

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager

Absent: Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by Mr. Matt Boone, a member of Mr. Terry Roop's government class from John I. Burton High School.

At this time, the City Attorney took his seat.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 21, 2000 meeting as presented.

19561

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

19562

A public hearing was held to solicit input on a Department of Housing and Community Development Block Grant Application for the Norton Hotel Project.

Mayor Raines gave a brief history of previous grants and amounts that the City had been awarded in the past.

Mr. Ward advised this is the second public hearing held on this project as required by the Department of Housing and Community Development for making application for funding. The project the City is proposing is the Norton Hotel Development Project, an economic readiness project that will allow the City to seek assistance from the state in taking the next step to develop the hotel. The project calls for a 1.4 million dollar project. Mr. Ward briefly went over the budget to cover this project which, when completed, will have the lobby and the 5th floor in a readiness state, ready to market to a prospective tenant.

The application will request funding in the amount of \$541,500 from the Department of Housing and Community Development and the remaining \$863,594 will come from local, other state and/or federal sources. If Council does approve the submission of this application, it will be June or July before we know if it will be funded.

19563

The Norton Industrial and Development Authority, at their meeting held on Monday, April 3rd, supported the City Council in submitting this application.

Mr. Ward further advised that this is a new program and final regulations have not been completed and that the worst case scenario is that this funding may end up as a deferred loan subject to being repaid. The City will know the final regulations before we have to commit to the grant.

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.

Mr. Ward advised that on tonight's agenda there is a resolution that would authorize the City Manager to make an application to the Department of Housing and Community Development for Council's consideration.

Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, presented to Council their 2000-2001 budget. Mr. Sessoms gave a brief synopsis of this budget and then answered questions from Council.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines thanked Dr. Sessoms and the School Board Members present for the work done on this budget and advised that a public hearing will be held on this May 2nd.

19564

Mr. Ward advised Council that they need to set up a work session for both the City and School Board budgets after the next regular meeting of April 18th. It was the consensus of Council that this work session will be scheduled at this time.

Council had A Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Community Development Block Grant Application.

Mayor Raines advised Council that the Administration was on a tight schedule to submit this application if Council chooses to authorize the proposed Norton Hotel Project.

19565

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES - Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines - NO - None, ABSENT - None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the Submission of A Community Development Block Grant Application. (Insert)

Council had a request from Mr. John Steffey for a Special Use Permit to use city right-of-way to put in a double-wide home on property he has purchased off Virginia Avenue going toward Pine Hills.

Mr. Ward advised that there is a 50' wide paper street and there is access to Mr. Steffey's property now with a curb that had been cut.

19566

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve a Revocable Special Use Permit for Mr. John Steffey on property he has purchased which is located off of Virginia Avenue going toward Pine Hills.

Mr. Ward presented to Council this year's paving list for their consideration. Mr. Ward advised that we have budgeted \$150,000; however, the amount to be set aside for contractual paving is \$100,000. He advised that due to the rise in the cost of oil, the City fears the cost for asphalt will be higher than it has been in the past.

19567

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to proceed with bids on the list as submitted.

Council had been presented with A Proclamation Declaring Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Clerk read the proclamation and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt,

seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Proclamation Declaring Child Abuse Prevention Month. (Insert)

19568

Council had in their packets a copy of a check in the amount of \$175,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools for approval.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$175,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

19569

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

The City had received seven (7) proposals for the Comprehensive Water Study. The Administration will evaluate them and bring this information to Council.

Keep America Beautiful Month will be April 7 - April 17 and free rent-a-trucks and free pick-ups of items will be held during that time.

On Saturday, April 15th, the annual Wise County Chamber of Commerce dinner will be held at the Holiday Inn with a reception at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00. Council members were asked to advise him if they need tickets.

19570

On Thursday, June 15th, the Annual Treasurers' Convention will be held in Southwest Virginia and they will be attending the Barter Theater. Local government members and a guest are invited to the performance at the Barter.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

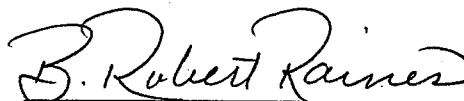
19571

Mayor Raines spoke briefly to the students in Mr. Roop's government class from J. I. Burton High School, welcomed them to tonight's meeting, and advised that Council looked forward to having their classmates at future meetings.

19572

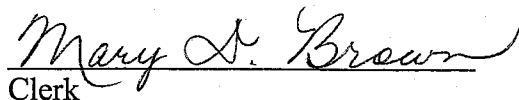
There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk