

June 19, 1956

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on the above date in the Municipal Court Room at 7:30 P. M. with Mayor B. E. Ball presiding.

All members of council were present and answered to roll call.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

On motion by Sol Cury, seconded by A. O. Umstead and carried by unanimous vote of those present, the request of Mr. T. M. Godwin to have city forces pave his driveway was approved with the provision that Mr. Godwin and Emory Province pay the full cost of same. #774

On motion by Fred King, seconded by Sol Cury and carried by unanimous vote of those present, Tony Slaughter was granted permission to operate a taxi cab in the City. #775

On motion by A. O. Umstead, seconded by Fred King and carried by unanimous vote of those present, the following resolution was adopted: #776

RESOLVED that the Mayor be required to countersign all vouchers issued in connection with expenses involved in the construction of the dam.

On motion by Sol Cury, seconded by W. R. Hamner and carried by unanimous roll call vote, the following resolution was adopted: #777

RESOLVED that the First National Bank is empowered and directed to invest the money obtained for the purpose of building new dam in 91 day government bonds.

On a motion by A. O. Umstead, seconded by W. R. Hamner and carried by unanimous vote, the following resolution was adopted: #778

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Norton desires that the Board of Public Welfare of the City of Norton shall not exceed three members as prescribed in the original formation of the Department of Public Welfare at the time Norton made a transition to the City of Second Class.

On motion by A. O. Umstead, seconded by Sol Cury and carried by unanimous roll call vote of those present, the following resolution was adopted: #779

RESOLVED that the statement submitted by Greear, Bowen, Mullins and Winston for services rendered in the preparation of court orders and ordinances for the elections involved in the water bond issue in the amount of \$750.00 be paid.

On motion by Sol Cury, seconded by Fred King and carried by unanimous roll call vote, the City Manager was authorized to spend \$100.00 on the present Little League Field in preparation for the Church Soft Ball Leagues for the installation of Lights. #780

On motion by Fred King, seconded by W. R. Hamner and carried by unanimous vote of those present, the following amendment of license tax code of City of Norton was placed on first reading and hearing scheduled for July 3, 1956:

#781

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, as follows:

That Section 94, Merchants, Retail and all other sections based upon the merchants license of Section 94 shall be amended to read as follows:

Every person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of a retail merchant shall pay a license tax measured in part by the gross amount of sales (which shall include charges for repairs or alteration) made by him or it in such business, whether paid for or not during the year preceding the first day of January, shall pay a license tax as follows: \$25.00 plus 30¢ on each \$100.00 of the gross receipts of such business.

On motion by Sol Cury, seconded by Fred King and carried by unanimous roll call vote, all police fines prior to July 1, 1954 were exonerated.

#782

The City Manager informed council that after duly advertising houses on the 11th Street Viaduct no bids were received.

#783

On motion by Sol Cury, seconded by A. O. Umstead and carried by unanimous roll call vote, the City Manager was instructed to write the Department of Highways and offer \$2500.00 to the department as their share of the equity in the houses acquired in right of way funds.

On motion by W. R. Hamner, seconded by A. O. Umstead and carried by unanimous roll call vote, the City Manager was authorized to install sidewalk in front of Lots 1 and 2, Block 35 for Dr. J. T. Phillips, Jr. as per his request of June 14, 1956, Dr. Phillips paying cost as per city's policy.

#784

On motion by Fred King, seconded by W. R. Hamner and carried by unanimous vote, the following resolution was adopted:

#785

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia through a tax study commission is now engaged in studying the tax structure of the localities of the State; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Attorney of Norton have been requested to attend the meeting of this commission to be held in Bristol on June 20, 1956,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Council of the City of Norton that under the present system of taxation in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the classes of taxation allocated to

the localities will not produce sufficient revenues to enable the localities to meet their governmental needs. That while the state is debt-free, the counties, cities and towns of Southwestern Virginia have found it impossible to become debt-free and, in fact, in most instances, the debts of these political subdivisions have been increased in recent years.

With reference to the sales tax, the Council of the City of Norton is opposed to the imposition of a sales tax unless seventy-five (75%) percent of the receipts of such a tax be allocated to the counties, cities and towns of the State without strings attached as to the use of such funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a copy delivered to the Tax Study Commission of Virginia.

On motion by A. O. Umstead, seconded by Sol Cury and carried by unanimous roll call vote, the following resolution was adopted:

#786

RESOLVED that a committee be appointed and that they be authorized to spend a sum of \$150.00 to purchase $\frac{3}{4}$ of the diamond shaped streamers 110' long for decoration purposes during the centennial.

The City Manager presented a proposed sub-division ordinance and after a lengthy period of discussion the matter was tabled for future reference.

#787

There being no further business before the council same adjourned.



 Mayor



 Clerk