

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, December 20, 1994 at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Raines presiding.

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

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

Prior to the invocation by Rev. Jim Jenkins, Mayor Raines asked for a moment of silence due to the death today of Mr. Doug Baker, a member of the Wise County Board of Supervisors. The invocation was followed by the pledge which was led by the Assistant City Manager, Fred Ramey.

17086

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the December 6, 1994 meeting as presented.

17087

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

17088

A public hearing was held on An Appropriation to the 1994-95 General Fund Budget in the Amount of \$208,433 and \$54,167 to the 1994-95 School Operating Fund Budget to Bring Forward Financial Encumbrances as of June 30, 1994.

Mr. Ward advised Council that there was a detailed list of these items in their packets.

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

17089

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

There were no public comments and Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve appropriations to the 1994-95 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$208,433 and \$54,167 to the 1994-95 School Operating Fund Budget.

Council had in their packets a Resolution Opposing the Elimination of the BPOL Tax.

Mr. Ward advised that Council, at their previous meeting, instructed him to prepare a resolution on this item to be brought to them tonight for passage.

17090

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Jack Wallace and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Opposing the Elimination of the BPOL Tax and advised that copies of this are to be sent to those listed in the resolutions. (Insert)

Council had in their packets a Resolution Requesting the Elimination of a "Sunset Provision" on the Coal and Gas Road Improvement Tax.

Mr. Ward advised that Section 58.1 of the Code of Virginia has this tax that enables localities that have this type of activity to

levy a tax or severance tax on coal, gas, and oil that is extracted within the jurisdictions. This tax has been in place for years. The tax has always had a "Sunset Provision" attached to it and every few years when this comes up or expires every 3 or 4 years, then the General Assembly has to take action to extend for another period of time of what they deem fit. This resolution would encourage the General Assembly to eliminate the "Sunset Provision" and make this a permanent piece of legislation. He further advised this legislation is the primary source of revenue for the Coalfield Economic Development Authority, and also a very important source of revenue of counties that surround us specifically Wise County and the City of Norton receives a portion of this tax as do the towns in Wise County. Wise County has requested the consideration of this resolution.

17091

At this time, Councilman McCall advised he would refrain from any discussion or vote on this item due to a conflict of interest.

Upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following vote: Roberts, Wallace, Mays, Raines - YES, McCall - ABSTAIN, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Requesting the Elimination of a "Sunset Provision" on the Coal and Gas Road Improvement Tax.
(Insert)

The City Manger is to send copies of this resolution to the appropriate individuals.

Council had in their packets copies of two checks in excess of \$100,000. One is made payable to the First Commonwealth Bank in the amount of \$100,000 for the purchase of a Certificate of Deposit and the second is in the amount of \$165,000 to the Norton City Schools to cover Fringe Benefits and Accounts Payable.

170

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve these two checks in excess of \$100,000.

In his comments, the City Manager advised:

The new 1995 Elgin Street Sweeper recently purchased is parked in front of the City Hall for members of Council to see.

City offices will be closed on Friday, December 23, and Monday, December 26, for the Christmas holiday and closed on Monday, January 2, 1995 for New Year's.

17093

On Saturday, December 31, 1994, the Centennial Committee will bury the time capsule at the City Park at 3:00 p.m.

Extended his best wishes to Council and their families for a happy holiday season.

Mayor Raines also extended to all a Happy Holiday Season.

17094

At this time, Rev. Jim Jenkins spoke briefly to Council and thanked them for the privilege of working and praying with Council throughout the year and that he was one pastor and citizen thankful.

17095

Mayor Raines expressed Council's appreciation to the Ministerial Association for their cooperation.

There were no comments from the members of Council.

17096

The City Attorney advised that it was a pleasure to work with Council again this year.

17097

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

B. Robert Raines

B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mary D. Brown, Clerk