

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 18, 1997 at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

Absent: Roy Roberts

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Joe Pippin, City Attorney

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

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 4th meeting as presented.

17764

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

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In their packets, Council had a request to apply for a Local Government Challenge Grant. Mr. Ward advised this is an annual item which is a \$3,500 matching grant and the funds are budgeted to the Pro-Art Association.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to apply for a Local Government Challenge Grant in the amount of \$3,500. Whatever amount up to \$3,500 that is awarded in this grant will be matched by the City.

17766

The City Manager advised that on March 19, 1995, the Kiwanis Club came to Council with a desire to do a project regarding Benges Rock. Council agreed to put up \$5,000 if the Kiwanis Club got a grant from the Virginia Coalfield Tourism Authority. This grant was secured and included in Council's packet is a proposed budget and map showing the work to be done and the phases in which it will be done. Present tonight to give Council an update on this project was Mr. Chris Jones of the Norton Kiwanis Club and Shelly Knox, City Parks and Recreation Director.

Mr. Jones advised that Phase I includes some trail development and the construction of five (5) kiosks. They have funds for this phase with the possibility of some funds left to carryover. He further advised that on May 10th a Ribbon Cutting for the Legion Park and Benges Rock Project will be held and will begin at 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

17767

Following a brief discussion on this project, it was the consensus of Council for the continuance and completion of Phase I of this project.

The City Manager advised Council of a Law Enforcement Grant for which the Norton Police Department has already applied. This grant is in the amount of \$35,000 and is titled, "Camps for Cops and for Kids at Risk".

Speaking to Council covering the details of this grant was Police Chief Sam Mongle and Dispatcher/Secretary Donna Hutchinson. Following a discussion on this grant. Council expressed their appreciation at being informed on this grant information.

The second grant Chief Mongle spoke to Council on was entitled, Virginia's Weed and Seed Initiative. The City of Norton has been selected as one of twenty (20) jurisdictions invited to compete for part of the \$1 million dollars in grant money available. Only four (4) of the twenty (20) jurisdictions will be awarded \$250,000 grants.

17768

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to authorize the Police Department to apply for this Virginia's Weed and Seed Initiative Grant.

Council had a request for one water and one sewer tap for Jennifer Thompson in the Josephine Section of Wise County.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to authorize one water and one sewer tap for Jennifer Thompson in the Josephine area.

17769

Mr. Ward is to advise Ms. Thompson.

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.

17770

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.

17771

Mayor Raines declared the meeting back in regular session.

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

17772

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Wise County/City of Norton Health Advisory Board for a four (4) year term which will expire on March 1, 2001.

William Mays nominated Mr. Bill Stokes to be reappointed to a four year term on this Board.

17773

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

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Bill Stokes reappointed to the Wise County/City of Norton Health Advisory Board for a four (4) year term which will expire on 3/1/2001.

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

The City's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Sunday, March 23, 1997 at the City Park.

The Annual Chamber Gala will be held on April 12, 1997 with a reception at 6:00 followed by dinner at 7:00. Any Council member interested should get tickets from him.

17774

The School Board generally presents their budget to Council at the first meeting in April; however, Mr. Passan has asked to present this at the second council meeting in April. Mr. Ward advised him this would not be a problem.

The Planning Commission has received a request from Loreto Heights to rezone the Clemons Property from Residential to Business Zone. A map was shown to Council showing this property.

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on April 10th; then this will be brought to Council for a public hearing probably sometime in May.

In comments from the City Attorney, he advised that Loreto Heights has cleaned up the Clemons Property and hauled off approximately 80 tons of debris and items.

On the Helen Bolling property, approximately 2 loads have been hauled off and more work will be put on this project.

17775

The City Administration has written letters to various landowners regarding property which needs to be torn down or is in need of repair. Mr. Pippin went over these properties with Council.

Regarding the resignation of Marty Hagy from the Norton City School Board, he advised that the School Board will appoint a replacement for him.

In comments from Council, Mayor Raines advised that the City had participated in the Lost Creek Development Ground Breaking Ceremony and advised there seems to be a lot of interest in this property.

17776

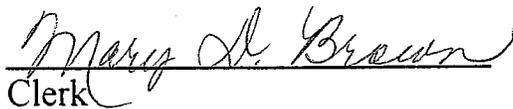
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:



Mary A. Brown
Clerk