertains to penalties for parking violations.

Mr. Ward advised that this had been discussed by Council previously and he had been asked to check into this and bring information for Council to review. According to the City Manager, no changes had been made in fines on this section of City Code since 1975 with the exception of the handicap parking fine. In early spring, two local businesses with private parking lots had expressed to Council their problem with non-customer parking in these lots and the Parking Commission looked at this issue.

Mr. Ward briefly went over the increase in the fines contained in this Code Section and advised that these increases are being considered as a deterrent to this problem and not as a revenue-making item.

20258

Following a discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager and the City Attorney to work on this ordinance and bring it to Council for review. One of the changes on this draft ordinance is to move Item #8 – All Other Parking Violations as Item #9 and to change Item #8 to Parking on Private Lots with a penalty of \$20.00.

Mr. Ward brought to Council's attention a problem with dog waste in the City's parks. Also present tonight was Michele Knox, City Parks and Recreation Director. The City Manager advised that this was a problem especially at the 11th Street Park. He briefly discussed several options that Council could take on this problem. These were the adoption of an ordinance further regulating dogs at the city parks; establishing a voluntary program to allow pet owners an easy means to collect and dispose of said waste; and subject to the concurrence of the City Attorney, begin enforcement under the litter laws of the City.

Also present and speaking on this problem were Mrs. Becky Hash, a resident of Pine Street, and Mrs. Joyce Payne, Executive Director of the Wise County-City of Norton Chamber of Commerce.

20259

Following a discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager and the City Attorney to work on a draft ordinance covering the entire City requiring pet owners to collect and dispose of their animal's waste and bring same back to Council for review.

Mr. Ward presented Council with an update on various water issues. Items that he briefly discussed were:

Reservoir levels – The City is now at a combined capacity of 68 million gallons and the City is purchasing approximately 350,000 gallons per day from the Wise County PSA.

Water Line Replacement Project – Rural Development has concurred that R.S. Jones will be awarded the project. Also, due to bids being less than anticipated, there may be some funds left over that can be used on other projects. It was the consensus of Council for the City Administration to prioritize these projects and bring this list back to them for review should these extra funds materialize.

Norton/Big Stone Gap Interconnect/Big Cherry Dam Project – The City is continuing to obtain Water User Agreements from the residents of Hoot Owl Hollow. This project hopefully will be advertised this fall with construction to begin in 2003. After attending a meeting today, Mr. Ward advised there may be a delay in the Big Cherry Dam Project due to the Town of Big Stone Gap having some problems obtaining some permits from the Corps of Engineers.

20260

21st Street Water Project – The City has received notification from the Health Department that a Construction Grant in the amount of \$50,000 has been awarded to the City. The project is in the design phase and could be under construction by late winter or early spring.

Meter Replacement Program – The City has replaced approximately 1,000 meters within the system and plans to replace an additional 1,000 meters during 2002-03.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

20261

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting.

20262

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering yes. The Clerk then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines – NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

20263

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Lenowisco Disability Services Board for a three year term, which will expire on August 31, 2005.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Michele Knox to be reappointed to the Lenowisco Disability Services Board for a three year term, which will expire on August 31, 2005.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared Michele Knox reappointed to the Lenowisco Disability Services Board for a three year term to expire on August 31, 2005.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the City had received paving bids and that the low bid was W-L Construction at a price of \$47.60 per ton with a start date of early September.


There were no comments from the City Attorney.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk