

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 6, 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 and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

Mayor Raines extended a welcome to a new reporter from the Coalfield Progress, Mr. Robert Baird.

The invocation was given by Rev. Bob Kespelher and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was led by Mr. Bob Mathieson, a member of a delegation of veterans in attendance at tonight's meeting.

18002

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the December 16, 1997 meeting as presented.

18003

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Carlos Noaks, Norton City Sheriff, spoke briefly to Council advising that he is looking forward to working with Council and for the City in his new capacity.

18004

A public hearing was held on a budget amendment representing financial encumbrances at June 30, 1997 in the amount of \$298,293 for the General Operating Fund and \$50,503 for the Norton City Schools.

Mr. Ward advised that details concerning these encumbrances were in Council's packets and that the public hearing was duly advertised.

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

18005

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

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

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council approved a budget amendment representing financial encumbrances at June 30, 1997 in the amount of \$298,293 for the General Operating Fund and \$50,503 for the Norton City Schools.

Council had in their packets A Resolution Supporting a Veterans Clinic in Southwest Virginia.

Speaking on behalf of the veterans in attendance at tonight's meeting was Mr. Bob Mathieson. Mr. Mathieson advised they had sent out petitions, letters, and had received publicity from area newspapers. They have also received the support of Congressman Rick Boucher to have a clinic established in our area, preferably in either Wise or Norton, for the veterans of this area so that they will not have to travel to Johnson City.

18006

They were seeking Council's support of this clinic.

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Supporting a Veterans Clinic in Southwest Virginia. (Insert) The Clerk was instructed to send a copy of this resolution to Mr. Don King, another member of this delegation, at his Wise address.

Council had in their packets A Resolution Supporting Additional State Funding for the Lenowisco Planning District.

Mr. Ward advised Council that the Commonwealth's 21 planning districts are requesting additional funding and that they had received no increased funding in nine years.

Mayor Raines stated that Lenowisco is to be commended for their leadership in our planning district.

18007

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Supporting Additional State Funding for the Lenowisco Planning District. (Insert)

Council had been furnished copies of the audits for the C-N-W Regional Sewer Authority and the Norton Industrial Development Authority for the year ending 6/30/97 and were advised by the City Manager that we have a significant relationship with both authorities in that we both support and have representation on their boards.

18008

The City Manager briefly went over each audit and advised that both had an increase in cash flow this year. He further advised he would be glad to answer any questions Council might have regarding these audits.

Mayor Raines thanked Mr. Ward for sharing this information with Council.

Council had a check in the amount of \$220,000.00 made payable to the Norton City Schools dated December 18, 1997.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council approved a check to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$220,000.00 dated December 18, 1997.

18009

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Roy Roberts, 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 discussion of a prospective business where no previous announcement has been made as per 2.1-344(A) (5) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

18010

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in Executive Session.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, 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.

18011

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 William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Executive Meeting. (Insert)

18012

Mayor Raines advised there was no announcement to come from the Executive Session.

18013

There were no comments from the City Manager or the City Attorney.

18014

In comments from Council, Mr. Roberts advised he had been contacted by citizens regarding WJHL's exclusionary rights in this area. They had advised him that one University of Kentucky ballgame was terminated at half-time and another scheduled to air was not shown at all. This goes against Century Communications advising Council that citizens would lose no programming.

18015

Mr. Ward advised he had checked into this and had been told that the equipment had malfunctioned.

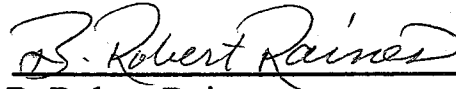
Mayor Raines advised we should monitor this situation very closely.

The Assistant City Manager, Mr. Ramey, had given Council a handout from our web page which showed visitors who had visited our site. Mayor Raines again commended Mr. Ramey and Mr. Edwards for the job they have done on this project.

18016

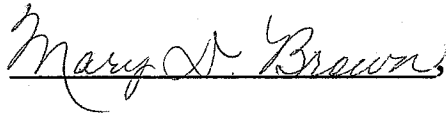
There were no comments from Council and no further business to come before them; therefore the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines
B. Robert Raines
Mayor

ATTEST:



Mary D. Brown Clerk