

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, February 21, 1995 at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Raines presiding.

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

Absent: Jack Wallace

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 led by the Superintendent of Norton City Schools, Dr. A. S. Armentrout.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the February 7, 1995 meeting as presented.

17136

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

17137

A public hearing was held to consider a budget amendment of \$800,000 to provide interim financing for a Literary Loan Project for the Norton City Schools.

The City Manager gave some background information on this item and advised that this project was for replacement of exterior windows, the installation of air conditioners, and an electrical upgrade for John I. Burton High School. This project is to be completed by the beginning of the school year.

In September of 1993, Council adopted a resolution authorizing the City of Norton School Board to apply for an \$800,000 Literary Loan Grant and in fiscal year 1994, Council appropriated \$30,000 to the School Board for an engineering study covering this project.

The project is anticipated to be a reimbursement from the Literary Fund and financing will be for 20 years at a 3% interest rate. Enclosed in Council's packets are copies of the September 21, 1993 minutes and two tables showing City of Norton Schools Proposed Long Term Debt and Current General Long Term Debt.

17138

Virginia Code specifies that anytime you amend your budget over 1%, you must hold a public hearing.

There were no comments from Council or the representatives of the School Board prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

There were no comments made during the public hearing; therefore Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

Dr. Armentrout answered various questions from the members of Council and advised they should receive the Literary Fund monies by November or December of 1995; however should the School Board find out that these funds would not be awarded prior to the proposed date of the award of contracts, this project would be cancelled and they would come back and advise the City Council.

Following a lengthy discussion and upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the City budget in the amount of \$800,000 to provide interim financing for this school project based upon the City Manager's recommendation for this financing as to whether to secure interim financing or take these funds from City reserves.

Mr. Hagy, on behalf of the School System and the students, thanked Council for their cooperation.

A public hearing was held to consider the issuance of a Dance Hall Permit to Ms. Patty M. Brickey who plans to open a dance hall at 308 Coeburn Avenue and which is more commonly known as "Shooters".

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

There was no public input.

Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

Mayor Raines advised he did not feel that Council had enough information on this item and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council tabled this item until additional information is received.

A public hearing was held to solicit public input on a proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application for the Norton Downtown Redevelopment Project.

This project comes within the guidelines of the Department of Housing and Community Development under the national standard of removal of slums and blight.

We received a planning grant last year of \$22,500 to do a study and prepare information for the CDBG Grant Application.

Present tonight is Mr. Ken Poore and Tom Carlson of K. W. Poore & Associates who have been working on this project. They will brief Council on this project and also present them with a resolution which will authorize the City to officially make application for this funding plus commit to the matching funds from the City.

Mr. Poore gave some background information on the CDBG Program and guidelines of same. He advised our project would fall under the category of the Elimination and Prevention of Slums and Blight and is for the total amount of \$700,000.

Mr. Carlson presented Council with some handouts and drawings of the proposed project and went over proposed program activities and costs in the following categories: Program Administration, Property Acquisition/Clearance, Blight Removal/Rehabilitation Fund, Utility Improvements, Street and Streetscape Improvements, and Project Engineering. He also showed areas in which Council could invest new monies which could be used for leverage on this grant.

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.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of Council that they would study all the information that had been presented to them tonight and would bring this item up for a vote at the next Council Meeting. Also A Resolution Authorizing the Preparation and Filing of an Application for a Community Improvement Grant for the

Norton Downtown Revitalization Project Through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program will be brought back for passage at the next meeting.

Council had a request from both the Treasurer and Commissioner of Revenue for a refund of an overpayment of Machinery and Tools Taxes.

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the refund of \$604.95 for overpayment of taxes.

17141

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, 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.

17142

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.

17143

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

17144

Mayor Raines advised there was no action taken on the appointment to the Housing Appeals Board.

17145

In his comments, the City Manager advised:

He was glad to be back after missing the last meeting due to illness.

He presented members of Council with a copy of a booklet sent by the Virginia Municipal League that he felt would be very helpful to them.

17146

Presented Council with a report containing the results of a survey that he conducted in November of 1994 with 20 other municipal governments.

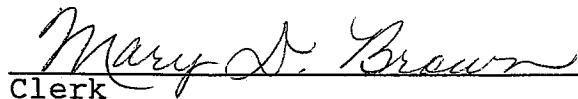
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk