

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, February 3, 1998 at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Roy Roberts, Jack Wallace, William Mays, Ron McCall, and Robert Raines

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager

Absent: Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by Director of Social Services, Bill Stokes.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the January 20, 1998 meeting as presented.

18032

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

18033

A public hearing was held on the reissuance of a Public Dance Hall Permit to the Holiday Inn and the Virginia-Kentucky Opry.

Mr. Ward advised these permits are issued on a yearly basis and a public hearing is required.

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

18034

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

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

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council approved the reissuance of Public Dance Hall Permits to the Holiday Inn and the Virginia-Kentucky Opry.

Mr. Ward is to notify both businesses.

Council had in their packets a letter from Mr. Bill Passan, the Superintendent of Norton City Schools, requesting an additional appropriation of \$25,000. This money is to be used to offset the cost incurred by them in the moving of the 7th

Grade from the high school to Norton Elementary. Mr. Passan also advised in this letter that they had a surplus of \$38,627.30 which reverts back to the City.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to appropriate \$25,000 back to the Norton City Schools to cover moving expenses. Said funds are to come from Unappropriated Reserves.

Councilman Roberts asked that the City Manager question Mr. Passan as to the cost effectiveness of the amount of money spent during this transition.

The City Manager had provided Council with some information covering Governor Gilmore's proposal to eliminate the personal property tax for information purposes only.

He advised that there would be a five year phase-in which will begin on 1/1/98 if this proposal is accepted by the General Assembly. He further discussed the overview on this proposal with Council and answered their questions.

Following a discussion on this proposal, Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Ward for bringing this information to Council.

Mayor Raines advised that the City Attorney's absence tonight was due to the inclement weather and he would like to table the next item on the agenda which is a request by VDOT to abandon a portion of excess right-of-way on Lost Creek Drive. It was the consensus of Council to table this item at this time.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel as per 2.1-344(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into regular session.

Mayor Raines declared the meeting back in regular session.

The Clerk then polled each member as to the Certification of Executive Meeting with each answering yes. The Clerk then read the entire Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt a Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. (Insert)

The Mayor opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four (4) year term which will expire on January 28, 2002.

William Mays nominated Ms. Louise Mullins.

18041

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared Ms. Louise Mullins appointed to the Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four year term which will expire on January 28, 2002.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Development Financing Incorporated for a two year term which will expire on 1/31/2000.

Jack Wallace nominated Mr. Paul Kuczko to be reappointed to this Board.

18042

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Paul Kuczko reappointed to the Southwest Development Financing Incorporated for a two year term which will expire January 31, 2000.

In his comments, the City Manager advised:

The Capital Improvement Plan Meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 27, 1998 at 12:00 noon at the Holiday Inn.

Congressman Boucher was in Norton last week and awarded the City a Rural Development Grant in the amount of \$250,000 to establish a revolving loan fund that would hopefully enhance business development in the City of Norton. There are some details that need to be worked out before the City receives the money and he will be bringing these items back to Council.

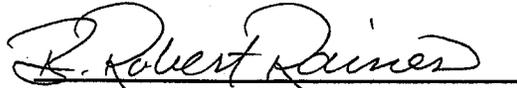
18043

Mr. Ward commented on the winter storm we had last week which had such ramifications and expressed his appreciation to the Police and Fire Departments, the Rescue Squad, Old Dominion Power, the Public Works Department and the Dispatch Center for all their fine work.

Mayor Raines advised that he and Mr. Ward had gone to visit Mr. Bill Powers of Old Dominion Power Company to express the City's appreciation for the work done, not only by his crews, but from the 20 crews brought in from other locations.

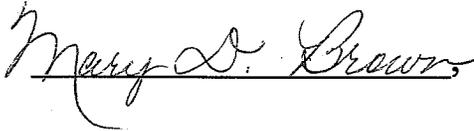
There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines
Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk