

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, December 7, 1993 at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Raines presiding.

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

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

Prior to the invocation Mayor Raines asked that a minute of silence be observed in memory of the lives lost in the bombing of Pearl Harbor and also the South Mountain mine disaster. Father Tom Collins gave the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Fire Chief David Mullins.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the November 16, 1993 meeting as presented.

15849

Mayor Raines asked for Fire Chief David Mullins to come forth for a special presentation.

Mr. Mullins advised Council that since 1968 as new fire trucks were acquired they placed plaques on them with the names of the council members and City Manager. These plaques stayed on the vehicles until they were retired. He passed these plaques for Council to observe along with the ones for the new fire trucks recently purchased.

At this time, Chief Mullins asked the officers of the Fire Department to come forward and each one presented each member of Council with a plaque on behalf of the Fire Department and the citizens of Norton for their efforts in purchasing the new fire equipment.

15850

Also presented at this time was a plaque designating the new aerial truck as Aerial 32 - The Chief as this was the radio call number for the late Danny Still, our former Fire Chief. A copy of this plaque was presented to Mrs. Barbara Still, the widow of former Chief Danny Still.

Mayor Raines asked that Mrs. Still come forward and she was presented with a resolution, City of Norton Resolution In Memory of Danny G. Still, by Vice Mayor William Mays and Councilman Jack Wallace. Mayor Raines read this resolution aloud for those present. Mrs. Still expressed her thanks and appreciation to Council and stated that Danny would have been very proud.

During the Audience for Visitors, Thomas Rose, District Commander of the VFW District 9 spoke to Council regarding the naming of the new bridge to be constructed in the By-Pass as the Veterans Memorial Bridge. He had been to Council earlier and now advised he had complied with Council's requests in order to get this bridge so named.

15851

Mayor Raines advised Council was in agreement with Mr. Rose and upon a motion by Roy Roberts, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council instructed the City Manager to proceed with this matter and to name this bridge Veterans Memorial Bridge.

Mayor Raines commended Mr. Rose and all veterans for their efforts, both past and present.

A public hearing was held to consider financial encumbrances of June 30, 1993 in the amount of \$676,794 for the General Fund and \$83,869 for the City of Norton School Board.

Mr. Ward advised this was a housekeeping item and had to be done annually and that these amounts had been verified by our auditors.

15852

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

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing and there were no public comments.

Mayor Raines closed the public hearing and there were no comments from the sell members of Council.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to amend the budget in the amount of \$676,794 for the General Fund and \$83,869 for the City of Norton School Board.

Council again was presented with a request by Old Dominion Power Company to utilize City right-of-way.

Mr. Ward advised this was brought back from the last meeting and that representatives of Old Dominion, C & P Telephone Company, and Virginia Department of Transportation was present to answer any questions of Council.

Mr. Larry Salyers of C & P spoke on behalf of these companies and advised Council they had come up with an alternate route; however due to safety reasons, they ask that Council consider the route as first requested.

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 give Old Dominion Power a temporary utility easement as originally requested for one year and they will come back to Council and negotiate a permanent easement at a later date.

At this time, the Mayor recognized Mr. Bardin Thrower of Thrower and Thrower to present the City's audit for the 1992-93 fiscal year. Mr. Thrower gave Council a brief synopsis and advised he would be happy to answer any questions at any time from Council.

Mayor Raines expressed appreciation to Mr. Thrower and his firm.

Mr. Ward brought back to Council his findings regarding the Virginia Public School Authority Bond Refunding as he was so instructed at the previous Council Meeting. His findings showed that we have no opportunity to retire this debt and he recommends that Council accept this offer. If Council does accept this offer, we need to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$510,000 General Obligation School Bond, Refunding Series 1994 A of the City of Norton, Virginia, to be Issued in Exchange for an Aggregate Like Principal Amount of Certain Outstanding Bonds of the City of Norton, Virginia, Held, and a Lump Sum Cash Payment to be Made, by the Virginia Public School Authority, and Setting Forth the Form and Details of Such Refunding Bond. The amount to be received is \$14,196.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$510,000 General Obligation School Bond, Refunding Series 1994 A Of the City of Norton, Virginia, to be Issued in Exchange for An Aggregate Like Principal Amount of Certain Outstanding Bonds of the City of Norton, Virginia, Held, and a Lump Sum Cash Payment to be Made, by the Virginia Public School Authority, and Setting Forth the Form and Details of Such Refunding Bond. (Insert)

The City Attorney also advised that there is a General Certificate of the City of Norton, Virginia that needs to be filled out and signed by the Mayor, City Clerk, and City Attorney. Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council authorized the Mayor, City Clerk, and City Attorney to complete a General Certificate of the City of Norton, Virginia.

The City Manager gave Council an update on the Hotel Norton. He advised that Council, after a work session with the Norton Industrial Development Authority, authorized him to secure financing for this project. He has been working on this; however there is nothing conclusive at this time. In order to get a direct loan to the NIDA, the outstanding debt of \$165,000 for this hotel property that is held by NationsBank needs to be extinguished. In order for the City to pay this amount, a public hearing will have to be held and the budget amended.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by the following vote: Wallace, Raines, Mays, McCall - YES, Roberts - NO, Council

authorized the City Manager to advertise a public hearing to amend the budget and pay off the NIDA note in the amount of \$165,000.

Mr. Ward also answered questions Council had regarding the additional weight of concrete floors on the structure of the building. He further advised the City Attorney has been evaluating all the legal implications of this project.

Mr. Ward discussed with the Council a proposed Sewer Transmission Rate for Wise County for the current development at the Blackwood Industrial Site.

Following a discussion and with a recommendation by the City Manager of \$.55 per 1000 gallons, a motion was made by William Mays, seconded by Roy Roberts, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Manager to advertise a public hearing to establish a government rate for the transmission of sewage through our sewer lines.

15857

Council had in their packets a copy of a check payable to the Norton City Schools dated 11/29/93 in the amount of \$135,000.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check dated 11/29/93 in the amount of \$135,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools.

15858

In his comments, the City Manager advised:

City Christmas Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. at the Norton Rescue Squad Building.

15859

The City Christmas Parade has been rescheduled to Sunday, December 12, at 5:00 p.m. with the tree lighting to follow at 6:15 at the City Park.

Each member of Council was now receiving a letter from the Assistant City Manager regarding capital requests Council may have.

The Assistant City Manager updated Council on a couple of items. One being the purchase of the new Christmas decorations which are now decorating the City.

He further advised that the Coalfield Parking Lot is now finished. Some drainage work and paving will be done in the Spring.

15860

He needed approval from Council as to the new sign that is to be erected in this lot. Working with the Norton Centennial Committee, they have selected the slogan, "Welcome to the City of Norton - 100 Years and Moving Forward" The City Administration would like to have Council's authorization to purchase this sign.

It was the concurrence of Council that Mr. Ramey proceed with purchasing this sign.

In comments from Council, Mr. Roberts inquired about the lights located on Tipple Hill and advised that they looked very good. Mr. Ward advised the Department of Parks and Recreation was responsible for that. He had also had several positive comments on them.

15861

Vice Mayor Mays commented on the renovated Bolling Mansion and felt that the City should give the McAfees a plaque of appreciation for rebuilding after the devastating fire. The City Manager is to work on this and bring back to Council.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned and Council went into a work session with the Planning Commission.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk