

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, May 18, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Absent: Jack Wallace

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 Fred Ramey, Assistant City Manager.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the May 4, 1999 meeting as presented.

19323

At this time, Mayor Raines asked Council's consideration for him to sign a Certificate of Recognition for Ms. Estelle Peters of Virginia Avenue who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Sunday, May 23, 1999.

19324

Mayor Raines read the entire Certificate of Recognition and it was the consensus of Council for Mayor Raines to sign this document.

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

19325

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 1999 thru June 30, 2000 Appropriating Funds for All Contemplated Expenses of the City for the Fiscal Year and Placing Levies Upon All Real Estate, Personal Property and Bank Stock, Licenses, Fees, User Charges, and All Other Levies as Previously Imposed or Modified Herein.

The City Manager advised there was a draft of the budget and a copy of the Public Notice Advertisement in Council's packets. The total of this budget, including schools, is almost \$14,000,000. Mr. Ward then briefly went over the budget with Council and advised that the General Fund Budget was balanced this year for the first time in many years. He further advised that the E-911 charge is being raised from \$.26 per phone line to \$1.00 per phone line per month in the General Fund Budget. Also in-town water rates will increase from \$2.20 per 1,000 gallons of water to \$2.35 per 1,000 gallons of water and out-of-town rates will increase from \$4.40 per 1,000 gallons of water to \$4.70 per 1,000 gallons of water per month and the service charge will increase from \$4.80 per meter per month to \$5.80 per meter per month in the Enterprise Fund. This is the first increase in water rates since 1990.

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

19326

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.

Mayor Raines commended Mr. Ward and all City employees who had worked on the preparation of this budget.

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 23-252 of the Norton City Code.

Mr. Ward advised this ordinance covers an increase in the amount levied from \$.26 to \$1.00 per telephone line per month and this increase will be effective July 1, 1999.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

19327

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

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following roll call vote: Hunnicutt, Mays, Fawbush, Raines - YES, NO - None, Wallace - ABSENT, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 23-252 of the Norton City Code. (Insert)

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 25-52 of the Norton City Code.

Mr. Ward advised this ordinance covers the due date for water and sewer bills if the fifteenth of the month falls on a weekend or state or federal holiday. This has proven to cause the City problems in the past.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

19328

The City Attorney advised that this was a housekeeping item that was needed.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: Hunnicutt, Mays, Fawbush, Raines - YES, NO - None, Wallace - ABSENT, Council moved to adopt An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Amending Section 25-52 of the Norton City Code. (Insert)

Mr. Ward advised a public hearing had been held at our last meeting on the City of Norton 1999 - 2000 School Board Budget.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the City of Norton 1999 - 2000 School Board Budget in the amount of \$5,115,314 with local funds in the amount of \$1,458,913.

19329

Mr. Rex McCarty, a representative of the Ninth District Tourism Marketing Coalition, a consortium of leading tourism organizations serving southwest Virginia, consisting of the Virginia Coalfield Tourism Authority and the Virginia S. W. Blue Ridge Highlands, the Virginia Tourism Corporation 9th District Development Financing, Incorporated, and Congressman Boucher's Tourism Marketing Steering Committee, was present to talk with Council and present a slide show. Also present was Mr. Jim Whitten.

Mr. McCarty discussed with Council the results of Congressman Boucher's Tourism Summit which met last fall and the above members of the Ninth District Tourism Marketing Coalition meetings since that summit. A Plan of Action was developed with an aggressive media campaign totaling \$1,000,000.

Congressman Boucher is seeking federal appropriation on this project and the 9th District Tourism Coalition will be submitting an application for federal funding that requires local match. Results of this application will not be known until late summer or fall. They are asking all counties, cities, towns, and planning district commissions, in the 9th Congressional District to consider supporting this effort by appropriating funds in their year 2000 budget. The amount for the City of Norton is \$8,399. 19330

Mayor Raines advised Mr. McCarty that the City supported this media campaign and thanked him for his presentation.

Mr. McCarty thanked Council for their time and answered questions from Council.

Council had in their packets A Resolution Joining Wise County in a Regional Application for Planning Funds for the Regional Business and Technology Park.

Mr. Ward advised that the Wise County Industrial Development Authority has asked us to be a co-applicant on an application for a planning grant to do some additional preliminary engineering and geotechnical work for the Lonesome Pine Regional Business and Technology Park, which is located near the airport outside of Wise. The requirements, in order to obtain these funds from the Department of Housing and Community Development, are that it has to be considered a regional project and in order to do so, you have to have at least two local governments making application as co-applicants. The Wise County Board of Supervisors will be the lead applicant and we will be the co-applicant. 19331

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: Hunnicutt, Mays, Fawbush, Raines - YES, NO - None, Wallace - ABSENT, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Joining Wise County in a Regional Application for Planning Funds for the Regional Business and Technology Park. (Insert)

Council had a check in the amount of \$185,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$185,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools. 19332

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel as per Section 2.1-344(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. 19333

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into regular session. 19334

Mayor Raines declared the meeting back in regular session.

The Clerk polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Executive Meeting with each answering aye. The Clerk then read the entire Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph 19335

Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: Hunnicutt, Mays, Fawbush, Raines - YES, NO - None, Wallace - ABSENT, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Raines advised no action had been taken in the Executive Session.

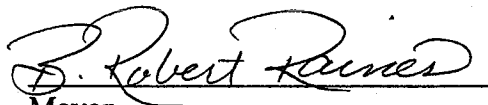
19336

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the City was in receipt of a plaque from the Wise County Clean Team for our Adopt-A-Truck Program. He further advised that we had placed an advertisement for bids on the 11th Street Pump Station. Bids are to be opened on June 15th. A contract will be signed after that.

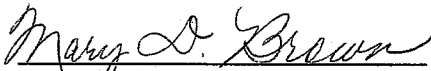
19337

There were no comments from the City Attorney or Council; therefore the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk