

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, October 5, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Vice Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: Joseph Hunnicutt, Jack Wallace, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Robert Raines

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

The invocation was given by Father Joseph Facura and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Police Chief Sam Mongle.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve the minutes of the September 21, 1999 meeting as presented.

19442

During the Audience for Visitors, Mr. Hoke Horne of Chestnut Street, spoke to Council regarding the drought situation we are encountering. It was his opinion that the problem was not the lack of rain, but the lack of storage capacity.

19443

Mr. Fred Daniels of Pine Street spoke to Council regarding a speeding problem in the area of the City Park on Pine and 11th Streets. He asked for Council's consideration in seeking a solution to this problem. He mentioned putting up speed limit signs and more patrols.

19444

Mr. Ward advised we could put up the signs and try out stationary radar.

Police Chief Mongle advised the extra patrols would begin the following day and that signs and radar would be installed at the same time.

Mr. Ward advised Council that, as of today, we had a combined reservoir total of 30.715 million gallons. This is down from 34.2 million gallons a week ago.

Mr. Ward further advised that the major contributing factor for this water shortage is a lack of rainfall and gave Council some statistics to back this up. In the mid-80s, City Council authorized a water study which was conducted by the engineering firm of Dewberry and Davis. He went over the recom-

mendations that were made at that time and advised what the City had done to comply with these recommendations. These recommendations included updating the Water Plant, improved water accountability by replacing old water lines, locating alternate sources of water by drilling of wells and municipal interconnect. Municipal interconnects have been done with the Town of Wise and the Wise County Public Service Authority. The demand from the mid-80's to the present from the PSA has increased from 700,000 gallons per day to 1.1-1.2 million gallons per day. In the 1990s, City Council authorized an agreement with the Wise County PSA to purchase 500,000 gallons per day on demand.

Mr. Ward advised that, in anticipation of a water shortage this year, the City Administration began pumping PSA water much sooner, closed the swimming pool early, and talked with Thompson and Litton and the Forestry Service for short and long term remedies.

Handed out to Council tonight was a Proposed Water Emergency Plan dated October 5, 1999 which is the same contingency plan we have adopted with a couple of changes. These changes are that the declaration of emergency will come when reservoir totals reach 30 million gallons and when the amount of reserve reaches 15 million gallons, additional limitations will be imposed. These changes were made so that we would not hurt our businesses.

19445

Also speaking briefly to Council was Mr. Darrell Stapleton and Mr. Steve Breeding of Thompson and Litton regarding storage capacity and problems at the reservoirs. They further advised that several of our neighboring communities are in the same situation and have declared emergencies.

Following a discussion and upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following roll call vote: Hunnicutt - ABSTAIN, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush - YES, Raines - ABSENT, Council declared a water emergency as of today due to a lack of water and authorized the City Manager to implement the first item on the Proposed Water Emergency Plan dated October 5, 1999. When we get to a level close to 15 million gallons, a meeting with Council should be convened to discuss further implementation of the plan.

Vice Mayor Mays advised the reason for Mr. Hunnicutt's abstaining from discussion or vote on this item is due to a conflict of interest as his bottling plant is directly affected by the Emergency Plan.

Both Mr. Ward and Vice Mayor Mays expressed thanks to some of the businesses that had already begun water conservation, particularly the Holiday Inn and Pepsi-Cola Bottling.

Council had in their packets a memorandum from the City Manager advising that the City had received three proposals for the installation of a liner in the municipal pool. The recommendation from the City Administration is that we accept the proposal of Natare Corporation in the amount of \$97,760.

19446

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the City Manager to accept the proposal of Natare Corporation for a liner for the municipal swimming pool in the amount of \$97,760.

In their packets, Council had a Resolution Supporting the Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority.

Mr. Ward advised this is a name change from the Virginia Coalfield Regional Tourism Development Authority to The Heart of Appalachia.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush- YES, NO - None, Raines - ABSENT, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Supporting the Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority. (Insert)

19447

Council had a copy of a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$180,000.00.

19448

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$180,000.

In his comments, the City Manager advised that Council's next regular meeting is October 19th and that several members of Council will be attending the Virginia Municipal Conference in Williamsburg. His suggestion to Council was that this meeting be cancelled. Also, the first meeting in November will be on Election Day and he advised Council that this meeting will be held at the Norton Rescue Squad Building due to election activities at City Hall.

19449

It was the consensus of Council to cancel the second meeting in October and have the first meeting in November at the Norton Rescue Squad Building.

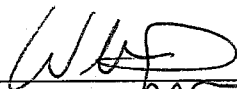
He also handed out to Council members informational packets that they will need to take to the VML Conference in Williamsburg.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

19450

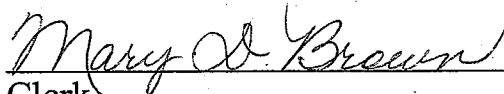
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays
Vice Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk