

The regular meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, June 5, 2001 at the Council Chambers with Mayor Robert Raines presiding.

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

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

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

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, the minutes of the May 15, 2001 meeting were approved as presented.

19912

During the audience for visitors, Mr. Stan Wilson, Athletic Director of John I. Burton High School, spoke to Council seeking some financial help for the boys and girls tennis teams and track teams to help with the costs incurred or to be incurred for going to state tournaments.

Mr. Wilson introduced Coach Steve Bonney, Track Coach, who recognized members of his team, Laurie Price and Kendra Potter, who had participated in state competition this past week-end. Mr. Wilson also introduced Coach Hank Hankins, Coach of the Boys Tennis Team. Mr. Hankins introduced the members of his team to Council. They will be traveling to Roanoke Thursday for state competition. Also recognized, but not in attendance were Girls Tennis Coach Gerry Wallace and Nicole Pilkenton, who will be competing in state competition this week.

19913

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to support the expenses of the John I. Burton Track and Tennis Teams in the amount of \$2,500 with said funds to come from contingency.

Also speaking during the audience for visitors was Mr. Shannon Watts, representing his grandmother and aunt who reside at 226 Chestnut Street. They have been experiencing flooding problems for some time.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Ward advised Council that since all of the recent drainage problems, he had looked over the Storm Drainage Study which had been done in the past and that he would like to reactivate this study and bring it back to Council for review for some corrective measures.

19914

Mayor Raines advised Mr. Ward to bring this matter back to Council no later than the first meeting in July.

A public hearing was held to solicit public input on the proposed 2001-02 Municipal Budget for the City of Norton.

Mr. Ward gave a brief synopsis of the budget and advised that no action will be taken tonight.

The only change in the fees contained in this budget is an increase in the water rates and a 2.5% cost of living adjustment for all City employees except Constitutional officers.

Mayor Raines opened the public hearing.

Ms. Delores Bolling of Woodland Terrace spoke briefly to Council regarding the increase in water rates and was also concerned with the amount of gallons charged on a minimum bill. She would like the current minimum of 2,000 gallons lowered.

There were no additional comments during the public hearing.

Mayor Raines closed the public hearing.

Councilman Fawbush advised that he would like to see reintroduced into the 2001-2002 budget the Vacant Home Demolition Project which is in our Capital Improvement Projects and would like to transfer \$10,000 that is allocated in the Fire Department budget for a part-time employee into this Vacant Home Demolition Project.

Mr. Ward advised that regulations for the Vacant Home Demolition Project have not been adopted, but the City has received some interest recently. The City staff is now preparing some draft regulations to bring to Council to get this project operational. As for the part-time position in the Fire Department, he had been advised that this would give them the ability to get more work done.

Mayor Raines advised the City Manager to bring something back to Council on these items.

Mayor Raines advised that this matter would be placed on Council's next agenda for consideration.

Council had in their packets a letter from SBA Properties requesting a building permit for the cell tower they wish to construct.

City Attorney Bill Bradshaw gave Council an update on this item and advised Council that SBA Properties has selected a different site which is located in a B-3 General Business Zone. They met with the Planning Commission on May 31, 2001, at which time the Planning Commission determined that the use is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance.

City Council can either reject the decision of the Planning Commission; do nothing and the decision of the Planning Commission will be final in sixty days; or adopt the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Speaking to Council with concerns on this matter was Mr. George Statzer of 400 Beech Street. Mr. Ed Justice of SBA Properties spoke to Council and answered the questions asked by Mr. Statzer.

Following a lengthy discussion and upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to concur with the resolution adopted by the Planning Commission for the placement of the cell tower at this particular location, as it did not conflict with the Comprehensive Plan or the Zoning Ordinance.

Mr. Ward advised Council that a public hearing was held at our last meeting on the 2001-2002 budget for the Norton City Schools.

Present tonight to answer any questions of Council were Dr. John Sessoms, Superintendent of Norton City Schools, and Mr. Ron McCall, a member of the City of Norton School Board.

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19916

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to adopt the 2001-2002 Norton City Schools Budget as presented.

19917

Mr. Ward discussed with Council briefly the proposed increase from the C-N-W Regional Wastewater Authority.

The budget for the Authority has been revised and resubmitted for consideration after a cost allocation study performed by the independent auditing firm of Thrower, Livesay, and Blanton. The new total for this budget is \$1,590,909 - an increase of 8.1%. Information on this budget is included in Council's packet.

19918

The City Manager agrees with the methodology used in this cost allocation study and the new share the City will pay is \$69,252, which is an increase of 10.54%.

This information is being supplied to Council for informational purposes only.

Upon a motion by Joseph Hunnicutt, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed session to discuss personnel as per 2.1-344(A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

19919

Mayor Raines declared the meeting in closed session.

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open session.

19920

Mayor Raines declared Council back in open session.

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 Fawbush, seconded by William Mays, 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)

19921

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Industrial Development Authority for four year terms which will expire May 10, 2005.

Joseph Fawbush nominated Charles Graham and Glenn Teasley to be reappointed to this Authority.

19922

Upon a motion by Jack Wallace, seconded by Joseph Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared Charles Graham and Glenn Teasley reappointed to the Norton Industrial Development for a four year term which will expire on May 10, 2005.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations of a Student Representative to the Youth Services Board to fill an unexpired term which will expire May 2, 2003.

Joseph Hunnicutt nominated Katie Mullins.

19923

Upon a motion by William Mays, seconded by Joseph Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared Katie Mullins appointed as a Student Representative to the Youth Services Board to fill an unexpired term which will expire on May 2, 2003.

Mayor Raines opened the floor for nominations to the Mountain Empire Regional Business Incubator for a four year term which will expire on July 1, 2005.

William Mays nominated Mr. Hank Hankins to be reappointed to this Board.

Upon a motion by Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Jack Wallace, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Raines declared Mr. Hank Hankins reappointed to the Mountain Empire Regional Business Incubator for a four year term which will expire on July 1, 2005.

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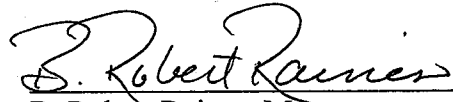
In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that the Best Friend Festival will begin June 9th and run to June 16th. He then passed out a schedule of events to each member of Council.

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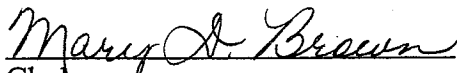
There were no comments from the City Attorney.

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

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA


B. Robert Raines, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk