

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, April 21, 1992, at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Raines presiding.

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

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Kenneth P. Asbury, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Rev. Steve Emory and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Mr. Marty Hagy, Chairman of the City of Norton School Board.

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Ron McCall, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the April 7, 1992 meeting as presented.

15346

A public hearing was held to obtain citizen input concerning a pre-application recently submitted to the Farmers Home Administration to purchase equipment for the Fire Department in the amount of \$750,000.

Mr. Ward advised this public hearing was only for citizen input and no action needs to be taken.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

15347

There was no public input and Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

There were no comments from Council.

Chairman Marty Hagy of the Norton School Board presented Council with their budget for the 1992-1993 school year in the amount of \$4,045,747. Of this amount, \$1,117,715 is being sought in local funding. Mr. Hagy further asked that approval be made at the first council meeting in May in order to allow them time to do necessary work. Appreciation was extended to Council by the School Board for being very supportive of the Norton City Schools.

15348

At this time, Mayor Raines announced there was a change in the agenda. Item 7-C, a presentation by Mountain Empire Community College, would be done at this time.

15349

Mr. Harold Armsey, the City's representative to the MECC Board, and Ms. Marcia Quensenberry presented a slide program to Council after which Mr. Armsey introduced Dr. Robert Sandel, their new president.

15350

Dr. Sandel had three requests of Council. These were: The local funds budget in the amount of \$2,310; requesting \$2,500 to help match the Small Business Development Center Grant; and a request of \$7,200 to help meet a goal of \$90,000.

Dr. Sandel advised he would be happy to answer any questions of Council.

There were no questions or comments from Council and Mayor Raines thanked Dr. Sandel for being here at the meeting and expressed Council's appreciation for his efforts.

Mr. Bobby Lane of Dewberry and Davis gave Council a presentation of a Comprehensive Storm Drainage Study that they had conducted in the last six months.

Mr. Lane explained how the study had been conducted and gave Council a brief summary of their findings. He advised Mr. Ward had particularly asked him to check into two problem areas, 13th Street, N. W., and Hagy Alley. He then advised Council what could be done in each of these areas and the cost involved.

15351

As to a means of funding the work needed to be done in this study, Mr. Lane advised the City would be eligible for a Farmers Home Administration grant covering 75% of the cost; however some I&I work on the Sanitary Sewer System

would have to be included in order to meet FHA criteria. Cost of the work in this study is approximately \$3,000,000; however, if I&I work is brought in, it will go to between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000.

Mr. Lane advised he would send each member of Council a copy of the finished study along with maps for their review and would be happy to meet with them to discuss this at any time.

Council had been presented a letter from Jenay Tate, Chairman of the Best Friend Festival Committee, requesting permission from Council to close two blocks of Park Avenue, as had been done last year, for one day during the Best Friend Festival. Ms. Tate was present to answer any questions of Council.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Manager to conduct a quick survey of the down town merchants and get their feelings on this. The results of this survey are to be brought back to Council at the first meeting in May.

Council had in their packets A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Requesting the Virginia Department of Transportation to Include a New Street for Municipal Assistance Payments.

Mr. Ward advised this new street was the Pine Hills extension going over to St. Mary's and is approximately .68 lane miles. Passage of this resolution will result in the City receiving funds for maintenance of this street and the City Administration urges passage of this resolution.

Upon a motion by Ron McCall, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia Requesting the Virginia Department of Transportation to Include a New Street for Municipal Assistance Payments. (Insert)

Mr. Ward advised Council that the resolution covering the reclassification of some of the functional classifications for Federal Highway purposes on five streets needs to be passed in order that the Federal Government will recognize the changes we've made in and around Norton.

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 Changing the Functional Classification for Certain City Streets. (Insert)

Council had been presented with a check in the amount of \$170,000 made payable to the Norton City Schools for confirmation.

Upon a motion by Linda Sturgill, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to confirm a check in the amount of \$170,000 payable to the Norton City Schools to cover payroll.

Since the Council Election is to be held on Tuesday, May 5th, and that it the same date as our first meeting in that month, the City Manager suggested that the meeting be held in the Fire Hall.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council also that the first meeting of May be held in the Fire Hall at the usual time.

In his comments, the City Manager advised that the City Administration and the Planning Commission had been working on several ordinances and these would be brought to Council in the near future.

He further advised that last year the City and the Town of Wise in conjunction with the Lenowisco Planning District and the Center for Public Service applied for a \$5000 grant from the Center on Rural Development or Cord. The purpose was to look at alternative service delivery between the two municipalities. Several months ago, the City of Norton and Town of Wise were advised the grant had been awarded to them. Upon meeting with the representatives to discuss this grant, it was the consensus of both Mr. Ward and

the Town Manager of Wise not to accept this grant and they respectfully advised the Cord people of this decision.

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

15358

At this time, Mr. Cliff Daniels was in the audience and asked Mayor Raines if he might speak regarding the comments made about various ordinances as mentioned in the City Manager's comments. Mayor Raines gave Mr. Daniels time to speak to Council.

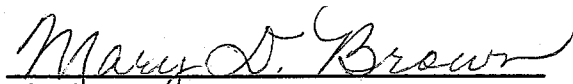
Mr. Daniels stated that three major announcements had been made in the last few weeks that would have a direct impact on the City's future in his opinion. These announcements are the discussion of the Red Onion Prison Site, the problem at Clinch Valley College with housing, and the Norton By-Pass going forward in the next year. He advised housing has always been a problem in the City, new housing has always been a problem, and two developers that have done developments over the past 10-15 years have expressed concerns over the Sub-Division Ordinance. According to Mr. Daniels, the Zoning Ordinance could also have an affect on our ability to have someone develop within the City during the boom he sees coming. The City needs to adopt a policy of encouraging people to make an investment in the City. He asked Council to review these comments when working on these ordinances.

15359

There were no comments from members of Council and no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned with a work session on the City's budget to follow.

  
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B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk