

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE 10TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
January 26, 2016
4:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Sandra N. Cherry, D. Min.; Robert S. Coleman; McKinley L. Price, DDS; Sharon P. Scott (arrived 4:15 p.m.); Tina L. Vick (arrived at 4:35 p.m.); Dr. Patricia P. Woodbury; and Herbert H. Bateman, Jr. ----- 7

ABSENT: None ----- 0

OTHERS PRESENT: James M. Bourey; Collins L. Owens; Mabel Washington Jenkins; Cynthia Rohlf; Alan Archer; Wanda Pierre; Lynn Spratley; Lisa Cipriano; Sheila McAllister; Florence Kingston; Carol Meredith; Reed Fowler; Everett Skipper; Kate Helwig; Lamont W. Curtis; Cleder Jones; Paula Hersh; Kim Lee; RoShaudra Ellington; Jennifer Walker; and Theresa Clift

I. Sister Cities of Newport News (SCNN) Annual Report Briefing

Mr. James Bourey, City Manager, introduced Mr. Lamont Curtis, President, Sister Cities of Newport News, Inc., to provide the presentation.

Mr. Curtis thanked the members of City Council for the opportunity to provide the 2016 Sister Cities of Newport News (SCNN) Annual Report and to offer information on the SCNN's 2015 activities. He introduced Ms. Kate Helwig, Executive Director, SCNN, to continue with the presentation (a copy of the SCNN Annual Report to the Newport News City Council is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Ms. Helwig advised that the Sister Cities movement began on September 11, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. She stated the SCNN was a part of People to People and the National League of Cities, and became a separate non-profit in 1967.

Ms. Helwig noted the benefits of the SCNN Program:

- Formed Long-term, Sustainable Community Partnerships
- Fostered Educational, Cultural and Economic Programs
- Linked International Cities

Ms. Helwig stated that the SCNN had a City relationship with Neyagawa City, Osaka, Japan; Taizhou, China; and Greifswald, Germany; and two friendship City relationships with Saint-Nazaire, France; and ZiYang, China.

Ms. Helwig noted the chronological history of SCNN relationships:

- Neyagawa, Japan 1982
- Taizhou, China 1998
- Non-Profit Status 1999

- ZiYang, China (Friendship) 2005
- Greifswald, Germany 2007
- Saint-Nazaire, France (Friendship) 2015
- Saint-Nazaire, France (Sister) 2017

Ms. Helwig stated the City of Neyagawa was a true attraction for the SCNN in terms of gaining new members. She stated Menchville High School had once sponsored a very active Japanese program. Japanese was one of the highest self-taught languages for youth. The SCNN had held many exchanges with Greifswald, Germany. Greifswald was an enticement to military personnel, and held many similarities to the United States. Greifswald was located on the Baltic Sea, near the Islands of Rugen and Usedom. Not much effort had been put into the relationship with ZiYang, China, with the hope that the relationship would grow within the next few years. Saint-Nazaire was a fishing and shipbuilding town, similar to the City of Newport News.

Ms. Helwig stated the mission of the SCNN was to build and strengthen international cooperation, understanding, and development between the citizens of Newport News and those of the world. The mission was achieved through three types of programs: 1) Cultural; 2) Educational; and 3) Economic. She noted Cultural, Economic, and Economic Programs offered by the SCNN:

- **Cultural**
 - Reciprocal Exchanges (Low Cost-High Benefits)
 - Fall Festival and Children's Festival of Friends
 - University of Electronic Science and Technology of China Summer Camp at CNU
 - International Food Tasting Event
- **Educational**
 - Annual GlobaBee International Quiz
 - Annual CNU-SCNN German Seminar
 - Support High School Language Honor Societies
 - NEW! High School Scholarships
- **Economic**
 - Support EDA/IDA in Cultivating International Business
 - Large Business Development Exchange to China

Ms. Helwig stated that the City's grant application required the SCNN to institute Outcome Measures. She advised the SCNN's Outcome Measures resulted in the fact that the SCNN touched over 1,000 people through program attendance and participation (see all SCNN Outcome Measures in the Report attached to these minutes).

Ms. Helwig noted SCNN FY 2015 Income by Source:

- In-kind Services & Hosting 35%
- NN CSA Grant Funds 43%
- Fundraising Income 16%
- Fees from Events/Services 4%
- Restricted Scholarship Funds 1%
- Dues 1%

Ms. Curtis noted the 2015 achieved goals and 2016 objectives for the SCNN that were consistent with the long-term agenda and philosophy of City Council (see goals and objectives in Report attached to these minutes). He thanked City Council for the opportunity to provide the presentation.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired whether homestays had been instituted in China. Ms. Helwig replied that an SCNN delegation of five adults and four youth had utilized homestays in Taizhou, China, which was an eye opening/life-changing experience for the youth. One youth was housed in a high rise penthouse, while another was housed in a home with only one faucet for bathing in the bathroom and a floor mat for sleeping. A SCNN delegation hoped to travel to ZiYang, China, in the near future. Homestays were requested, but they had not received confirmation.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired whether the SCNN had looked into obtaining State funding. Ms. Helwig replied that the SCNN had not applied for State funding. The only relationship the SCNN had with the State was to gain sustainable international business investment.

Councilwoman Woodbury noted that Delegate David Yancey had travelled with the SCNN to Saint-Nazaire, France. She believed Delegate Yancey and Delegate Marcia Price had State connections that could benefit the SCNN to receive State funding. Ms. Helwig stated that the SCNN had looked at grant opportunities; however, they were only centered on environmental issues. She would be interested to see whether the National League of Cities (NLC) offered grants.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about grant opportunities through the educational program with CNU. Ms. Helwig advised that CNU had been very generous with In-kind support over the past five years. Mr. Curtis stated that the SCNN would explore additional grant opportunities in the future.

II. Comments/Ideas/Suggestions

Councilwoman Scott indicated that she had a conversation with Pastor Willard Maxwell, Jr. of New Beech Grove Baptist Church regarding the Flint, Michigan water crisis. She indicated that an effort was underway to send water to Flint, Michigan (see flyer attached to these minutes). She inquired whether the City

would be able to assist with the shipping of water to Flint, Michigan. Pastor Maxwell's non-profit, New Beech Grove Community Development Corporation (CDC), did not have the funds to send the water to Flint, Michigan. City Manager Bourey replied that he would look into the matter.

Mayor Price advised that Walmart was donating approximately six million gallons of water to Flint, Michigan. He suggested that Pastor Maxwell talk with local Walmart executives to see whether they could assist with the matter.

Councilwoman Scott advised that Pastor Maxwell and New Beech Grove CDC were brainstorming ways to ship the water.

Mayor Price suggested that Pastor Maxwell and his non-profit join Walmart's water campaign by having the participants purchase water from Walmart. Walmart would then be responsible for shipping the water to the Flint area, which would eliminate any cost of shipping to New Beech Grove.

Pastor Maxwell advised that he had been in conversations with representatives of Hampton University and other organizations to garner help with the effort. The representatives of Walmart suggested that water be sent, instead of cash, to alleviate administrative costs, although a Catholic Charity who would receive water and donations was identified. The cost to ship the water was approximately \$1,500. Pastor Maxwell recognized Vice Mayor Coleman who helped with advertising, and Councilwoman Scott who helped with logistics. He welcomed additional assistance from members of City Council, and thanked them for any assistance they could provide. He would entertain the suggestions offered by Mayor Price and Councilwoman Scott.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she received a call regarding an on hand demolition crew who was in the midst of demolishing a piece of property on Ivy Avenue. She stated the individual indicated that they had spoken with City personnel who advised that the demolition proceedings had been discontinued due to improvements made to the property (new windows, a roof and electrical wiring). Councilwoman Scott inquired about the steps taken to notify a property owner about a pending demolition, as she wanted to ensure that the City followed the correct protocol. Assistant City Manager Cynthia Rohlf stated, from her understanding with staff of the Department of Codes Compliance, that the issue had been going on for approximately five years, and there had been more than ample notice to the owners. Staff was not aware of any new improvements made to the property; however, notices were sent to alert that the property was scheduled for demolition. Adjacent property owners had complained about vandalism and illegal activity occurring on the property. The residents of the neighborhood the property had been a problem and there had been no work done to the property in some time. She would look further into the matter.

Councilwoman Scott had no doubt that the City followed the correct steps, but wanted to ensure that such matters were handled properly. She indicated this was the third time that she had been contacted about a similar situation. She reiterated that she wanted to ensure that property owners were aware of the demolition process. She inquired about the final notice provided to a property owner prior to demolition. Assistant City Manager Rohlf stated she would inquire when the final notice was forwarded to property owners.

Councilwoman Cherry stated that the same issue surfaced at her December 2015 "Your Voice Matters" South District Town Hall Meeting. She advised that staff from the Department of Codes Compliance promised to check into the matter. Councilwoman Cherry indicated that she spoke with the owner of the property who indicated they had plans to rehabilitate the property. She spoke again to the Codes Compliance staff member who promised to look into the matter. She then received an e-mail that noted the property was being demolished.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that she visited the property and witnessed that new windows were installed. She also noticed people frequenting the property. She inquired of the owner whether the Department of Codes Compliance had been notified, regarding their plans for the property, and whether "No Trespassing Signs" had been placed on the property. The owner indicated that the property continued to be vandalized, which Councilwoman Cherry shared with Codes staff person. As it turned out, the property was demolished and the new windows, that were installed, were taken out by the demolition company. The Codes staff person indicated that the initial notice and additional notices of demolition were sent to the previous owner of the property in August 2014; however, the new owner purchased the property in February 2015, at which time was advised that the structure was scheduled to be demolished. Councilwoman Cherry inquired about City's responsibility to the new owner regarding the demolition proceedings.

Councilwoman Vick advised that it became the buyer's responsibility to talk to the City if they purchased a piece of property that was scheduled for demolition. She stated the buyer needed to be aware of property issues. There was a long process that the City followed before an order of demolition was processed.

Councilwoman Cherry was not sure where the communication was lost. Assistant City Manager Rohlf understood that the demolition process began again once the property exchanged owners. The Department of Codes Compliance would be responsible to notify the new owners.

Councilwoman Cherry inquired whether the new owner was provided proper notification prior to the demolition of their property. Assistant City Manager Rohlf stated she would look into the matter to ensure that the demolition process was followed correctly.

Councilwoman Scott voiced concern that the person she spoke with indicated that they had not heard anything, since July, when they were told that the demolition process had been waived. She inquired whether the City allowed a waiver of demolition, and if so, whether it was in writing. Assistant City Manager Rohlf stated she would look into the matter and report back to City Council.

Vice Mayor Coleman inquired about an update regarding the televising of City Council Work Sessions. City Manager Bourey replied there were options to consider before televising the Work Sessions: 1) Televising live in the City Council Chambers; or 2) Video-tape in the City Council Conference Room and televise at a later time. The City Council Conference Room would need to be re-configured, at a cost of approximately \$70,000.

Councilwoman Vick inquired about the need to televise the Work Sessions. Vice Mayor Coleman explained a great deal of information was provided in Work Sessions, and due to time constraints, many citizens were not able to attend, as they were held in the middle of the day. The minutes and back-up information was the only medium available, should residents want to know what occurred in Work Sessions. He felt that Work

Sessions were just as important as the Regular Meetings of City Council, which were televised. He felt it would show that City Council was leading the way in transparency. They were an open government and wanted the citizens to know what was going on in the community as well as what decisions were made on their behalf.

Councilman Bateman disagreed. He did not feel that televising City Council Work Sessions was necessary. He advised that minutes were produced, and the Work Sessions were open to the public. He was appreciative of the timeframe issue; however, he did not feel that there was a lack of transparency. He felt that the televising of Work Sessions would create an extra opportunity for posturing and drama. Members of City Council would not feel comfortable with making decisions or asking questions. They would always feel as though they were on trial.

Mayor Price felt that City Council consensus was needed before going down an economic road or making any further decision. He concurred with Councilman Bateman. He inquired whether there was consensus among City Council to proceed with the issue.

Councilwoman Woodbury expressed support for the matter. She felt video-taping and later televising the Work Sessions was the less expensive alternative. City Manager Bourey stated there still would be a cost associated with video-taping the meetings; however, it would be less expensive than televising the meetings live.

Councilman Bateman reiterated there was enough posturing and drama without City Council being on television.

Vice Mayor Coleman disagreed, and felt it would have the opposite affect if City Council had a live recording of their discussions. He felt it was another way of getting information out to the citizens, which he believed was important to City Council.

Councilman Bateman stated he would be willing to discuss and review the options; however, he was concerned about the fiscal impact.

Vice Mayor Coleman suggested that the matter be discussed at a future Work Session to garner figures and suggestions.

Mayor Price stated, to be consistent with other ideas, such as moving the City Council meetings to other locations throughout the City, it would be a waste of time to hold further discussion if there was no consensus among City Council.

There was no consensus among City Council to move forward with televising or video-taping the City Council Work Sessions.

Vice Mayor Coleman voiced concern about the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Federal Resiliency Grant announcement that was made on Thursday, January 21, 2016. He stated it was a multi-jurisdictional grant with participation from a number of Hampton Roads Cities (Norfolk, Chesapeake, Newport News, etc.). All of the jurisdictions were under the impression that the grant would be

shared, if awarded; however, one jurisdiction received the entire grant. Vice Mayor Coleman requested that a briefing be held on the matter to determine the reason that only one jurisdiction received the grant award. He was perplexed by the decision that HUD did not notify the jurisdictions before making the announcement. He attended the announcement expecting good news, only to learn that the grant was awarded to one jurisdiction, the City of Norfolk. He it was a slap in the face to the other jurisdictions that participated in the process.

City Manager Bourey stated the grant application was a regional effort that was put together by the State for submission to HUD. He explained that there was a provision in the grant that allowed HUD to reserve the right to fund parts of the grant. The City of Newport News was approached by the City of Norfolk to participate in the grant. The State was not aware of the grant determination and had to wait until the announcement was made in Norfolk. The State encouraged HUD to notify the Cities beforehand about the grant award, but HUD refused. The State requested a debriefing by HUD to determine the reason for their decision, which the City would participate in.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the amount of the HUD grant that was awarded to the City of Norfolk. City Manager Bourey replied that the grant award amounted to approximately \$120 million.

Councilwoman Scott stated she received word about an Environmental Protection and Flood Mitigation Grant. She inquired whether the City was a part of the grant. City Manager Bourey stated he would look into the matter.

Vice Mayor Coleman understood that funding for the construction of a laboratory for sea-level rise research was included in the HUD Resiliency Grant. He felt it would be a nice gesture to HUD for them to construct the building in the City of Newport News.

City Clerk Mabel Washington Jenkins reminded about three events: 1) the Virginia Municipal League Day at the Capitol and Reception on Wednesday, January 27, 2016; 2) General and Mrs. David Perkins and Sergeant Major and Mrs. David Davenport New Year's Reception, at the Fort Eustis Club, Friday, January 29, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.; and 3) the Patient Advocate Foundation's Promise of Hope Affair, on February 27, 2016.

Councilwoman Cherry stated she spoke with Mr. Shawn O'Keefe, Chairperson of the Mayor's Youth Commission (MYC), to ask that he provide City Council with a schedule of events for 2016. Mr. O'Keefe indicated that they would provide the schedule to City Council once their dates were finalized. Councilwoman Cherry pointed out that she was following up on the Mayor's concerns about the lack of City Council support in attending events sponsored by the MYC, as voiced at the January 12, 2016 City Council Work Session.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that the Kevin Swann Basketball League had begun and would run through February 20, 2016. The Junior Division's Basketball Games were held at Huntington Middle School (3401 Orcutt Avenue) and the Senior Division's Basketball Games were held at Crittenden Middle School (6158 Jefferson Avenue).

Councilwoman Cherry advised about flooding on Temple Lane off of Jefferson Avenue. She indicated water was up to people's yards and houses during the January 16 – 17, 2016 weekend winter storm. She asked that the Engineering Department look into the matter. City Manager Bourey stated he would have staff look into the matter.

Councilman Bateman commended staff for the great job in clearing the roadways during the January 16 – 17, 2016, weekend winter storm. City Manager Bourey agreed, and thanked Councilman Bateman for his commendation.

Councilman Bateman indicated that the street lighting on J. Clyde Morris Boulevard, coming off of Interstate-64 East, needed attention. City Manager Bourey stated there was an ongoing issue with Dominion Power, and he would have staff look into the matter. Assistant City Manager Rohlf replied that it was a 60 to 90 day turnaround time once the issue was reported to Dominion Virginia Power, depending on their workload. She would report the issue to Dominion Virginia Power.

Vice Mayor Coleman reminded about the lighting issues in Courthouse Green. He stated the lighting needed to be upgraded due to inadequate wiring. Dominion Power stated that the issue would be addressed; however, the matter still had not been resolved. Assistant City Manager Rohlf replied that wiring issues took longer to rectify.

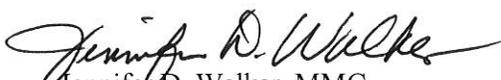
Councilman Bateman commended Vice Mayor Coleman for taking time to speak to the residents of Village Green, after City Council deliberation, about development in the area, by pinpointing the hydrology flow issues. He inquired whether the issue had been resolved and whether the residents were content. City Manager Bourey replied that the residents were content. He stated much work had been done by the City.

Councilman Bateman noted that the excavation issues taking place on River Road, Milford Road, and Park Place, by Hilton Elementary. He had seen Engineering reports on the matter, and it had been going on forever. He asked that the City Manager have staff reach out to the residents to provide them with updates. City Manager Bourey asked Assistant City Manager Rohlf to check into the matter.

City Manager Bourey reported that the New Market Tax Credit transactions for Jim's Local Market in the Southeast Community had been completed. He advised that a dry closing was held, and the project would be funded. He commended Ms. Florence Kingston, Director, Department of Development, and staff for their hard work on the issue, which provided a \$2 million benefit to the City.

Mayor Price stated he would be attending the VML Legislative Day and Reception on January 27, 2016. He advised, in addition, the Hampton Roads delegation would have a meeting with the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) and Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (PDC), on January 28, 2016, from 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m., which he also planned to attend.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 5:05 P.M.


Jennifer D. Walker, MMC
Chief Deputy City Clerk

McKinley L. Price
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk