

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

Present: Jack Wallace, Robert Raines, William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Joseph Hunnicutt

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by the City Manager and was followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by the Assistant City Manager, Fred Ramey.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the March 5, 2002 meeting as presented.

20127

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council.

20128

Mayor Raines advised that on Sunday, March 16, 2002 the City declared an emergency due to the heavy rains sustained over the weekend. On Monday, Governor Warner declared an emergency with the City of Norton and Wise County included.

Mr. Ward advised Council that the City is still assessing the situation and is working with state officials. He gave a brief update on the amount of rain we experienced in 2001 and advised that the amount of rain we received this weekend represents 10% of the rainfall we receive in a year. After talking with an engineer, he advised that this storm, at a minimum, was a 25 year storm event.

20129

Mr. Bill Stokes, City of Norton Emergency Services Coordinator, spoke briefly to Council giving them an update on the situation. He advised that the City had some evacuation and he is in the process of filling out paperwork. He commended the members of the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments of the City, as well as the Rescue Squad, for all the hard work and long hours put in during this emergency situation.

Mr. Ward showed Council some photos taken throughout the City during this flooding and advised Council of some of the problems. A temporary water line had been installed today to supply water to the Saw Mill Hollow residents in Ramsey.

Following this presentation, Mayor Raines also commended the members of the City of Norton Fire, Police, and Public Works Departments along with the Norton Rescue Squad for their long hours and service during this emergency.

During the mayor's call for visitors, Mr. Chris Haverly of the Hard Rock Gym, located on Park Avenue, spoke to Council regarding the back up of sewer in his building as well as in the Masons Building and Fisher Auto Parts. Others speaking and describing their damage from the flooding were Jeff Bays, who owns property on the 800 block of Park Avenue, Dr. Danny Minor, Park Avenue property owner, and Eugene Mullins, representing the First Baptist Church.

20130

Mayor Raines expressed Council's appreciation to those present who advised of their problems during this emergency and advised that the City will try to help in anyway that it can.

Council held a public hearing to solicit public input on the proposed Community Development Block Grant Proposal for the East Norton Housing Production Product.

Mayor Raines advised that this is the second required public hearing to be held on the CDBG Proposal.

Mr. Ken Poore, the City's consultant on this project, spoke briefly and advised Council of the merits of this housing project. He advised that 46 of the lots, or 81% of the lots, would be for low to moderate income houses. The City is seeking \$770,000 dollars in CDBG Funds, \$258,060 in Appalachia Regional Commission Funds, and is committing \$103,740 in funds for streets, legal services, plats, and water and sewer connection fee waivers for the 46 low to moderate income lots.

Mr. Poore advised that he would be happy to answer any questions from Council and also advised that they had a resolution enclosed in their packets for consideration.

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.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to adopt A Resolution Authorizing the Preparation and Filing of an Application for Community Improvement Grant Funds Through the Small Cities Virginia Community Development Block Grant Program. (Insert)

20131

Council had included in their packets a contract with Custom Communications including an appropriation of funds.

Mr. Ward advised that Wise County, the towns within the county, and the City of Norton have been negotiating with Adelpia for a new franchise agreement. A new agreement has not been reached and this group has decided to hire a negotiator, Custom Communications. Mr. Ward advised that he is seeking favorable consideration from Council on this request and stated that the City's share on this negotiator cost is \$4,575.

The City Attorney advised that he has approved this contract as to form; however, he would recommend that all entities involved have a member of the Virginia State Bar inspect any documents that may be written by Custom Communications.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Custom Communications including the appropriation of funds and subject to the other entities approving this contract, and following the recommendation of the City Attorney regarding the preparation of legal documents. (Insert)

20132

Council had a request from the City Treasurer requesting a refund in the amount of \$318.66 for taxes erroneously assessed to Union Drilling Company for 2001 personal property taxes.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a refund of \$318.66 to Union Drilling, Inc. for 2001 personal property taxes erroneously assessed.

Council had before them a request for one water and one sewer tap for the West Norton Freewill Baptist Church located in the Dorchester section of the county.

Mr. Ward advised that water is available and sewer is approximately 200 feet away. He further advised that the Church is willing to pay for the 200 feet of extension so that that they can hook on to the sewer.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve one water and one sewer tap for the Norton Freewill Baptist Church located in the Dorchester area of the county with said taps being made within a twelve month period.

20133

In their packets, Council had a request from the Police Department to accept two grants that have been awarded. The first grant is from the Department of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$55,500, which requires a match from the City in the amount of \$18,500, for a total amount of \$74,000. This grant money will be used to update the dispatch and records system.

The second grant is also from the Department of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$21,800 with a match from the City in the amount of \$5,450. These funds will be used to for an IBR Phase II Finger Print Module.

Following a brief discussion, the City Manager advised that these funds were available from the City's current budget and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to accept a grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$55,500 with matching funds of \$18,500 from the City with said funds to come from the current year's budget for a total amount of \$74,000.

20134

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to accept a grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$21,800 with a match of \$5,450 from the City for an IBR Phase II Finger Print Module with said funds to come from the current year's budget.

Council had been presented a copy of a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$210,000.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve a check made payable to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$210,000.

20135

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per 2.2-3711(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Mayor Raines declared Council in closed meeting.

20136

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by William Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting.

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open meeting.

2013

The Clerk then polled each member of Council as to the certification of closed meeting with each answering yes. The Clerk then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Wallace, Mays, Fawbush, Raines, NO – None, ABSENT – None, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

2013

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that he would like to commend not only the Police and Public Works Departments but especially the volunteers of the Fire Department and the Rescue Squad.

2013


It was the consensus of Council for Mr. Ward to draft a letter over the Mayor's signature extending appreciation for the work done by these departments during this emergency.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

  
B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Clerk