

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 3, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt

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

The invocation was given by Rev. Shawn Easterling and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by the Assistant City Manager, Fred Ramey.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the August 20, 2002 meeting as presented.

20267

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

20268

The City Treasurer, Mrs. Barbara Muir, spoke to Council and presented her annual report.

She discussed briefly with them the 2001 tax collections, the total tax collection from 1990 to 2001, uncollected personal property tax from 1997 to 2001, and unpaid real estate taxes, total investments, and bill in equity sale.

20269

The City Attorney is working with Mrs. Muir on the 33 parcels to be sold in the bill in equity sale and advised that several will be very difficult to research.

Mayor Raines thanked Mrs. Muir for her presentation.

At the August 20, 2002 meeting, Council had advised the City Manager and City Attorney to work on a draft ordinance regarding further regulation of dogs in the City. An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Regulating the Activities of Dogs Within the City and Providing Penalties for Violations was included in Council's packets for review.

Mr. Ward advised that Section 1 of this ordinance covers public property, Section 2 covers private property, and Section 3 covers penalty.

20270

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council that in Section 2 regarding private property, the stipulation regarding immediate removal be added as in Section 1, change public property to private property, and to also denote gender of the owner in the ordinance. Mr. Ward was also authorized to advertise a public hearing for the October 1st meeting and this ordinance could go into effect the first of November.

Mayor Raines again advised that this will take education and enforcement and asked that the City Manager bring some samples of commercial items that can be used to help with this problem at this meeting.

Council had been presented with a draft ordinance entitled An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 13-68 of the Norton City Code as Pertains to Penalties for Parking Violations.

Mr. Ward advised Council that he had made the changes as instructed at the last meeting on this ordinance.

2027

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to advertise a public hearing on this ordinance as submitted tonight for the October 1st meeting. The effective date on this ordinance will be 60 days from adoption rather than the 30 days due to the fact that new parking tickets will have to be ordered.

The City Manager gave Council an update of various water issues. He advised that as of today we have a total combined capacity of 61.8 million gallons in our reservoirs. We are still purchasing water from the Wise County Public Service Authority in the eastern section of the City and are monitoring the situation frequently before purchasing additional water from them.

20272

The Water Line Replacement Project is still going forward. Rural Development has approved and executed the award document and this project should be under construction late this month or early in October.

The Norton/Big Stone Gap/Big Cherry Dam Project is progressing. The City is still in the process of obtaining the Water User Agreements from the residents of Hoot Owl Hollow.

Council had a copy of a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$160,000 for approval.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$160,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

20272

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that Council had in their packets a letter from the Commissioner of Revenue inviting Council and their spouses to attend a "Night at the Barter" during the annual Commissioner of Revenue's Association Conference, which will be held in Abingdon on Tuesday, October 22nd at 8:30 p.m. Members of Council need to notify Mr. Ward by September 6th if they will be able to attend.

20274

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

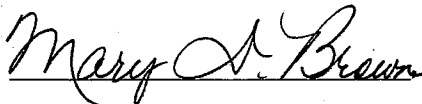
20275

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

 Clerk