

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, December 1, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt

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

The City Manager led those present in praying the Lord's Prayer which was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by the Director of Social Services, Bill Stokes.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the November 17, 1998 meeting as presented.

19190

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of Norton City Schools, spoke briefly to Council asking for \$5,000 to help defray the expense of the football team going to the State Championship this week-end.

Mayor Raines expressed Council's congratulations to the Burton Football team and student body for this accomplishment.

19191

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized an expenditure of \$5,000 from Contingency to help defray the expenses of the trip for the football championship.

Sundy Stidham, representing the John I. Burton Cheerleaders, asked Council if said funds were for the football team only or if it included the cheerleaders and band. Mayor Raines advised that Council only allocates money to the School Board and that this question should go to the Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Brian Blanton of Thrower and Thrower was present tonight and presented Council with copies of our financial audit for the year ended June 30, 1998.

19192

After highlighting this audit, Mr. Blanton advised he would be happy to answer any questions from Council.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Blanton for his presentation.

Mr. Ward advised that as of today we have a combined total of 33 million gallons in both reservoirs. Due to a leak last week, we lost a substantial amount of water.

19193

The Mayor suggested that in light of the low rainfall we monitor the water situation on a daily and weekly basis. If necessary, Council will reconvene to enact the City's Contingency Plan. He asked citizens to be extra conservative in water usage.

Council had in their packets a copy of an Agreement with the Department of Transportation and the Norfolk Southern Railway. This agreement covers the installation of flashing light signals and gates at the 12<sup>th</sup> Street crossing which is located in the Ramsey section. At present, this crossing has no warning system at all.

19194

The agreement stipulates that the railroad will pay up to 10% of the cost with the State paying the remaining 90%. The City agrees to pay one-half of the annual maintenance which at this time amounts to \$507.50. The City Attorney advised that the paperwork is in order. The City Manager asks for Council's favorable consideration on this item.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to sign an Agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation and Norfolk Southern Railroad for the installation of flashing light signals and gates at the 12<sup>th</sup> Street crossing.

Mr. Ward requested Council's authorization to sign an Agreement with the Highland Juvenile Detention Center. This agreement, if approved and expansion goes forth, would guarantee one bed in this facility for the City of Norton. At present, we have none; therefore our juveniles have to be moved from this facility, if the need arises, to another facility in the State.

City Attorney Bradshaw shares the recommendation of the City Manager that the City look favorably at this agreement; however, he does have a question with Item #4: Indemnity in this agreement regarding liability.

19195

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to execute this Agreement with the Highlands Juvenile Detention Center and commit to one bed. The City Manager is to move forward and work with the City Attorney on this item.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, 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 and Consultation with Legal Counsel as Pertains to Probable Litigation as per 2.1-344(A) (7) of the Code of Virginia, as Amended.

19196

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, 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.

19197

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

19198

Mayor Raines advised no action was taken during the Executive Session.

19199

In his comments, the City Manager advised:

The City Christmas Dinner will be Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. at the Norton Rescue Squad Building.

19200

The City Christmas Parade will be Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. followed by the tree lighting in front of the Municipal Building.

The City is the recipient of an Award for County Tourism Government Support by the Virginia Coalfield Regional Tourism Development Authority for the City's monetary contributions to the Best Friends Festival. A Community Spirit Award was presented to the Best Friends Festival Committee from the Coalfield Tourism Authority. These will be hung in the Municipal Building.

The City Treasurer asked him to announce that the deadline for City taxes is December 5<sup>th</sup>.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

19201

Mayor Raines advised he would like to commend the water crew for their working during the Thanksgiving holiday on a major water leak and also to the Fire Department for their work on saving lives and property with the fire that occurred Thursday evening on Park Avenue.

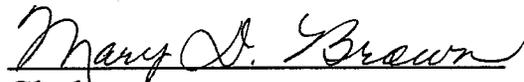
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There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
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B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk