

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, September 18, 2001 at the Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Absent: Joseph Fawbush

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

Mayor Raines spoke briefly on the events of the last week. These events being the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City; the attack on the Pentagon in Washington, and the plane which crashed in Pennsylvania after being diverted by the passengers. Prior to our invocation tonight, he asked that Council take action on A Resolution Supporting the President as he and his national security team work to defend against any additional attacks, find the perpetrators, and bring them to justice.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous vote: Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Raines – YES, NO – None, ABSENT – Fawbush, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Supporting the President as he and his national security team work to defend against any additional attacks, find the perpetrators, and bring them to justice. (Insert)

19984

The invocation was given by Rev. Gwen Owens and was followed by the pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Police Captain Kenneth Jackson.

19985

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the August 21, 1001 council meeting as presented.

19986

There was no response to the audience for visitors.

19987

City Treasurer Joseph Stallard was present and gave Council his annual report. Mr. Stallard advised this would be his last report as he would be retiring at the end of the year. Also present tonight was Mrs. Barbara Muir, Mr. Stallard's deputy, who is running unopposed for this office.

Mr. Stallard briefly went over his report and answered questions from Council.

19988

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Stallard for his presentation and also for the tremendous service he had done for the City during the past twelve years. He further advised that Mr. Stallard would be missed.

Mr. Ward passed out to the members of Council the annual Comparative Cost Report and then gave Council a brief synopsis of it. He then showed Council a comparison of the City of Norton with the Towns of Wise, Big Stone Gap, and Abingdon.

19989

There were no questions from Council regarding this Comparative Cost Report or the information on the comparison which Mr. Ward had supplied.

Council had been presented in their packets a proposed survey, which will be used in conjunction with the new Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Ward advised this is the latest version of the survey and the City hopes to get it finalized soon. He stated that the views of our citizens are being sought and these surveys will be mailed out soon.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Raines advised Council if they had any changes on this survey to contact Mr. Ward.

19990

Council had been given A Resolution Authorizing Membership on the RADA Board of Directors. Mayor Raines advised that Ms. Laura Weldon, Executive Director of the Rural Areas Development Association (RADA) was present at our last meeting advising that Norton can have representation on this Board if they so choose with six members. Two of these members have to be from government, two from business or industry, and two from target income areas.

19991

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT - Fawbush, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing Membership on the RADA Board of Directors. (Insert)

Council had been presented with A Proclamation Supporting Constitution Week. The Clerk read the proclamation and upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Proclamation Supporting Constitution Week from September 17th through the 23rd. (Insert)

19992

Council had been presented with a copy of a check in the amount of \$225,000.00 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$225,000.00 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

19993

At this time, Mayor Raines recognized some individuals who had come into the meeting late and had missed the call for visitors.

Ms. Doris Parker of St. Paul spoke to Council advising that she had inquired about moving a trailer into the City. She had talked with Mr. Hurt and had complied with his requirements; however, after moving the trailer into Norton and trying to get permits to get utilities turned on, she was advised by Mr. Hurt that the City could not accept this trailer as it was a 1972 model. The City will only allow trailers from 1976 forward. She was looking for some action from Council to get the utilities turned on temporarily until something could be worked out.

19994

Mr. Ward advised that the City is trying to research this problem and see what can be done. This issue may have to be taken to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mayor Raines advised Ms. Parker to continue to work with the City Administration and see what appeals she can use.

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

19995

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting. 19996
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. 19997
Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – Fawbush, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the RADA Board of Directors.
Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Mayor Raines and Councilman Wallace.
Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease. 19998
Mayor Raines declared B. Robert Raines and Jack Wallace appointed to the RADA Board of Directors.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for the unexpired term of Mr. Charles Litton, which will expire on January 28, 2005.
William Mays nominated Mrs. Margaret McAfee to be appointed to this Authority.
Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease. 19999
Mayor Raines declared Mrs. Margaret McAfee appointed to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for the unexpired term of Mr. Charles Litton, which will expire on January 28, 2005.

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

He had been advised by the Clerk that the State Library Archives and Record Division will be here tomorrow to collect our council minutes to be put on microfilm for storage at the library. These minutes cover from December 1994 to the minutes that were adopted at tonight's meeting (August 21, 2001).

He had handed out a memo to Council tonight regarding the City of Norton-Big Stone Gap Interconnect Project We have applied for a \$500,000 grant from the ARC and the balance of \$1,148,000 will be funded by the Health Department at a zero percent 30 year loan which will be divided equally between the City and the town. This will increase our debt service by \$19,141 for the next 30 years. This financial package will be brought to Council shortly. 20000

The fourth annual City of Norton-Town of Wise softball game was played on Sunday, September 16th and the City won by a score of 7-1. The trophy is on display in the City Manager's Office.

Mayor Raines asked the Assistant City Manager to give an update on the Hotel Norton Project.
Mr. Ramey advised that the project is 40% complete and that they anticipate to have the tenant on the 6th floor, as well as the 2nd floor, on November 1st. The tenant should be on the 5th Floor on December 15th. 20001

Closing on the VCEDA loan will be on Monday at 11:00 in Council Chambers. Council is invited to attend if they wish. Mr. Ramey further advised that he would be like to take Council on a tour of the Hotel if they would so chose.

Councilman Mays suggested that Council tour the Hotel prior to the next Council Meeting. It was decided that Council should meet at the Hotel at 6:30 on October 2, 2001.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

20002

Mayor Raines advised he still had a problem with the sidewalks on the 500 block of Park Avenue. He advised that he understood that the Highway Department has received their work order on this. He suggested that the City Manager write them a letter asking that this project be expedited.

Councilman Hunnicutt also advised that several businesses had been closed from traffic over the week-end between 10th and 11th Streets.

20003

Mr. Ward will address this in the same letter.

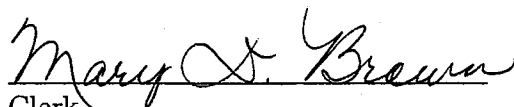
There being no further business to come the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk