

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and 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.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 5, 2002 meeting as presented.

20115

At this time, Mayor Raines advised that the agenda would be amended to delete Item 7-A - Authorization to Execute a Contract with Custom Communications Including an Appropriation of Funds. Added under Closed Meeting would be Contract with Custom Communications, under the same Code of Virginia number as listed for personnel.

20116

During the Audience for Visitors, Mr. Roy Roberts of Craig Street spoke to Council regarding two issues. The first of these is the section of Park Avenue between Home Hardware and the Hotel Norton. He advised that there have been several accidents in this area. The west bound traffic in late afternoon is a problem due to the sun. The east bound traffic lane on the outside is seven feet wider in these blocks. He asked if there was any way that the center line could be moved over. Mr. Ward advised that the lanes were not striped with a paint and the substance that was used has to be milled or melted to get it up. He further advised that VDOT, during the Traffic Signal Light Replacement Project, advised that it was better for traffic to flow straight through intersections.

20117

The second item Mr. Roberts inquired about was the procedure for enforcement of the City vehicle decals. He stated that there are a lot of people who do not purchase these decals. Mr. Ward advised that the enforcement for the decals is done by the City Police Department.

Police Chief Mongle advised Mr. Roberts of the procedure that is used by the Police Department.

Following a brief discussion, the item of decals was referred to the City Attorney to research the Code.

A public hearing was advertised to solicit input on the Cable Television Franchise Renewal with Adelpia Communications.

Mayor Raines advised that he, Councilman Fawbush, and Mr. Ward represent the City on the joint committee, which is comprised of Wise County and the Towns of Appalachia, Big Stone Gap, Coeburn, and Wise, who are working on the renewal of a new franchise.

Mr. Ward briefly went over a list of items that the Committee feels are important to have included in the franchise, and also major items on which they will need to negotiate. One of the requirements is for a public hearing to be held.

2011

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.

Mayor Raines advised that if anyone would like to send in their written comments on this, they could do so and their comments would become a part of the record.

Mr. Blaine Delaney of the Black Diamond Resource Conservation and Development Agency spoke briefly to Council concerning his agency being a co-sponsor of a regional project called the Southwest Virginia Stormwater Management Project. Also present was Mr. Brian Schmidt, a Stormwater Management Specialist from the New River-Highlands RC&D.

20119

Mr. Delaney brought Council up to date on the Upper Tennessee River Round Table. He advised that the Round Table was working with the Wise County Clean Team on litter and advised that there will be a Litter Law Awareness Luncheon held on Tuesday, March 19, 2002 at 11:30 a.m. at UVA-Wise with the Honorable Larry Potter of the Shelby County, Tennessee Environmental Court speaking. Council and the City Administration are invited to attend.

Mr. Schmidt spoke briefly to Council regarding the Southwest Virginia Stormwater Management Project and presented a brief presentation. He asked that Council appoint at least one person to participate on this project.

Mayor Raines thanked both Mr. Delaney and Mr. Schmidt for their presentations tonight.

Mr. Ward advised Council that they had discussed, at their last meeting, a problem some of the City's businesses are experiencing with private parking lots. Included in Council's packets are letters from two businesses requesting assistance with this problem. At the last meeting, Council asked the City Attorney to look into our existing ordinance and the fines contained in them. Mr. Bradshaw's findings and recommendations were also included in Council's packets.

Mr. Bradshaw briefly discussed this issue with Council, as did Councilman Hunnicutt and Chris Jones. Mr. Hunnicutt advised that he would participate in discussion on this project; however, he would abstain from voting on this topic.

20120

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager and the City Attorney to work on Norton City Code Sections 13-65 and 13-68, which deals with parking and the penalties for parking violations.

Mr. Ward presented to Council an update on the Vision Task Force Meetings for the New Comprehensive Plan. He advised that weekly meetings were held during January and February on various topics with an average attendance of ten to fifteen people. He then briefly went over the contents of the Vision Team Summaries, which were included in Council's packets.

20121

He advised that the Planning Commission, at their March 14th meeting, will be working with our consultant on a vision statement which they hope to bring to City Council at the first meeting in April for Council's review and validation. Mr. Ward further advised that both the Planning Commission and the City Administration are happy with the development of this plan.

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

20122

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

20123

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering yes. The Clerk then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, 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)

20124

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Development Financing Incorporated for a two (2) year term, which will expire on January 31, 2004.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Mrs. Joyce Payne.

20125

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council move that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared Mrs. Joyce Payne appointed to the Southwest Development Financing Incorporated for a two (2) year term, which will expire on January 31, 2004.

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

The Traffic Signal Project is on detection mode and the City has experienced some problems with people not pulling up to the sensor to trip it.

Mayor Raines, Councilman Fawbush, and he attended the legislative trip to Richmond and met with various agencies; however, there is not a lot of money available at this time.

20126

There will be no local election in May of this year. During the past year, Council adopted an ordinance which moves the May elections to November. Council members whose terms expired in May will serve until December 31st as will members of the School Board.

Mayor Raines advised that localities will have to put their party affiliate on the ballots.

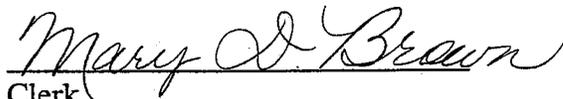
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk