

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE 10TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE**

March 8, 2016

3:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Tina L. Vick (arrived at 4:35 p.m.); Dr. Patricia P. Woodbury; Herbert H. Bateman, Jr.; Robert S. Coleman; and McKinley L. Price, DDS -----5

ABSENT: Sharon P. Scott; and Sandra N. Cherry, D. Min -----2

OTHERS PRESENT: James M. Bourey; Collins L. Owens; Mabel Washington Jenkins; Cynthia Rohlf; Alan Archer; Wanda Pierre; Darlene Bradberry; R. B. Alley; Michael Poplawski; Lisa Cipriano; Sherry Crocker; Claudia Cotton; Florence Kingston; Reed Fowler; Sheila McAllister; Britta Ayers; Joye Thompsons, Paula Hirsch; Carol Meredith; Telly Whitfield; Kim Lee; Cleder Jones; Jennifer Walker; and Theresa Clift

I. World Arts Festival Briefing

Mr. James M. Bourey, City Manager, introduced Mr. Michael Poplawski, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, to provide a briefing on the 2016 World Arts Celebration.

Mr. Poplawski stated the 2nd Annual World Arts Celebration would be held on May 21, 2016 at City Center in Newport News, from 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. The World Arts Celebration was an event that celebrated the arts and cultures. It featured international music, dance, foods, exhibits, crafts, demonstrations, and activities for all ages (a copy of the presentation, “World Arts Celebration,” is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Mr. Poplawski noted the partners of the 2016 World Arts Celebration:

- Newport News Parks, Recreation & Tourism
- Virginia Arts Festival
- Sister Cities of Newport News
- Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center
- Port Warwick Art & Sculpture Festival
- Christopher Newport University
- The Cultural Alliance

Mr. Poplawski shared pictures of the cultural performances and demonstrations from the 1st Annual Celebration held in May 2015. He stated the Celebration featured French, Mexican, Italian, Brazilian, Vietnamese, Thai, Mediterranean, Lebanese, and German international foods and beverages. The Celebration included:

- An Artisans Village with art from Guatemala, Kenya, Ukraine, Vietnam, etc.
- Children's Cultural Crafts
- Cultural Exhibits
- Strolling Entertainment

Mr. Poplawski advised that the Celebration would be a full service event. It was anticipated that attendance would increase in 2016 as the 2015 Arts event was held on the same date as the Greek Festival, which affected attendance. The 2016 Greek Festival was planned for June 2 – 5, 2016, and would not coincide with the World Arts Celebration. The Greek community would have a presence at the World Arts Celebration, and would showcase food and entertainment. He introduced Mr. Robert W. Cross, Executive Director, Virginia Arts Festival, and Mr. Scott Jackson, General Manager, Virginia International Tattoo, to continue with the presentation (a copy of the presentation, "World Arts Celebration Growth," is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Mr. Cross stated the 2016 World Arts Celebration would feature representation from 20 countries through the NATO Partnership of the Virginia Arts Festival. He reported the Virginia Arts Festival also sponsored the Annual Virginia International Tattoo and U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Band Memorial Day Concert. The 4th Annual Memorial Day Concert would be held on Monday, May 30, 2016, at 7:30 p.m., in City Center.

Mr. Jackson shared that the Virginia Arts Festival began as a regional organization in 1997 that focused on performing arts. He noted the mission of the 2016 Virginia Arts Festival:

- Bring world-class performing arts to the citizens and visitors of Newport News
- Impact the lives of students
- Make a positive economic impact
- Commission and produce new works and productions

Mr. Jackson noted scheduled performers for the 2016 Virginia Arts Festival:

- Yo-Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax
- Virginia International Tattoo
- Yuja Wang
- Dance Theatre of Harlem
- Bruce Hornsby
- Boyz II Men

Mr. Jackson noted the goals of the Virginia Arts Festival in Newport News:

- Draw Regional, National and International attention to the City of Newport News as a Cultural Center
- Enhance the quality of life for local residents through the presentation of unique performances within their community
- Increase appreciation of, and exposure to, the Arts among Newport News Public School Students (NNPS)

Mr. Jackson stated the Virginia Arts Festival sponsored a program for students of the NNPS entitled “Arts for Everyone”. The goal of the program was to reach students who did not have adequate opportunities for art outside of school. The program offered funding to advance the arts. One-hundred plus events were planned for the 2016 – 2017 school year (September 2016 – May 2017), which included matinees, in-school performances, masterclasses and workshops. Approximately, 35,000 students would be reached and 20,000 were expected to receive full/partial financial aid. He noted NNPS 2015 - 2016 “Arts for Everyone” programs:

- 2015
 - NNPS students attended Tattoo
 - Gaudete Brass and Attacca String Quartet performances and workshops at Soundscapes (an after-school music program serving Carver Elementary)
- 2016
 - Woodside HS students attended Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
 - Dance Theatre of Harlem performance and masterclass at Woodside HS
 - NNPS students will attend Tattoo
 - Charlotte Blake Alston performance and Dance Theatre of Harlem masterclass at Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center
 - Harlem Quartet and New England Conservatory Brass Quartet performances and workshops at Southscapes

Mayor Price inquired about the year that the Parade would be added to the schedule of events. Mr. Jackson replied, preferably in 2017.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired whether the Virginia Arts Festival offered a pass for multiple events. Mr. Jackson replied the Virginia Arts Festival offered a subscription service, wherein a subscriber would receive a free ticket after purchasing a set number of event tickets. The Virginia Arts Festival did not offer a multi-event pass.

Councilwoman Woodbury suggested that the Virginia Arts Festival consider selling a multi-event pass. Mr. Jackson replied that they were offering a weekend pass for the Bruce Hornsby Weekend event.

II. Joint Base Langley-Eustis – Joint Land Use Study (JBLE-JLUS)/Briefing

City Manager Bourey introduced Ms. Britta Ayers, AICP, PMP, Manager of Comprehensive Planning, Department of Planning, to provide the presentation.

Ms. Ayers stated the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) managed the U.S. Department of Defense's (DoD) Compatible Use Program (CUP), which provided technical and financial assistance to local communities to partner with the military to study community development issues and opportunities around military installations. She explained that most military installations were established in remote areas, but urban growth had brought people and facilities closer to installation boundaries, resulting in land use incompatibilities. Such pressures could constrict the military installation ranges and training corridors, which could affect the missions and military readiness of the DoD. The CUP was the DoD's answer that allowed the military to work with local jurisdictions to create policies and ordinances that would be beneficial to the military to avoid restrictions on training and corridors (see copy of presentation "Joint Land Use Study," attached and made a part of these minutes).

Ms. Ayers explained that the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) was one of the tools in the CUP. She stated the JLUS was developed, through a cooperative planning process, to promote compatible use between local communities and installations, and to allow the military to sustain its mission. The JLUS planning process promoted a proactive approach to communication and decision making relating to land use regulation, conservation and natural resource management issues affecting military-owned land. While the OEA provided technical guidance and the military was represented in the planning process, a JLUS was developed by and for local communities. The JLUS was a plan that promoted balanced and sustainable development without hindering military operations.

Ms. Ayers advised, in late 2014, the James City County Planning Commission received an application requesting a change in the land use designation for the BASF Corporation property located along the James River. The change would have allowed the company to sell their property for development of a waterfront resort. Fort Eustis was notified of the request, as required by State law, as they owned a piece of the land adjacent to the BASF property. The land was used during training exercises, specifically during waterway training. The request was denied by the James City County Board of Supervisors in June 2015. The OEA was made aware of the potential land use incompatibility and nominated JBLE for the study. The City of Newport News was offered and accepted the opportunity to be the JLUS sponsor.

Ms. Ayers noted the City's role in the JLUS:

- Adopt a Resolution in Support of the Effort
- Apply for and Administer the OEA Grant
- Provide 10% Non-Federal Match with the City of Hampton
- Provide Leadership for the Process
- Provide Staff Time and Expertise
- Champion Effort within the Community
- Provide Public Information
- Identify Issues and Opportunities
- Implement Recommendations to Extent Feasible
- Maintain Ongoing Collaboration/Dialog

Ms. Ayers noted the Process and Schedules of the JLUS which would include continuous dialogue and sharing of information by engaging the public throughout the process:

- Organize
- Assess
- Plan
- Implement
- Monitor

Ms. Ayers advised that the JLUS took approximately 8 to 18 months to develop. She stated the City was in the organizational phase. The OEA was working with the City to develop a scope of work, identify stakeholders, and establish the Policy Committee and the Technical Working Groups. Once the grant funds were received, a consultant would be hired who would establish the framework for success through the implementation phase. Once completed, the JLUS would be monitored, evaluated and updated as needed. The City would collaborate and coordinate with stakeholders and engage the public throughout the process. City staff was working on the scope of work and the grant application. Once the tasks were completed, staff would provide a preliminary schedule, which would be updated once the consultant was on board.

City Manager Bourey felt the JLUS would be very advantageous to the City with respect to Fort Eustis. It was not just about what the City did, but it was about what other jurisdictions did. The City would be able to shape and help lead the effort as a sponsor of the JLUS.

Mayor Price inquired whether federal regional facilities would become involved in the process. Ms. Ayers replied yes, the City was in the process of identifying regional facilities, but had reached out to the Peninsula Planning Organization and others who would be a part of the technical working group.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that the Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) was in the process of conducting a Transit Corridor Study, and inquired whether Ms. Ayers would coordinate with HRT. Ms. Ayers replied yes, she would coordinate with HRT.

III. Second Quarter Financial Report

Mr. James M. Bourey, City Manager, advised that the Second Quarter FY 2016 Financial Report offered a better picture than First Quarter projections, although taxes were continuing to flow in. He introduced Ms. Lisa Cipriano, Director, Department of Budget and Evaluation, to present the Second Quarter FY 2016 Financial Report.

Ms. Cipriano reminded that the FY 2016 Operating Budget totaled \$464.2 million. She advised that this was the first year that \$4.1 million of Federal & State grant funds were included (a copy of the presentation, FY 2015 General Fund Forecast, based on Second Quarter Results is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Ms. Cipriano noted changes in Revenue projections in the following major categories:

• Real Estate Taxes + Delinquencies	+\$910,000
• Machinery & Tools	+\$1 million
• Personal Property	+\$250,000
• Sales Taxes	On Target
• Lodging	On Target
• Meals	On Target
• Cigarette Tax	(\$200,000)
• Telecom Tax	(\$400,000)
• Tax on Deeds	(\$200,000)
• Building Permits	On Target
• Fines/Forfeitures	(\$850,000)

Ms. Cipriano stated 2nd Quarter Revenues were projected to be \$2.1 million less than what was estimated. City Manager Bourey advised that this was typical of what was seen in the Second Quarter Report.

Ms. Cipriano noted changes in Expenditure projections in the following major categories:

• Salaries	On Target
• Benefits	\$71,000
• Contractual Services	\$485,000
• Fuel/Utilities	\$445,000
• Materials/Supplies	\$445,000

Ms. Cipriano stated Second Quarter Expenditures resulted in a \$700,000 surplus.

Ms. Cipriano stated the FY 2016 Second Quarter Report resulted in a budget surplus of \$691,000. She advised that revenues would be collected as estimated with good performance and some deficit fluctuations in limited areas. There was no need to adjust expenditures.

City Manager Bourey pointed out that \$900,000 of the \$2.1 million Revenue deficit was due to a reduction in State funding.

IV. Comments/Ideas/Suggestions

Vice Mayor Coleman advised that he had witnessed a number of damaged utility boxes throughout the City. He inquired about a Verizon utility box that was located on Nettles Drive, which appeared to have been hit by a vehicle. The box had been broken and taped-up for more than four months. Assistant City Manager Cynthia Rohlf advised that staff was looking into the matter. Staff from the Department of Engineering had informed Verizon about the issue.

Councilwoman Woodbury stated that Delegate David Yancey had inquired whether the City had plans to restore the trees, along Cedar Lane, that were destroyed during the tornado that hit the area on Wednesday, February 25, 2016. City Manager Bourey replied that he and Assistant City Manager Rohlf were working on the matter as staff continued to deal with the overabundance of debris in the area. Assistant City Manager Rohlf advised that staff continued to clear the area. She advised that 20 to 25 trees had fallen due to heavy wind and rain. The issue was being evaluated to determine how best to move forward to replenish and replace the trees.

City Clerk Mabel Washington Jenkins reminded about two major events: 1) State of the Airline Industry, Thursday, March 10, 2016, 3:30 p.m., at the Marriott at City Center; and 2) the One City Marathon Weekend events, March 11 – 13, 2016.

Councilman Bateman noted a letter from Attorney Veronica E. Williams (attached) that was forwarded to City Council, via e-mail on March 2, 2016, regarding a request for consideration of an

amendment to the City's tax deferred ordinance, due to a federal reverse mortgage law. He recalled that the City changed from a real estate tax exemption program to a real estate tax deferred program for senior citizens due to revenue concerns. He stated that he was not in support of revising the law; however, he asked the Commissioner of Revenue, Mrs. Pricilla Bele, to ensure that the real estate tax deferral language was added to Reverse Mortgage Applications, thereby alerting senior citizens of the requirement that they may have to pay their real estate tax directly to the City.

City Manager Bourey stated that there were not many people that experienced foreclosures and evictions due to Reverse Mortgages and real estate tax deferrals, based on the statistics received from the Treasurer, Mr. Marty Eubank.

Councilwoman Woodbury indicated that the e-mail referenced an 84-year old individual in danger of becoming homeless due to a Reverse Mortgage, and their inability to pay their real estate taxes. She recalled several members of City Council, in particular, former Councilmember and Vice Mayor Madeline McMillan, had voiced concern about switching from a real estate tax exemption program to a real estate tax deferral program for senior citizens. Councilwoman Woodbury hoped some exceptions could be made.

City Attorney Collie Owens replied that there was no way to make an exception for senior citizens who decided to obtain Reverse Mortgages. Councilwoman Woodbury suggested that those who had a Reverse Mortgage before the law went into effect, be grandfathered. City Attorney Owens advised that he was not aware of any provision in the State Code that would allow such, but would look into the matter.

Councilman Bateman understood there were only 500 senior residents, within the City, that used the real estate tax deferral program. He suggested that the matter be looked into to see whether a grandfather provision could be added and whether it made sense to do.

Councilwoman Woodbury noted that the City of Hampton continued to offer real estate tax exemption to senior citizens.

City Manager Bourey introduced Dr. Telly Whitfield, Assistant to the City Manager, to report on the 2016 One City Marathon Weekend activities.

Dr. Whitfield noted the following 2016 One City Marathon Weekend activities:

- The One City Marathon Health & Wellness Expo at the Denbigh Community Center
 - Friday, March 11, 2016, 12 noon - 7:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, March 12, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- One City Marathon Kick-Off, Friday, March 11, 2016, at the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Family Fit & Fun Day, Saturday, March 12, 2016, 12 noon – 3:00 p.m., at King Lincoln Park
- Pasta Dinner, Saturday, March 12, 2016, 6:00 p.m., at the Marriott at City Center
- One City Marathon Race Day Schedule, Sunday, March 13, 2016
 - Marathon and Marathon Relay, 7:00 a.m., at Newport News Park
 - Maritime 8K, 7:45 a.m., at West Avenue & 24th Street
 - Nautical Mile, 10:00 a.m., at West Avenue & 24th Street
 - One City, One Celebration, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at Victory Landing Park
 - Stage Opportunities for City Council members
 - Announcement of Awards for the 8K at 9:30 a.m.
 - Announcement of Awards for the Marathon at 11:00 a.m.
 - Announcement of the Townbank Hometown Spirit Awards at 12:30 p.m.

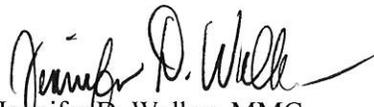
Dr. Whitfield advised that there were 438 registrants for the full Marathon, which he anticipated would increase to 500. There were 611 registrants for the Marathon Relay; approximately 800 Maritime 8K registrants (he hoped for an additional 200); and approximately 1,000 registrants for the Nautical Mile. Many NNPS students planned to register for the Nautical Mile. There were 659 registrants from the Newport News Parks, Recreation & Tourism Youth program, which was exciting. The staff of the youth program would be participating as well, and was providing downtown transportation to and from several locations.

Dr. Whitfield stated that he had received feedback from several members of City Council who would assist with the award presentations. Councilwoman Woodbury and Councilman Bateman would be holding the tape at the finish line for the winners. He would provide a detailed schedule for the Weekend events and schedule to City Council.

Dr. Whitfield encouraged the members of City Council to attend the Pasta Dinner on Saturday. The dinner included a unique program and would highlight Mr. Roger Brown, a retired professional Hall of Fame football player.

City Manager Bourey commended Dr. Whitfield and the volunteers for their assistance with the event. There were approximately 800 volunteers; 10 – 15 additional volunteers were needed for the Friday and Saturday Health & Wellness Expo (March 11 – 12, 2016).

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 5:00 P.M.



Jennifer D. Walker, MMC
Chief Deputy City Clerk

McKinley L. Price
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk