

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 4, 2000 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 Rev. Roy Laduke 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 December 7, 1999 meeting as presented.

19490

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

19491

Mr. Brian Blanton, of Thrower and Thrower, CPAs, was present at tonight's meeting and briefly highlighted the 1998-1999 City of Norton Financial Audit. His one recommendation to the City was for the implementation of a fixed asset program through which fixed assets can be tracked. This change will go into effect in the year 2004 and will make the format of the statement to a more business type format. By implementing this system early, the transition when this change takes place will be smoother.

There were no questions or comments from Council following Mr. Blanton's presentation.

19492

Appreciation was extended by Mayor Raines to Mr. Blanton for the summary given to Council tonight.

A public hearing was held to consider financial encumbrances for the year ended June 30, 1999 in the amount of \$378,647 for the General Operating Fund and \$285,214 for the Norton City Schools.

Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of Norton City Schools was present to answer any questions Council might have.

19493

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.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve financial encumbrances in the amount of \$378,647 for the General Operating Fund and \$285,214 for the Norton City Schools.

Mr. Ward advised that as of this morning we had a combined total capacity in our reservoir of 36.382 million gallons.

Mayor Raines stated he felt that we were in the rainy season and that he would like to see the emergency plan that has been in place for approximately six months be rescinded.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following roll call vote: Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines - YES, Hunnicutt - ABSTAIN, Council moved to rescind the Water Emergency Plan passed by City Council earlier this year.

19494

Councilman Hunnicutt abstained both from discussion and vote on this matter.

Mr. Ward called to Council's attention that the upper reservoir had been surveyed during this drought situation and that he had included in Council's packet a letter from Thompson and Litton which advised that the volume at the upper reservoir is approximately 78,000,000 million gallons of water. This is an increase of the volume of 66,000,000 as declared in the 1970s.

Council had in their packets A Resolution Supporting A Funding Request for the Regional Business and Technology Park.

Present tonight representing the Wise County Industrial Development Authority was Mr. Carl Snodgrass. The site for the technology park is at the Lonesome Pine Regional Airport Site. The Authority is asking the City of Norton to be a co-applicant with Wise County being the lead applicant. Mr. Snodgrass also advised Council tonight that Scott County has also been asked to be a co-applicant with Wise County and the City of Norton. Therefore, if Council decides to adopt this resolution tonight, the resolution will have to be amended to show Scott County as a co-applicant.

19495

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and adopted by the following unanimous vote: Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines - YES, NO - None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Supporting a Funding Request for the Regional Business and Technology Park as amended to include Scott County as a co-applicant. (Insert)

Council had A Resolution Supporting a TEA-21 Application for the Appalachia Cultural Arts Council.

This request comes from the Appalachia Cultural Arts Council, Incorporated and the resolution is one of support only for a FY2000 TEA-21 grant to finish up some work in the Cultural Arts Center Amphitheater.

19496

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, - YES, NO - None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Supporting a TEA-21 Application for the Appalachia Cultural Arts Council. (Insert)

The City Manager and City Attorney presented to Council changes made on our Public Dance Hall Ordinance. Mayor Raines advised that at our last meeting, the City Attorney had advised that, in his opinion, our current Public Dance Hall Ordinance was not an enforceable ordinance due to the opinion of Federal Judge Glen Williams regarding the Town of Pound's ordinance. Our current ordinance and that of the Town of Pound were quite similar. Council had instructed both the City Attorney and City Manager to proceed with the necessary changes and bring them back to them as soon as possible.

19497

The City Attorney briefly went over the changes made in this ordinance.

Mr. Bradshaw advised that no business will be grandfathered under this new ordinance and that all will be subject to the terms of this new ordinance if it is adopted by City Council.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council approved the changes made to this Public Dance Hall Ordinance and authorized the City Manager to advertise a public hearing to be held at the February 1, 2000 Council meeting.

Council had a copy of a check in the amount of \$285,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

19498

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$285,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per 2.1-344(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

19499

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

19500

Mayor Raines declared the Council back in open meeting.

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

19501

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward:

handed out to Council copies of his December report.

advised Council that the Celebrate 2000 activities were very successful and there were many people to thank including the Celebrate 2000 Committee, the Town of Wise, civic groups, and volunteers, for their long hours of hard work.

19502

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw extended his appreciation to Council, Mr. Ward, and City staff for all the cooperation and support during the past year and stated that it was an honor to represent the City.

19503

In comments from Council, Mayor Raines advised that the Celebrate 2000 Committee which Council had appointed along with Fred Ramey, Shelly Knox, and Joyce Payne of the Chamber of Commerce did a tremendous job and deserve a lot of credit for this successful event.

19504

Mr. Ward advised that this Committee will be coming back to Council to make a final report.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

B. Robert Raines
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mary D. Brown
Clerk