

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Wednesday, May 21, 1996, at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Roy Roberts, Jack Wallace, William Mays, Ron McCall, and Robert Raines

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Joe Pippin, City Attorney

The invocation was given by the Rev. Bob Kespelher which was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by the Chief of Police, Sam A. Mongle.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the May 8, 1996 meeting as presented.

17493

At this time, Mayor Raines amended the agenda as follows:

Under Item 6-B Old Business - An update on Cable TV Rates which will be handled by the City Attorney.

Under New Business - 7-B-1 A Proclamation Designating the Week of May 19 - 25, 1996 as Emergency Medical Services Week.

17494

Under Executive Session, the discussion of a proposed business locating in the community where no previous announcement has been made as per 2.1-344(A) (5) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

During the audience for visitors, Mr. Chris Jones, of the Norton Kiwanis Club, spoke to Council advising that they had been notified they are the recipients of the \$5,000 Benges Rock Grant which they had presented to Council previously. He expressed appreciation to Council for allowing them to participate in this grant. He further advised Council of the opening of the Native American/Mulengeon Historical Museum on Park Avenue. This museum will be open from May 23 to June 16 and will contain Indian artifacts from this area. He invited Council to visit this museum and to attend Thursday's press conference to be held at 10:00.

17495

On behalf of Council, Mayor Raines expressed his appreciation to Chris and the Kiwanis Club for their work on this project.

A public hearing was held on An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 1996 Thru June 30, 1997 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 the budget has been advertised properly and went over the changes in this budget which are: Real estate tax budgeted at \$ .70 per \$100 of assessed value, Meals Tax at 5%, and Transient Occupancy Tax at 4%. All other fees remain as established previously by City Council.

17496

The General Fund Proposed budget totals \$5,971,304, Water & Sewer Fund Budget totals \$ 1,687,760, Norton City Schools Budget totals \$4,589,695, Social Services Budget totals \$633,125, and Downtown Re-development Fund Budget totals \$1,103,500. Mr. Ward also presented Council with handouts depicting the budget in a different way and went over these.

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

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

There were no public comments and Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

Councilman McCall complimented the City Manager on this budget document.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Raines advised the City Manager to put this ordinance on the next agenda for adoption.

The City Attorney spoke to Council regarding Cable Television Rates and advised them that the City has sent eight certified letters to Century Communications and he believes that we are only one motion away from complying with their requirements toward regulation of basic cable service in Norton. He further advised that Century has elected to be as technical as they can possibly be in order to avoid regulation by the City. Century's New Jersey Corporation Counsel has indicated that a motion adopting regulations consistent with FCC regulations providing an opportunity for interested parties to comment on raise increases would be sufficient and for any future rate increases, the City of Norton would be considered by Century to be a properly franchised regulatory authority. Mr. Pippin's recommendation would be to adopt such a resolution and to then submit that along with the other eight certified items to Century, and obtain a written agreement from them that the City of Norton has complied with all legal requirements and is a franchising authority. If Century will not commit by writing, they have done so by telephone. If they do not commit in writing, he recommends that we file suit rather than continue as it has been. This adoption of regulations providing interested parties a reasonable opportunity to make comment should be the last hurdle.

17487

Mr. Pippin has prepared this motion and given out copies to Council.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the City of Norton does hereby adopt regulations with respect to basic cable service that are consistent with the regulations adopted by the FCC and which shall provide a reasonable opportunity for consideration of the views of interested parties. (Insert)

Mr. Pippin advised he would follow up on this.

The City Manager gave Council an update on the Second Street Bridge located in the Round Town Section of Norton. He advised this bridge is the one in our Urban Plan to be replaced. The time frame, as Council was advised by Mr. Vince Valenti of VDOT at our last Council meeting, is advertisement in July and construction expected to begin this fall and completion in fall of 1997. The new bridge will be built beside the present bridge and the plan had been to use the existing bridge until such time as the new bridge could go into service.

17498

On May 13th, Mr. Ward received a report from our bridge inspector engineers, Mattern and Craig, advising that on their annual bridge inspections they have some extreme concern about the Second Street Bridge as far as deterioration from the previous year. It is a lot worse. Mr. Ward, in turn, contacted Mr. Leland Branham, Resident Engineer, and they met on site with a representative from the tippie in that area, Mr. Jim Gott. They looked at alternatives to accommodate the truck traffic as well as protect the integrity of the bridge until such time as it can be replaced. The best alternative is to put in a bailey bridge which would be erected on a temporary basis. This will be done on May 28th. It will require that the existing bridge be closed for one day and maybe two until the bailey bridge can be constructed by the Highway Department. The bridge will be one lane in nature and no weight restrictions will be on it. VDOT feels that this bridge could be utilized until the new bridge can be completed in the fall of 1997.

Mr. Ward advised the citizens of Round Town would be notified of this work.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Ward for this update.

Council had in their packets a Proclamation Recognizing Anna Jackson, Teacher at John I. Burton High School, who will be retiring at the end of this school year due to illness.

Mayor Raines read this proclamation which declares May 31, 1996 as Anna Lawson Jackson Day in the City of Norton.

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt this proclamation and declared May 31, 1996 as Anna Lawson Jackson Day in the City of Norton. (Insert) Mayor Raines advised he would be happy to present this proclamation of Mrs. Jackson.

17499

Council had been given a Proclamation Designating the Week of May 19 - 25, 1996 as Emergency Medical Services Week.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Proclamation Designating the Week of May 19 - 25, 1996 as Emergency Medical Services Week in the City of Norton.

17500

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel as per 2.1-344(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia as amended and discussion of a prospective business locating in the community where no previous announcement has been made as per 2.1-344(A) (5) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

17501

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

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

17502

Mayor Raines declared the meeting back in regular session.

The Clerk then 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 Roy Roberts, seconded by Ron McCall, and

17503

passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Community Services Board for a two year term which will expire on May 1, 1998.

William Mays nominated Mrs. Barbara Caruso be reappointed to this Board.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared Mrs. Barbara Caruso reappointed to the Community Services Board for a two year term which will expire on May 1, 1998.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations of a citizen representative to the Youth Services Board for a four year term which will expire on May 2, 2000.

Jack Wallace nominated Ms. Leola Yeary to be reappointed to this Board.

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared Ms. Leola Yeary reappointed to the Youth Services Board as a citizen representative for a four year term which will expire on May 2, 2000.

In his comments, the City Manager advised:


City offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, 1996 for the Memorial Day holiday.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk