

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, June 18, 1996, at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

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

The invocation was given by Rev. Jim Jenkins which was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Captain Kenny Jackson of the Norton Police Department.

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the June 4, 1996 meeting as presented.

17524

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Mike Brown of 234 - 10th Street, N. W. spoke to Council regarding a problem with the property next door to his residence. The grass on this property has not been cut this year and Mr. Brown presented Council with pictures he had taken this year and some taken in 1994. He advised that the City had to send letters anytime this grass had been cut in the past few years. He asked for Council's assistance on this ongoing problem.

Mr. Ward advised that our Code states grass shall be cut at least once a month from April through October and that letters had been sent to the property owner and the deadline had passed for getting this grass cut; therefore the City is going to hire a firm to come in and cut this grass and a lien will be placed against this property.

17525

Mr. Brown thanked Council and Mr. Ward for their assistance in this matter.

Mrs. Virginia Bolling, a property owner on Virginia Avenue, spoke to Council regarding property owned in this area by Bill Sturgill. She advised the weeds had only been cut recently and the roofs had been taken off these buildings leaving the walls standing.

Mayor Raines advised Mr. Sturgill had received conditional zoning on this property and that there was no time line as to when his proposed work on this project would have to be started.

17526

She advised she would be back if there continued to be no work done in this area.

Also speaking on this matter in support of something being done to improve the appearance was Mr. C. B. Porter of Virginia Avenue.

Mayor Raines advised that hopefully Mr. Sturgill would get started on this project soon.

The City Manager brought back to Council an option being offered to localities by the Virginia Retirement System. This option is House Bill 901 which has been passed by the General Assembly. It offers any VRS member with at least 25 years of service to purchase up to 36 months of credit for active military service or service rendered in the retirement plan of another state at 5% of salary at the time of the purchase.

Mr. Ward advised we only had two employees who meet the 25 year requirement and if they were eligible and chose to participate, the approximate cost to the City is approximately \$600 per year.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following roll call vote: Roberts - NO; Wallace, Mays, McCall, and Raines - YES, the City moved to adopt the option from the Virginia Retirement System allowing its employees who qualify to purchase up to 36 months of credit for active military service or service rendered in the retirement plan of another state at 5% of salary at the time of purchase.

17527

Mr. Robert Leonard, Treasurer of the Norton Industrial Development Authority, went over the 1996-97 budget of NIDA with Council and was willing to answer any questions Council may have.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt the 1996-97 budget for the Norton Industrial Development Authority.

17528

Council had in their packets information regarding a court decree involving a nuisance case involving Mr. Lee Clemons, Jr. and property located on Anderson Hollow Road.

The City Attorney advised the City filed suit against Mr. Clemons as he is the individual who caused the nuisance. Others present to discuss this matter were: Mr. Don Earls, local attorney, who represents Ms. Linda Rogers, daughter of Mr. Clemons and owner of 50% of this property and Mr. Jeff Elkins, local attorney, who represents Loreto Heights, owner of Mr. Clemons' portion of this property upon his demise.

Mr. Pippin further advised the Court had ruled twice in favor of the City and that the City can now go in and have this property cleaned up and place the cost as a lien against this property.

Speaking briefly on behalf of his client was Mr. Earls. Mr. Elkins advised Council that as of 5:30 this afternoon Loreto Heights had obtained a contract wherein they may go in and clean this property up and sell what they can with such funds to offset the clean up charges.

17529

Following a lengthy discussion and upon the consensus of Council, this item was tabled until the July 16th meeting at which time Council will review what has been done by Loreto Heights and make a decision as to which way this should proceed.

Council had in their packets a check dated May 30, 1996 made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$120,000.00.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by the unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check in the amount of \$120,000 to the Norton City Schools.

17530

The City Manager advised that Council needs to set a time and date for their organizational meeting.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to hold this organizational meeting at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 2, 1996 prior to their regular meeting on this date.

17531

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, 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 and disposition of publicly held property as per 2.1-344(A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

17532

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

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

Mayor Raines declared the meeting back in regular session.

17533

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 Jack Wallace, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. (Insert)

17534

As to the disposition of publicly held property, Council advised the City Manager to seek proposals on the development for the Lost Creek Property.

17535

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for two (2) four year terms which will expire on May 10, 2000.

Jack Wallace nominated Mr. Byron Cantrell and Mr. William Sturgill.

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

17536

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Byron Cantrell appointed and Mr. William Sturgill reappointed to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for four year terms which will expire May 10, 2000.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Planning Commission for a four (4) year term which will expire on June 30, 2000.

William Mays nominated Mr. Jon Rockett be reappointed to the Planning Commission.

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

17537

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Jon Rockett reappointed to the City of Norton Planning Commission for a four year term which will expire on June 30, 2000.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five (5) year term which will expire on June 2, 2001.

Roy Roberts nominated Mr. Tom Cassell.

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

17538

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Tom Cassell as the nominee to the Circuit Court for reappointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five year term which will expire on June 2, 2001.

In his comments, the City Manager advised the Best Friend Festival was a tremendous success and he extended thanks to the many volunteers who made it successful. 17

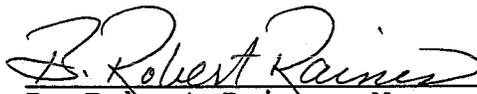
In comments from Council, William Mays advised that he would like to see the City employees have Friday, July 5th, as an additional holiday for this year only.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to get City employees Friday, July 5th, as an additional holiday.

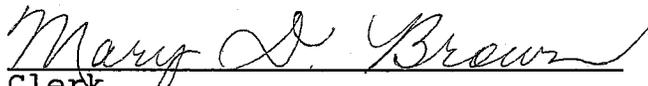
Mr. Mays also expressed his appreciation and thanks to the City employees who worked on the Best Friend Festival. 17540

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk