

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, Joseph Fawbush

Absent: William Mays

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Mr. Morris Burchette of the Norton United Methodist Church and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by the Director of Social Services, Mr. Bill Stokes.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 7, 2000 meeting as presented.

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

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At this time, Mayor Raines welcomed Mrs. Becky Coffey, an employee of the City and also a member of the Forward Wise County class, to the meeting.

19549

A public hearing was held to solicit input on local community development and housing needs in relation to a Community Development Block Grant.

Mr. Ward advised that he had supplied Council with information on this grant program in their packets and that the deadline for submitting a project is April 12<sup>th</sup>. Two public hearings are required if we apply for a grant and the first of those will be the one being conducted tonight. He gave Council a brief history of the grants we have received in the past and advised of the two projects being considered at this time. The first is a water project that would consist of upgrading lines and not providing new services. The second is to apply for and secure deferred loan monies for the Hotel Norton to make it more readily marketable.

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Mr. Ward advised that Mr. Ramey had attended a meeting in Richmond regarding this project.

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.

Both Mr. Ward and Mr. Ramey answered questions from Council.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to schedule the second public hearing to solicit public input for the Community Development Block Grant on April 4, 2000.

Council had been presented in their packets information regarding proposed increases in the fees charged by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Ward advised that Shelly Knox, Parks and Recreation Director, was present to answer any questions from Council.

The fees recommended to be raised are: pool admittance fees from \$1.50 for adults and \$1.00 for children to \$2.00 for all; camping fees at Flag Rock from \$5.00 per night to \$8.00 per night; and shelter fees from \$20.00 - \$25.00 to a flat fee of \$40.00 per day. He further advised that these changes would put us in line with our neighboring municipalities.

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Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to raise the camping fees at Flag Rock from \$5.00 to \$8.00 per night and the fees for the two large shelters from \$20.00 - \$25.00 per day to \$40.00 per day.

Following a brief discussion regarding the pool admittance prices and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to raise the admittance fees at the pool for adults from \$1.50 to \$2.00 and to leave the fee for children twelve and under at \$1.00.

Mayor Raines expressed Council's appreciation to Ms. Knox and her staff for the work done by them.

Ms. Knox thanked Council for their consideration tonight and invited Council to come and see the new liner being put in the pool. The project is ongoing and will hopefully be completed next week.

Council had been presented in their packets a Project Programming Resolution Authorizing a Rail Grade Crossing Project.

Mr. Ward advised Council that he is seeking favorable consideration on this resolution which will authorize flashing lights and gates on the Second Street Crossing in Roundtown. Mr. Ward advised that this is the only crossing in Norton that does not have any precautions around it. The City has worked with Norfolk-Southern for some time on this project. The passage of this resolution requests the Virginia Department of Transportation to establish the project as part of a railroad grade crossing project and that the City agrees to pay its share, or 10% of the total costs for preliminary engineering, right-of-way, and construction of this project. The City also desires to fund 98% of its local share by using an urban allocation as provided in the regulations of VDOT and our final cost should be \$200.00; however there will be annual maintenance cost of approximately \$1,000.00.

19552

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: Hunnicutt, Wallace, Raines, Fawbush - YES, NO - None, ABSENT - Mays, Council moved to adopt A Project Programming Resolution Authorizing a Rail/Highway Grade Crossing Projects. (Insert)

Council had before them tonight A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of VRS Prior Service Credit on a Tax Deferred Basis Per Sub Section 414(H) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Mr. Ward advised that this would authorize employees who are eligible to purchase credit with the Virginia Retirement System on a tax deferred basis. This would save some income tax costs. If this resolution is adopted, it will be no burden on the City and there is only one individual interested at this time.

19553

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES - Hunnicutt, Wallace, Fawbush, Raines, NO - None, ABSENT - Mays, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of VRS Prior Service Credit on a Tax Deferred Basis per Sub-Section 414(H) of the Internal Revenue Code. (Insert)

Mr. Ward had included in Council's packet for their discussion the Pre-Emergency Contingency Plan and Emergency Declaration.

Council had decided that after our recent water crisis, the Emergency Contingency Plan and the Emergency Declaration needed to be discussed again.

Mr. Ward stated that one of the questions asked during our recent crisis was why we did not keep the reservoir filled at all times with PSA water. This water is phased in at different times and brought in only when needed because it is so expensive.

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Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to bring this Emergency Water Contingency Plan back regarding the level at which the emergency is declared.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting.

19555

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

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

19556

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 yes. The Clerk then read the entire 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, Fawbush, Raines, NO - None, ABSENT - Mays, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

19557

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a five year term which will expire on February 18, 2005.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Mr. Willie Winkles to be reappointed to this Board.

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

19558

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Willie Winkles reappointed to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a five year term which will expire on February 18, 2005.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Virginia Community Criminal Justice Board for a two year term.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Mr. William H. Price, Chief of Police Representative; Mr. Chuck McHugh, Community Services Board Representative; and Ms. Elizabeth Lowe, Education Representative.

19559

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared Mr. William H. Price, Mr. Chuck McHugh, and Ms. Elizabeth Lowe, nominated to the Southwest Virginia Community Criminal Justice Board for a two year term.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that Mr. Bill Stokes, our Director of Social Services and our Emergency Services Coordinator, has worked with the Office of Emergency Services and has secured us \$38,000 to assist with the costs of the drought.

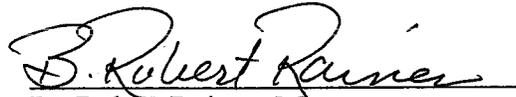
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Mr. Ward also advised that the School Board will present their budget at the next meeting.

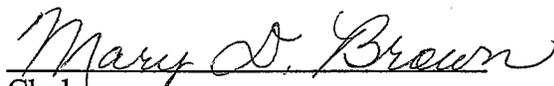
There were no comments from the City Attorney.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk