

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, August 7, 2001 at the Council Chambers 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. Steve Conerly 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 Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the July 17, 2001 meeting as presented.

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

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Council held a public hearing on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 21-21 (b) 12 and Section 21-38 (a) of the City Code.

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council.

The City Attorney advised that he has reviewed several decisions and feels that the case he cited to Council at their last meeting pertaining to the City's Sign Ordinance still stands.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

There being no public input, Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

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

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 21-21 (b) 12 and Section 21-38 (a) of the City Code. (Insert)

19963

Council had a request to execute an agreement for engineering services for the Water Line Replacement Project.

Mr. Ward gave Council a brief update on water issues. He advised that both reservoirs are full and overflowing and we appear to be in good shape for the fall as to the capacity of the reservoirs.

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He further advised that last week Ron Flanary of Lenowisco, Senator William Wampler, Delegate Kilgore, Skip Skinner of Lenowisco, and he flew to Richmond for the purpose of seeking funding on the Big Stone Gap/City of Norton Interconnect Project since the Community Development Block Grant that the City had applied for on this project was not funded. During a meeting with Bill Shelton of the Department of Housing and Community Development, Tom Gray of the Health Department, and Carrie Schmidt of Rural Development, it appears that, although nothing is definite, the

Department of Housing and Community Development would be receptive for the City to make an application for a \$500,000 Appalachian Regional Commission Grant for this project. The City also received some word that the Health Department would work with us to fund the remainder of this project with very low interest loan money or no interest loan money. The trip was very worthwhile, and the people in Richmond were very encouraging in trying to provide some assistance.

Ms. Schmidt advised that we may be eligible for \$450,000-\$500,000 in Rural Development grant monies and the rest of the \$1,500,000 for this project would be low interest loan money.

Council authorized the City Manager to procure professional services for the basic design of this water line project and the City staff has gone through the necessary phases of procurement. They recommend that Lane Engineering be selected as the engineer of record for the City. Mr. Ward is seeking Council's authorization to enter into a contract with Lane Engineering for the design of the water line replacement project in the amount of \$82,200. These funds are subject to being reimbursed from Rural Development. Any costs we may incur prior to receiving any loans/grants from Rural Development and also the contract itself, if Council concurs and authorizes execution, would have to be approved by Rural Development. He ask that Council give this favorable consideration.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the execution of a contract with Lane Engineering for the basic design of the water line replacement project in the amount of \$82,200 subject to the approval of the financing agencies.

Mr. Ward had furnished Council in their packets information on the upcoming Virginia Municipal League Conference to be held in Virginia Beach October 14th through 16th.

He asked that the members of Council advise him as soon as possible if they will be able to attend in order that he might make their reservations.

Council had a request from the Virginia Municipal League to adopt a Statewide Mutual Aid for Emergency Management Model Authorizing Resolution. Mr. Ward advised that this resolution formalizes existing policy that we have as far as cooperating with other municipalities in an emergency or disaster. It sets forth some guidelines and rules. He stated that this would not place the City in a position of liability.

Mr. Bradshaw spoke briefly on this resolution.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council adopted a Statewide Mutual Aid for Emergency Management Model Authorizing Resolution. (Insert)

Mr. Ward distributed to Council books containing the Pilot Housing Study Document which had been requested by Council approximately one year ago. This study has been funded in part by the Community Development Block Grant Just In Time Funds and the Virginia Coalfield Coalition.

Mr. Ward had a map present and showed Council where the sites are located. Phase 1 of this project would cover 60 lots at a cost of \$933,000. The second phase would cover

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105 lots at a cost of \$2.5 million dollars. This phase would cover the development of streets, utilities, and lot layout. The City staff recommends that the City Council consider participating in Phase 1 of the project. This phase would be funded by applying, in April of 2002, for a \$700,000 Community Development Block Grant. The remaining amount of \$233,000 would be sought from applying this month for an Appalachian Regional Commission Grant. At this point, the City would not participate in Phase 2 of this project. BoCo Limited, owners of the property, have worked well with the City. Also working with this project have been the housing and development community, realtors in our area, and bankers.

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The City Manager advised that he thinks this study is a good document and a good first step to improving housing. He asked that Council review this document within the next two weeks. If there are any questions, he would be glad to answer them. Also, if Council approves, there will be a request at the next meeting to apply for an Appalachian Regional Commission Grant for funds to help with this project.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Ward for this presentation and advised him to bring back to Council, at their next meeting, an application to the ARC for \$233,000 for Council's consideration.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per 2.1-344 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

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Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

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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 aye. 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)

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In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that:

The Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA) will be having their next meeting in Norton at the Holiday Inn on August 16th at 5:00 p.m. Council is invited to attend; however, Mr. Ward must RSVP by August 10th. He also advised that this would be a good opportunity to thank them for their portion of the Hotel Norton Funding.

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At Council's next meeting, an update on Phase 2 of the Hotel Norton Project will be given.

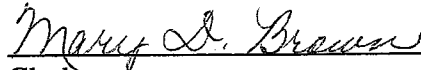
The swimming pool will close on Sunday, August 12th, for the season. Later in the year, the Parks and Recreation Director, Ms. Knox, will report to Council on parks and recreation summer operations.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk