

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Vice Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Jack Wallace, William Mays, Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Robert Raines

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 City of Norton Director of Social Services, Bill Stokes.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the October 1, 2002 meeting as presented.

20300

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

20301

Council had before them A Resolution Requesting a Charter Amendment to Require Candidates for City Council to Not Be Identified on the Ballot by Party Affiliation, on which a public hearing will be held tonight.

Mr. Ward advised that Council had previously discussed this item and, at the last meeting, directed both he and the City Attorney to prepare the proper resolution and advertise a public hearing. This resolution is in response to a bill that had been introduced into the legislature, which would make it mandatory for local candidates to declare party affiliation. Having failed to be adopted by the legislature this year, the Virginia Municipal League feels that it will be brought before the legislature again in 2003. By adopting this resolution, the traditional method used in our local elections may be preserved.

20302

There were no questions or comments from Council prior to the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

There being no public comments, Vice Mayor Mays closed the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, NO – None, ABSENT – Raines, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Requesting a Charter Amendment to Require Candidates for City Council to Not Be Identified on the Ballot by Party Affiliation. (Insert)

Mr. Ward advised Council that he will forward a copy of this resolution to our legislators tomorrow.

The Fire Department had forwarded to City Council for their consideration a list of their working officers for the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

Speaking to Council was Fire Chief D. C. Mullins, who respectfully submitted the names of the working officers.

20303

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the working officers of the Norton Fire Department as submitted for the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

The City Manager advised that as of today we had a total reservoir capacity of 44.83 million gallons. He advised that the City is doing well with the method it is using. The City is continuing to buy water from the Wise County Public Service Authority, and Council continues to ask for volunteer conservation from our citizens.

20304

A Pre-Construction Conference and Bond Signing was held on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> on the Water Line Replacement Project. A Notice to Proceed was issued to R. S. Jones Company, the contractor on this project. It is anticipated to be an 180 day project.

Regarding the Norton-Big Stone Gap Interconnect Project, some problems have arisen on the Big Cherry Dam Project, and this project must go forward first. It appears that it will be spring before either of these projects begins.

The City Attorney advised that there will an amendment on the contract for the Interconnect Project, which will be coming to Council in the near future.

The next scheduled Council Meeting is Tuesday, November 5, 2002, which is Election Day. There are three members of Council running for re-election unopposed, and Mr. Ward asked for Council's guidance on the scheduling of this meeting. If held, we have to select a new meeting location.

20305

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to cancel the first meeting in November due to the election.

At this time, Vice Mayor Mays welcomed Jenay Tate of the Coalfield Progress to the meeting.

20306

Mr. Bill Stokes, Director of the City of Norton Department of Social Services, presented Council with his annual report. Mr. Stokes advised that his report covers the fiscal year ending 6/30/02, and he gave Council a handout covering this. He then presented to Council a brief synopsis.

Mr. Stokes advised that the last food stamps were issued and the implementation of the EBT Program began during this year. He also lost two of his employees to retirement, one with 42 years of service and the other with 31, and he has promoted internally to those positions.

20307

Mr. Stokes advised that he would be happy to answer any questions from Council.

Council had before them a check in the amount of the \$130,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools for approval.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$130,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

20308

At this time, Councilman Joseph Hunnicutt recognized and welcomed Ms. Amy Gately, who is now covering the City of Norton for the Kingsport Times-News, to tonight's meeting.

20309

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous 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.

Vice Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

20310

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

Vice Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

20311

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, NO – None, ABSENT – Raines, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

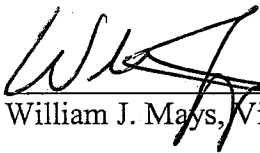
20312

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the Assistant City Manager, Mr. Ramey, had brought him a copy of Governor Warner's remarks with the first round of cuts on the state budget as presented tonight. He briefly went over these cuts with Council.

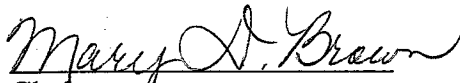
20313

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
William J. Mays, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk