

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor 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 Father Tim Drake and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

20080

At this time, City Attorney Bradshaw took his seat on Council.

20081

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to accept the minutes of the December 18, 2001 meeting as presented.

20082

A public hearing was held to solicit public input on local community development and housing needs in relation to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Mr. Ward advised that this is the first of two public hearings that will be held on this item and further advised that the City Administration was interested in proposing a housing project to Council in March.

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

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

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

Mr. Ward advised that the second public hearing would be held at the next meeting.

20083

Mr. Brian Blanton, of the accounting firm of Thrower, Livesay, and Blanton, was present and gave a brief synopsis of the City's financial audit for the year ended June 30, 2001.

Mr. Blanton advised Council that the City had received a clean opinion and had a very good ratio for the amount of debt that the City could issue. He further advised that the largest problem the City faces is the implementation of the new accounting standards mandated by the State, which need to be implemented by July of 2003.

20084

Following his presentation to Council, Mr. Blanton advised Council that he would be glad to answer any questions they may have.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Blanton for his presentation.

Council had a request from the Norton City Schools for a budget amendment in the amount of \$19,844 to their 2001-2002 budget.

Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of the Norton City Schools, was present and advised Council that \$9,556 of this amount they would like to reallocate in the Truancy Fund. The remaining amount of \$10,288 they would like to be designated for purchasing an inventory program from RCI Technologies.

20085

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$19,844 to the 2001-2002 budget of the Norton City Schools. Of this amount, \$9,556 will be reallocated to the Truancy Funds and \$10,288 will be designated to purchase an inventory program from RCI Technologies, Inc.

Council had a request for a budget amendment in the amount of \$65,440 to the 2001-2002 General Fund Budget.

The City Manager advised that the City has been working for sometime to upgrade its dispatch to be able to answer wireless E-911 calls. Police Chief Sam Mongle has been working with our provider, Verizon, to get a funding request. The General Assembly has enacted legislation stating that if an entity operates an Enhanced 911 System, the entity has until July 1, 2003 to make the necessary updates to handle wireless 911 calls. Mr. Ward advised that not only did the General Assembly mandate this, but they also provided the necessary funds for this mandate.

Mr. Ward advised that the City requested a one time cost for the equipment of \$54,700. Based on regulations that were set up, the City was also eligible to get some assistance for some costs we are currently experiencing. The original request included the one time request for the new equipment of \$54,700, a percentage of our shared equipment of \$613, and a percentage of our personnel costs of \$2,452 for a total of this request in the amount of \$57,765. This was sent to the necessary state agency and a wire transfer was received in the amount of \$65,439.75, which was approximately \$8,000 more than the request. The amounts requested for the shared equipment and the personnel costs had been increased; therefore the total amount that has been approved for this fiscal year is \$87,253.00. The remaining \$21,813.25 will be received in April.

Mr. Ward advised that the amount of money for this budget amendment should now be \$54,700, the cost of the new equipment, rather than the amount shown on tonight's agenda of \$64,550.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$54,700 for the new equipment and authorized the City Manager to execute the required documents with Verizon on this project.

Council had been presented with loan documents on the RBEG \$280,000 loan to NIDA.

Mr. Ward advised that Council, at the November 6, 2001 Council Meeting, approved a \$280,000 loan to NIDA, as part of the Phase II Hotel Project. This money had been received a couple of years ago from the Rural Business Enterprise Grant and the terms were for a 1% loan for ten years with the first two years of interest being abated and interest beginning in year three.

The City Attorney was asked to prepare the necessary legal documents including a promissory note for NIDA and the City to execute. The City Attorney had made some minor revisions on the documents that were included in Council's packets, and the revised copies were handed out tonight.

The City Attorney spoke briefly concerning these documents.

20086

20087

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council adopted the loan agreement as presented and authorized the Mayor to execute these documents.

Council had been presented with A Resolution Defining Signature and Access Requirements for Various City Accounts, Investments, and Certificate Storage.

Mr. Ward advised that this document changes the signatures to show the names of the new treasurer, Barbara Muir, and her deputy, Jana Brickett.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, and Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Defining Signature and Access Requirements for Various City Accounts, Investments, and Certificate Storage. (Insert)

20088

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per 2.2-3711(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

20089

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back in open meeting.

20090

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering aye. The Clerk then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

20091

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Virginia Regional Juvenile Detention Facilities Task Force.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Mr. E. W. Ward and Mr. Carlos Noaks to be appointed to this Board.

20092

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared Mr. E. W. Ward and Mr. Carlos Noaks appointed to the Southwest Virginia Regional Juvenile Detention Facilities Task Force.

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

The annual legislative trip to Richmond will be on February 19<sup>th</sup> through February 21<sup>st</sup>. Any council member wishing to attend should advise him as soon as possible in order for him to make reservations.

The Planning Commission is continuing work on the new Comprehensive Plan and are having six consecutive meetings on six consecutive Thursdays. Council is invited to attend all of these meetings.

2009

The City has been notified that they have received an ARC grant in the amount of \$500,000 to be used on the Norton-Big Stone Gap Water Interconnect Project.

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw sought Council's approval to secure a bond counsel if, in fact, a financing package becomes available for an upcoming replacement of water line project in the City. Mr. Bradshaw had received a quote of \$5,500 plus cost from Mr. Webster Day, an attorney with a law firm in Roanoke. It was the consensus of Council for Mr. Bradshaw to do so.

20094

In comments from Council, Councilman Hunnicutt spoke regarding the minutes accepted at tonight's meeting wherein he was shown as being absent. He advised that he was in attendance at that meeting.

20095

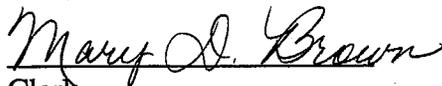
Mayor Raines advised Mr. Hunnicutt that if any member is not present for the roll call vote at the beginning of the meeting then the minutes show that that individual is absent. The minutes then reflect when said member of Council takes his seat. This was concurred by the Clerk of Council.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk