

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM
OF THE DOWNING-GROSS CULTURAL ARTS CENTER
2410 WICKHAM AVENUE
AND
IN THE 10TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
February 23, 2016
2:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: McKinley L. Price, DDS; Sharon P. Scott; Tina L. Vick; Dr. Patricia P. Woodbury; Herbert H. Bateman, Jr.; and Robert S. Coleman -----6

ABSENT: Sandra N. Cherry, D. Min -----1

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Carlton S. Ashby; Douglas Brown; Everette Hicks; Gary B. Hunter; Darian Scott; Shelly Simonds; and Jeff Stodghill -----7

OTHERS PRESENT: James M. Bourey; Collins L. Owens; Mabel Washington Jenkins; Cynthia Rohlf; Alan Archer; Wanda Pierre; Darlene Bradberry; Lynn Spratley; Joseph DuRant; Mary Lou Roaseau; Tracy Snell; Kim Hinton; Ashby C. Kilgore; Michelle Price; Lenard Wallin; Lisa Cipriano; Sherry Crocker; Claudia Cotton; Florence Kingston; Reed Fowler; Venerria Thomas; Marc Rodgers; Eoghan Miller; Kim Lee; Cleder Jones; MaRhonda Echols; Terry Bonner; Jennifer Walker; and Theresa Clift

I. Joint Meeting with the Newport News Public School Board to Discuss the Five-Year Capital Improvements Program

Mayor Price welcomed everyone to the first portion of the February 23, 2016 Work Session of City Council. He called the Joint Meeting of the Newport News City Council and School Board to order and asked the City Clerk to call the roll and advise of a quorum.

Roll Call:
Ayes: Price; Scott; Vick; Woodbury; Bateman; Coleman
Nays: None

City Clerk Mabel Washington Jenkins announced that there was a quorum of the Newport News City Council.

Mr. Jeff Stodghill, Chair, Newport News School Board, called the Joint Meeting of the Newport News School Board and City Council to order and asked the Clerk of the School Board to call the roll and advise of a quorum.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ashby; Brown; Hicks; Hunter; Scott; Simonds; Stodghill

Nays: None

Clerk of the School Board Kim Hinton announced that there was a quorum of the Newport News School Board.

City Manager Bourey welcomed everyone to the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center. He advised that the Joint Meeting was an outgrowth of a conversation held by City Council in regards to the Newport News Public School's (NNPS) Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). There was concern expressed that NNPS's needs were not being fully met. City Manager Bourey advised that he and City staff recognized the School's needs, but the City had unmet needs as well. He and Dr. Ashby Kilgore, Superintendent, NNPS, had been in conversation about the CIP and were in support of a Joint Meeting between the City Council and the School Board. He introduced Dr. Kilgore to provide the presentation.

Dr. Kilgore introduced Mr. Stodghill to provide opening remarks.

Mr. Stodghill thanked the members of the City Council and the City Manager for the opportunity to meet. He stated NNPS was an important component to economic development in the community. Good schools brought people to the community. NNPS offered many good programs that offered a world into aviation, healthcare, robotics, etc. Schools had to attract families to choose Newport News as their home. He advised that most of NNPS were in need of new HVAC systems, roofs, and other repairs. The School Board had to ensure that their school facilities did not leak and were comfortable places for students to learn. He looked forward to working with the City on a CIP that would assist the Schools in accomplishing a State of the Art School system. He returned the floor back to Dr. Kilgore.

Dr. Kilgore advised that schools constructed in the 1950s and 1960s were becoming outdated and did not meet the needs of the School system in terms of function and perception. She explained that Federal stimulus funding was used to transform and reconfigure Middle and High School Science Labs, which ignited the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) movement in NNPS by offering a new way to learn. The function of the schools had changed and the interest in STEM had grown. Numerous aging school facilities posed many challenges.

Dr. Kilgore stated the typical life cycle for a building was 50 years, with a roof lasting approximately 25 years and HVAC with a life span of approximately 15 to 20 years. She stated that 70% of the NNPS CIP requests funded roof and HVAC replacement projects. Many schools were 49 or more years old and were in need of repairs. She noted deteriorating roof problems and the impacts such issues

caused to the interior. She noted pavement problems throughout the School system, which was part of the CIP request. Huntington Middle School was in need of replacement as it had not been renovated since its opening (a copy of the presentation, “NNPS Capital Funding Needs – Looking to the Future,” is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Dr. Kilgore advised that 27 NNPSs were built prior to 1970 (1910 – 1990). She stated NNPS would soon face a Tsunami of structural problems. Buildings had been maintained, but many were in need of roof and HVAC replacements. It would cost approximately \$12 to \$15 million annually devoted to capital maintenance to avoid the Tsunami, which had nothing to do with renovation or replacement of buildings. NNPS had been allotted \$8 million per year in capital funding versus the \$15 million needed.

Dr. Kilgore stated that NNPS was 100% dependent on the City for CIP funding. The State did not provide funding to the Schools for capital projects. The State funded 60% of the Schools operational funding, and the City provided 40%. Schools were unable to make long-term improvements as they could not incur debt as a school division. Funding for long-term improvements had to come from the City.

Dr. Kilgore noted the NNPS Capital needs and CIP funding that was received from the City from 2013 – 2017 (see information on page 7 of the presentation attached to these minutes). She advised that funding had been reduced from \$52.6 million to \$41.4 million over the past five years. The total amount of CIP funding for the Schools had decreased by 21%. She noted the FY 2017 – FY 2021 NNPS CIP requests which totaled \$80.5 million:

- HVAC Replacements \$42.5 million
- Roof Replacements \$14.1 million
- Renovation \$6.1 million
- Construction (Design for new Huntington Middle School) \$2.8 million
- Buses \$15.0 million

Dr. Kilgore noted the projects that were not funded in the FY 2017 – 2021 NNPS CIP:

- Roof replacement (5 projects) \$11.3 million
- HVAC renovations (10 projects) \$19.1 million
- Renovation Projects (9 projects) \$ 5.3 million
- Bus Replacements (43 buses) \$39.2 million

Dr. Kilgore noted what other localities were doing to meet the long-term needs of their School systems:

- City of Norfolk
 - Two cents of four cents real estate tax increase was dedicated to construction, technology and infrastructure for schools
- City of Hampton
 - Additional two cents real estate tax to support technology initiative in the capital plan
- Henrico County
 - Meals tax (4%) referendum approved in November 2013. Estimated tax would generate \$18 million annually – to be split between operational and capital project needs for schools

Dr. Kilgore noted NNPS initiatives to reduce capital needs:

- Used federal stimulus funds for new science labs in all Middle and High Schools
- Entered into an Energy Performance Contract

Dr. Kilgore noted NNPS next steps:

- Contract with a third party to provide a Facilities Condition Survey
- Appoint a CIP Committee to look over the survey
- Develop a Long-Term Funding Plan for Capital needs

Dr. Kilgore advised that the School Board would provide the outcome of the Facilities Condition Survey to City Council with the recommendation for a long-term funding plan. She suggested planning a future meeting with the City Council, prior to the adoption of their FY 2018 – FY 2022 CIP in order to develop a long-term funding plan for School projects. There was much to think about as the needs for the Schools would continue to grow.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the timeframe for completion of the Facilities Condition Survey. Dr. Kilgore replied that the Facilities Condition Survey should be completed by May 2016, and they hoped to return to City Council with results by August or September 2016.

Councilwoman Scott questioned what the Schools hoped to gain from the survey. Dr. Kilgore replied that the goal was to develop a timeline for needed work, such as HVAC and roofs repairs and replacements. The Schools had a huge laundry list of matters that needed to be considered.

Councilwoman Scott questioned whether NNPS had the capacity to merge students into other schools if the survey determined that a school was uninhabitable. Dr. Kilgore replied that NNPS was capable of determining whether a school was uninhabitable through their building inspection program. The Facilities Condition Survey would determine when a school would reach the point of no return due to inadequate maintenance.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about the firm that was conducting the Facilities Condition Survey. Dr. Kilgore replied that Moseley Architects was conducting the Facilities Condition Survey.

Councilwoman Vick advised that she was happy that City Council and the School Board were able to meet to discuss a strategy to take care of the needs of NNPS.

Councilwoman Vick stated that she had received calls regarding maintenance issues at Huntington Middle School, such as heating issues. She inquired whether maintenance issues at Huntington Middle School would be addressed in the Facilities Condition Survey. Dr. Kilgore replied yes; such issues would be included in the Survey. She advised that the design for a new Huntington Middle School was in the CIP for FY 2020; however, she was in support of having the project accelerated as it took an additional two years, from the design phase, to begin construction.

Mayor Price inquired whether the Schools could provide a population projection for the next five to ten years. Dr. Kilgore replied that Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service of the University of Virginia conducted NNPS's population surveys. She stated she would provide the information to City Council.

Mayor Price advised, as a prior member of the School Board, he understood that costs savings could be found by building two or more schools simultaneously. Dr. Kilgore agreed that building two schools simultaneously could offer savings.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired whether the School Board desired to renovate or build a new Huntington Middle School. Dr. Kilgore replied that the School Board desired to build a new school. She stated the School administration had been working with the Huntington Alumni Association to gain input on how the new school would look and what pieces of the old building that they wanted to be saved. She, Mr. Hicks and Mr. Ashby had met with the Huntington Alumni Association and they were very excited about the project.

City Manager Bourey appreciated the presentation by Dr. Kilgore and the opportunity for discussion between City Council and the School Board. He stated the City funded what was affordable, based on revenue. The City faced a funding dilemma, and there was not enough funding for Capital projects. The \$15 million per year, as proposed by Dr. Kilgore, was not sustainable and would be too large of a percentage of the overall CIP. The City was close to its maximum level of bonding, and had only funded 20% of its overall needs. Reconfiguring the CIP would not provide the funding needed by the Schools. He reminded about the CIP process and indicated requests were received before the August/September timeframe. He indicated that the School's request might need to be pushed to 2017, should they not be able to meet the 2016 deadline. Dr. Kilgore stated it would take time for the Schools and City to agree on a long-term capital funding plan. She did not believe it could happen by the 2016

CIP deadline, but she was hopeful that it would. She asked City Council to consider the strategies used by surrounding localities to raise revenue for the Schools.

City Manager Bourey advised that funding for the Schools was a dilemma with the State. He stated the City and Schools were going to look into the matter to see about obtaining additional funding from the State.

Vice Mayor Coleman agreed that if the City could receive additional operational funding from the State, then the City could provide additional funding to the Schools. He felt the City was in a good position when it came to development, and a new tax base. No one could determine the future. He suggested that the members of the City Council and School Board meet more often. He applauded the City Manager and School Superintendent for making the meeting happen. He agreed with Dr. Kilgore that a plan could be found.

Dr. Kilgore agreed that the School Board and City Council should meet occasionally, as it would help the Schools become a part of the equation.

Ms. Simonds recalled when she and her spouse moved to the area in 2000, they looked at all of the communities and picked Newport News because of its School System. They believed that the City of Newport News was committed to their Schools. She felt the School system was an asset that could attract new residents to the City and State.

Mr. Stodghill thanked everyone for coming together to talk about what could be done in the future to address School needs. The Country was emerging out of a deep and tough recession. He felt the door was open to begin a discussion to achieve where the Schools wanted to be in the middle of the 21st Century. It was not going to be accomplished overnight, but the dialogue had begun.

II. Closed Meeting

Closed Meeting: 3:00 p.m. – 3:47 p.m.

III. Youth & Gang Violence Prevention Briefing

City Manager Bourey introduced Mr. Alan Archer, Assistant City Manager, City Manager's Office, to provide the presentation.

Mr. Archer recognized Ms. MaRhonda Echols, Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Coordinator, and Mr. Terry Bonner, Street Outreach Worker. He advised that the Youth and Gang Violence Initiative Summer Training and Employment Program (STEP) received State and National recognition for employment and business partnerships. He advised that Ms. Echols was working with

Mr. Joe Fisher of WAVY-TV 10 on a story about Youth and Gang Violence, that was scheduled to be broadcasted on Thursday, February 24, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. He introduced Ms. Echols and Mr. Bonner to continue with the presentation (a copy of the presentation, "Youth and Gang Violence Initiative Briefing," is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Ms. Echols stated that STEP was one of the biggest initiatives that the City had to combat Youth and Gang Violence. She offered an overview of STEP for 2016 compared to 2015. She advised that the planning and preparation for the 2016 program began in December 2015. The application period would run from February – March 2016. The application process was electronic and the number of program participants had increased from 316 to 600 participants. The program had expanded to the North District, along Warwick Boulevard, from Menchville Road to Fort Eustis Boulevard.

Ms. Echols stated, in addition to STEP, the heart of the Youth and Gang Violence Initiative was the work of the Outreach Workers. The City could not be affective without the Outreach Workers engaging with youth in the community. The role of the Outreach Workers had not changed. The Outreach Workers were building relationships with gang-affiliated youth and their families to reduce their bonds to gangs, provide access to social and educational services, and to provide a positive adult role-model.

Ms. Echols noted the priority areas of the Youth and Gang Violence Initiative:

- Outreach
 - Enhance efforts to engage the community and target population
- Re-Entry
 - Strengthen partnership with Juvenile Detention and the Sheriff's Office to connect incarcerated individuals with services and assist with re-integration back into the community
- Education
 - Build collaboration with select middle and high schools to teach character development, conflict resolution, and interpersonal relationships

Ms. Echols introduced Mr. Bonner to offer a day-to-day observation of what was being done to assist youth in the community.

Mr. Bonner stated he received referrals from teachers, police officers, and residents throughout the community. He stated some of the most challenging referrals came from community interaction. He offered an example of dealing with a situation with a high ranking gang member who had been pulled away from gang activity in a positive way. The Outreach Workers went into the community and dealt with matters on a one-on-one basis. Youth were stating that they were tired and wanted the violence to end.

Ms. Echols noted that she had a pending list of 42 referrals that had been received from various sources. The Outreach Workers met with the referrals and did an assessment to determine whether the referral was going to become an active client or referred to other services. There were 45 active referrals that the Outreach Works were working with, in addition to the 42 pending referrals.

Councilwoman Vick inquired about the parents of the at-risk youth and what they were saying. Mr. Bonner replied that his main objective was to get into the home to see the environment. Most of his referrals were self-referrals. Many of the parents were relieved and surprised about the City's program. Ms. Echols replied that staff also experienced some challenges with parents who did not appreciate the assistance from the Outreach Workers about how they raised their children. The Outreach Workers were not trying to tell parents how to raise their children, but were trying to help prevent the destructive path that their children were heading down. Much of the intervention was to help educate the parents.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about the number of youth that the Outreach Workers assisted per week. Mr. Bonner replied he was involved with approximately 13 youth that he called every other day.

Vice Mayor Coleman inquired whether there was a need to expand the number of Outreach Workers.

City Manager Bourey reminded that the program was expanded in 2015. He felt further expansion of the program was necessary, but it had to be done in a thoughtful and effective way. He ultimately would ask City Council for additional funding for the program.

Ms. Echols stated that she and the Outreach Workers were making a difference every day and understood that they had a long road ahead; it took time to change behavior. She felt they were heading in the right direction.

Assistant City Manager Archer noted accomplishments of the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Initiative:

- Served 500 youth and young adults in STEP over a two-year period. Partnered with 64 organizations to provide worksite training opportunities for participants
- Decreased juvenile criminal offenses by 17% in the summer of 2015 compared to the same 60-day comparison period the previous year
- Established a partnership with Jim's Local Market to hire, screen and refer STEP participants to the Peninsula One-Stop Business Service Unit for employment

- Hired four Street Outreach Workers who were engaging 45 clients across all City Council Districts
- Awarded six Youth and Gang Prevention Service Contracts to serve youth and young adults
- Recognized by the National Gang Center as a “Best Practices” site for youth employment and business partnerships
- Provided technical assistance through the National Gang Center and Cities United to other sites

Assistant City Manager Archer noted next steps in the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Initiative:

- Refine Steering Committee Action Plan
- Enhance communication and public awareness through grass-root activity and social media
- Design an inter-agency incident offender data-base
- Compile a community resource inventory

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired whether the City was able to place ex-felons in the program, and if so, how they worked out. Ms. Echols replied yes, and they completed the programs and were successful.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about a program that offered employers a \$2,500 tax credit for hiring ex-felons. Ms. Echols replied that she was not aware of the program, but felt it was something that could be of benefit to the Initiative.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the percentage of male to female participants in the program. Ms. Echols replied approximately 80/20 male to female participants.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the ethnic group percentage. Ms. Echols replied the majority of the participants were African Americans.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about other ethnic groups, such as Hispanics. Mr. Bonner replied that they were beginning to see more Hispanics.

Councilwoman Scott inquired whether there was a person on the Outreach Team that spoke fluent Spanish. Mr. Bonner replied no. City Manager Bourey stated that was something that needed to be looked into as the program moved forward.

Ms. Echols advised that 22 out of the 45 Outreach Worker clients had been identified as gang members or had gang affiliations. The Outreach Workers were hitting the heart of the problem.

Councilwoman Scott inquired whether the 45 clients were received from the courts, police, or through intervention. Ms. Echols replied that the clients were referred by multiple sources (street intervention, or probation and/or parole officers, etc.). They had not received direct referrals from the court, other than by way of probation and parole officers.

Councilwoman Scott applauded the efforts of the Youth and Gang Prevention Initiative team. She knew it was a herculean task, but the Initiative was on the right track and targeting the right population. She thanked Ms. Echols, the Outreach Workers, and the Initiative team, for all of their hard work.

City Manager Bourey advised that the Initiative could make a difference or positive change, one person at a time. There needed to be credibility and relationship building which took time. Other agencies throughout the City needed to be engaged in the effort.

Councilwoman Vick advised that she was glad to be a proponent for the summer job program. She felt that positive experiences could help youth from low income areas become productive citizens and instill a work ethic. The tone in the community was changing as youth felt connected to something better than their current situation. Benefits would be seen in the next two years from the investment the City put into the program.

Mayor Price asked, as the City grew partnerships, that members of City Council be allowed to help with gaining mentors.

Assistant City Manager Archer advised that there was an individual exploring best practice mentorship models. He stated it was challenging because there were so many different groups that provided mentoring.

Councilwoman Vick suggested that the City obtain grassroots mentors that the youth could identify with, which would make a difference.

Councilwoman Scott inquired whether the City had a working relationship with a community college, business college or certification program. Assistant City Manager Archer replied the City had a working relationship with Thomas Nelson Community College and the One-Stop Center at the Peninsula Council of Workforce Development. He felt there was opportunity to grow relationships and partnerships with others.

Councilwoman Scott indicated that Everest College (803 Diligence Drive, Newport News) offered a program (American Dream) to at-risk youth that paid the first \$5,000 per semester or per year of their tuition. She believed this could be an opportunity for Ms. Echols to look into. Ms. Echols replied that she would look into the matter.

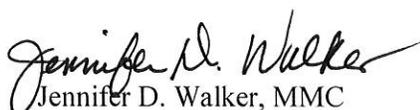
IV. Comments/Ideas/Suggestions

Councilwoman Scott stated that she had heard that a company purchased the Denbigh-Warwick Shopping Center located at Denbigh and Warwick Boulevards. She advised the trees on the property had been cut down. She inquired whether property owners had to obtain permission from the City to cut down trees on their property. She advised no trees were left on the property. Ms. Claudia Cotton, Assistant Director, Department of Planning, replied that they had a meeting with the owners. City Manager Bourey replied that the owners would have to replant the trees.

Councilwoman Scott stated that she had noticed that some restaurants were not charging City tax. Certain places she occasioned had been charging both State and City taxes, but others were not. City Manager Bourey replied that such matters be reported to him, and he would have staff look into the issue.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about how restaurants were monitored to ensure the taxes were being charged and collected. City Manager Bourey advised that the Commissioner of Revenue, Ms. Pricillia Bele, was responsible for monitoring restaurants to ensure taxes were charged appropriately.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 4:57 P.M.


Jennifer D. Walker, MMC
Chief Deputy City Clerk

McKinley L. Price
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk