

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 3, 1997 at the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Raines presiding.

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

Absent: Roy Roberts

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

The invocation was given by Dr. Miller Liston and was followed by the pledge of allegiance which was lead by the Assistant City Manager, Fred Ramey.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the May 20th meeting as presented.

17827

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Mrs. Deborah Addison, 1127 Liberty Avenue thanked the City for the work done at the Clear Creek Park; however she advised there is a need for a restroom there. Mrs. Addison also spoke to Council regarding her next door neighbor and the condition of this property.

Ms. Lisa Barnette, 1121 Liberty Avenue, spoke to council and thanked them for the park area. She also stated there was a need for a restroom there and also advised of the vandalism in the form of profanity that had been done to the shelter.

17828

Mayor Raines advised that the City Manager and Parks and Recreation Director will work on the park issue and that Mr. Ward will check into the other items.

A public hearing was held to consider An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for the City of Norton, Virginia for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 1997 Thru June 30, 1998 Appropriating Funds for All Contemplated Expenses of the City for the Fiscal Year and Placing Levies Upon All Real Estate, Personal Property and Bank Stock, Licenses, Fees, User Charges, and All Other Levies as Previously Imposed or Modified Herein.

Mr. Ward handed out highlights on the budget and briefly went over these with Council.

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

Mr. Ward advised this item was on tonight's agenda for the public hearing only and would be placed on the agenda for the June 17th Council Meeting for adoption. He went over the synopsis with Council and advised the budget had been properly

17829

advertised in the Coalfield Progress. There are no increases in any fees, taxes, or licenses of any kind; the General Fund is balanced using \$441,293 of Unappropriated Reserves; City employees are to receive 3% cost of living adjustment; level funding for the Norton City Schools, \$608,886 in Capital Projects; and Welfare Reform is to be implemented.

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

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

Councilman McCall spoke on future budgets and our situation of using our unappropriated reserves this year to balance our General Fund. He feels that it is an appropriate time to have a balanced budget next year without using the unappropriated reserves. He thinks there should be an overall reduction of our City budget in the approximate amount of \$300,000 to \$350,000 and if this is not looked at now, we will have problems in the near future. He felt there was a particular need to look at the General Operating and School Funds.

Mayor Raines advised that this would be a challenge and that the only other way to handle this would be to increase revenues and that hopefully the downtown renovation may have an affect on this.

Mayor Raines advised the City Manager to bring the budget back at the June 17th for action by Council.

The City Manager brought to Council's attention a request to advertise for proposals for the old Ramsey Sewage Treatment Plant property which is a 2.6 acre site in the Ramsey section of Norton. He advised this land is zoned for local business and about one-half of the property is in the flood plain.

Following a brief discussion, it was the concensus of Council for the City Manager to advertise for proposals for the old Ramsey Sewage Treatment Plant property and that the proposals should be handled in the same manner as was the Lost Creek Property with said property to be used for housing purposes.

17830

Council had in their packets A Resolution Establishing a Best Friend Festival Committee. Mr. Ward advised this resolution is for insurance purposes only and covers the members of this Committee and gives them some additional liability insurance since they will be members of a City appointed standing committee.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Establishing A Best Friend Festival Committee. (Insert)

17831

Council had in their packets A Resolution Supporting Drowning Prevention in the City of Norton.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Supporting Drowning Prevention in the City of Norton. (Insert)

17832

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, 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.

17833

The Mayor 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.

17834

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)

17835

Mayor Raines opened the floor for a student representative to the Wise County/City of Norton Youth Services Board to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Matt Frye, who has graduated. This term will expire on May 2, 1999.

Jack Wallace nominated Ms. Jennifer Guttu to be appointed to this Board.

17836

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

Mayor Raines declared Ms. Jennifer Guttu appointed to the Wise County/City of Norton Youth Services Board to fill the unexpired term which will expire on May 2, 1999.

In his comments, the City Manager advised:

The Best Friend Festival will be held June 6 - June 15 and he hoped Council would be able to attend some of these events.

17837

The City Attorney advised that the Helen Bolling property had been cleaned up and he had issued an order to dismiss the case.

17838

There were no comments from Council.

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

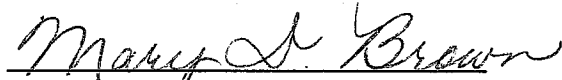
CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines

Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk