

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, November 21, 1995 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 Dr. Miller Liston and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by the Director of Social Services, Bill Stokes.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the October 17, 1995 meeting as presented.

17341

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

17342

An update on the Norton Upper Dam Project was given by Mike Hatfield of Thompson and Litton Engineers. He advised that the weather conditions had slowed down the work on this project, but that, weather permitting, this project should be completed in another week. Mr. Hatfield then answered Council's questions.

17343

Mr. Bardin Thrower of the accounting firm of Thrower and Thrower presented Council and the City Manager with copies of the 1994-95 City of Norton Financial Audit and discussed it briefly with Council. He advised he would be happy to answer any questions Council may have after looking over this document.

17344

Mr. Thrower extended his thanks to the Constitutional Officers, the City Manager, and his staff for the assistance given during the time it took to prepare this audit.

Mr. Jon Rockett, Chairman of the City of Norton Planning Commission, spoke to Council regarding the possibility of what his Commission should be doing in the year of 1996. He advised that they had sought and secured some information from Mr. Sim Ewing of the Cooper Center for Public Service regarding the City of Norton and the Town of Wise. With the goal of establishing a larger economic center in Southwest Virginia, the City of Norton Planning Commission would like to meet with the Town of Wise Planning Commission. He requested that Council take this under advisement. He further advised this topic had been discussed with Mr. Ward, Mr. Ewing, and Mrs. Owens, the Wise Town Manager.

17345

Following a discussion, it was the consensus of Council that the City Manager correspond with the Wise Town Manager and pass a joint resolution for endorsement of both Planning Commissions to meet on this topic.

Councilman Ron McCall commended the Planning Commission for doing this project and stated that they have done a wonderful job.

Council had in their packets a resolution requesting the Virginia

Department of Transportation to acquire right-of-way for the Second Street Bridge Project.

Mr. Ward advised that VDOT was proceeding with the Round Town Second Street Project and had published a Notice of Willingness to hold a Combined Location and Design Public Hearing and had no request for a public hearing; therefore the location and major design features of this project have been approved. Council needs to adopt this resolution which states that they endorse the location and major design features, and they wish VDOT to acquire all rights-of-way required to construct this project.

17346

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt a Resolution Requesting VDOT to Acquire Right-of-Way for the Second Street Bridge Project. (Insert)

Council had an Agreement with the Powell River Rail Corporation which needs to be executed in order that the City receive a license authorizing the installation of sewer lines to the Spring Avenue area which will need to go under the railway. The City Manager asked Council's favorable consideration on this item.

17347

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the Mayor to execute the agreement with the Powell River Rail Corporation. (Insert)

In their packets, Council had a list of individuals who the City Administration would like to have appointed to the Norton Downtown Advisory Group. This organization grew out of a meeting the Assistant City Manager had conducted recently in conjunction with the Down Town Redevelopment Project.

17348

The Clerk read the list of individuals who had volunteered to serve on this committee. These individuals are: Allen Chadwell of Sofas and More, Marty Hagy of Hagy Funeral Home, George Hunnicutt, Jr. of Pepsi Cola Bottling, Margaret Trantham of AT&T, Virginia Stokes of the Norton Planning Commission, Wayne Perry of NationsBank, William Mays, City Councilman, Lu Ellsworth of the Appalachian Regional Law School, Margaret Bolling, Keepsake Frame & Art Gallery, and Don Farmer, an interested citizen.

At this time, Councilman Mays advised he would abstain from participation in this topic.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by the following vote: Roberts, Wallace, McCall, Raines - YES, Mays - ABSTAIN, Council confirmed the above listed individuals to serve on the Norton Down Town Advisory Group.

Mr. Ward advised that Council, in the 1995 Capital Improvement Project Meeting, decided to fund a study of the City's recreation facilities. The City advertised for proposals and received several. The City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and Parks and Recreation Director looked over these and selected the firm of Barge, Waggoner, Sumner, and Cannon of Knoxville, Tennessee to do this study. Information on the company and a contract were enclosed in Council's packets.

17349

Mr. Ward is now asking Council to concur with this selection and to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with this firm. The proposal is in excess of the amount appropriated; however the

balance can be absorbed in the current budget.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to execute the contract with Barge, Waggoner, Sumner, and Cannon of Knoxville, Tennessee.

Mr. Ward advised Council that on July 18, 1995, Council passed a resolution authorizing the City to comply with the Comprehensive Community Corrections Act. Our representative on this Board is our Chief of Police; however there are other individuals who need to be appointed by the various localities to serve on this Board which operates the Southwest Virginia Community Corrections Program. These individuals are: Bill Price, Chief of Police, Bristol, Virginia, Don Askins, Commonwealth Attorney, Chuck McHugh, Community Services Board (replaces David Hever), Elizabeth Lowe, Education Representative, and Leonard Rogers, Defense Attorney.

17350

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council approved the list of appointees as read by the City Manager to the Community Criminal Justice Board.

The City had received two requests for water taps in the Esserville section from Joan G. Hamilton and Jeffrey L. Roop. Mr. Ward advised water is available and can be connected.

17351

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by the following vote: Roberts - NO, Wallace, Mays, McCall, and Raines - YES, Council approved the two water taps for Joan G. Hamilton and Jeffrey L. Roop in the Esserville area.

Council had in their packets copies of two checks in excess of \$100,000. The first check was made payable to the Norton City Schools for Drawdown #6 in the amount of \$105,674.62 and the second was to the Norton City Schools for covering payroll in the amount of \$150,000.

17352

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the two checks made payable to the Norton City Schools as listed above.

A motion had been made by Jack Wallace to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel as per Section No. 2.1-344(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended for the appointment of members to the Norton Christmas Parade Committee.

Councilman Roberts advised he felt Council didn't need to go into Executive Session and that this item could be discussed in open session; therefore Councilman Wallace withdrew his motion.

17353

Mr. Ward advised that the City is now sponsoring and funding the Christmas Parade and that a Committee is needed to assist Marty Hagy in this endeavor. A list of four individuals have agreed to serve on this Committee and they are: Marty Hagy, Shelly Knox, June Jones, and George Burgan.

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the appointments of the above individuals to serve on the Norton Christmas Parade Committee.

In his comments, the City Manager advised:

The City had a safe Halloween and he wished to thank all those who helped make it so.

The City offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The City Christmas Dinner will be held on December 7 at the Norton Rescue Squad Building.

The City Christmas Parade will be held on December 2 at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Tree Lighting Ceremony at the City Park.

The Hawthorne Pump Station Project is underway with the grading work completed.

The City is in receipt of an invitation from the Industrial Development Authority of Wise County to attend a Ground Breaking Ceremony on Tuesday, November 28, at 11:00 to be followed by a luncheon at 11:45 for their second shell building. If Council wishes to attend, please advise him.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

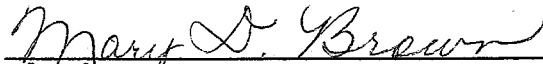
In comments from Council, Mayor Raines advised thanks should be conveyed to Mrs. Barbara Caruso for the heading up the Veterans Day Ceremony. Also he advised that two bronze plaques will be imbedded in the Veterans Memorial Bridge.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk