

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

**April 12, 2016**

**3:15 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Patricia P. Woodbury; Herbert H. Bateman, Jr.; Sandra N. Cherry; Robert S. Coleman; McKinley L. Price, DDS (arrived at 3:25 p.m.); Sharon P. Scott; and Tina L. Vick (arrived at 3:37 p.m.)-----7

**ABSENT:** None-----0

**OTHERS PRESENT:** James M. Bourey; Collins L. Owens; Mabel Washington Jenkins; Cynthia Rohlf; Alan Archer; Wanda Pierre; Darlene Bradberry; Jeff Stodghill; Carlton Ashby; Douglas Brown; Mary Lou Roseau; Pat Finneran; Bryan Nichols; Ashby Kilgore; Telly Whitfield; Lisa Cipriano; Sherry Crocker; Scott Dewhirst; Steve Carpenter; Dave Cooper; Florence Kingston; Sheila McAllister; Claudia Cotton; Jerry Wilson; Kim Lee; Cleder Jones; Jennifer Walker; Teresa Clift; and Dave Reese

**I. FY 2017 Recommended Operating Budget**

**1. Newport News Public Schools (NNPS)**

Mr. James Bourey, City Manager, introduced Mr. Jeff Stodghill, Chairperson, Newport News School Board, to provide opening remarks on the FY 2016 – 2017 School Board Proposed Operating Budget (FY 2017 School Board Budget).

Chairperson Stodghill thanked City Manager Bourey and City Council for the support provided to the Newport News Public Schools (NNPS). He advised that this was one of the rare moments that the Governor and General Assembly was inspired to do something positive for public education. Statewide, an additional \$1 billion was returned to education. The City of Newport News received its fair share of the \$1 billion that would assist the Schools to:

- Increase teacher salaries to eliminate disparities
- Increase bus driver pay to be compatible with neighboring jurisdictions
- Add additional 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers in order to lower class size
- Hire a K-12 STEM coach, a Primary Behavior Specialist, a Governor’s Health Sciences Academy Program Administrator, and an ESL Teacher for the Middle School Newcomer Center and an additional Custodian at South Morrison Learning Center
- Purchase elementary school classroom supplies and classroom library books
- Upgrade wireless access in all buildings
- Fund capital needs including vehicle replacement
- Expand the Summer Learning and Enrichment Program (SPARK – Summer Program for Arts, Recreation, and Knowledge) across the entire City

Chairperson Stodghill announced that the NNPS SPARK Initiative earned first place in the 2016 National School Board Association's Magna Awards Program. The award recognized school districts that took bold and innovative steps in educating students. He introduced Dr. Ashby Kilgore, Superintendent, NNPS, to continue with the presentation.

Dr. Kilgore stated the NNPS academic agenda for public education included three student benchmarks (Achievement, Advancement and Youth Development) to monitor and measure progress. She noted signs of NNPS Academic Successes:

- Achievement
  - All six high schools met state and federal graduation requirements
  - 89.5% of students graduated on time
  - 80% of second grade students were reading at grade level
  - NNPS students were making progress on all SOL tests
- Advancement
  - 120% increase in students earning industry certifications
  - 89% of high school students took at least one honors, AP or IB course
  - 680 high school students were dual enrolled in a college course
- Youth Development
  - Elementary school student retention decreased 150%
  - 78% of secondary school students participated in a club, activity or sport
  - 78% of elementary students participated in service learning

Dr. Kilgore advised, since 2011 student enrollment had decreased by 1,209 students due to a decrease of 1,429 military connected students. In reality, student enrollment increased by 200 in terms of non-military connected students. She reported the FY 2017 School Board Budget totaled \$305.6 million, which amounted to a \$9.7 million increase over FY 2016. She noted the major revenue sources of the FY 2017 School Board Budget:

- State \$180.1 million; 5.1% increase
- City \$119.3 million; 0.8% increase
- Federal \$3.5 million; 22.7% decrease
- Other Revenue \$2.7 million; 53.2% increase

Dr. Kilgore noted expenditures by function within the FY 2017 School Board Budget:

- Instruction \$217.8 million 71.3%
- Operations \$ 30.5 million 10.0%
- Transportation \$ 18.5 million 6.1%
- Admin. Attendance & Health \$ 14.0 million 4.6%
- Technology \$ 12.5 million 4.1%
- Facilities & Debt Service \$ 12.2 million 4.0%

Dr. Kilgore noted major expenditure categories within the FY 2017 School Board Budget related to people:

- |                    |                 |       |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------|
| • Salaries         | \$180.7 million | 59.1% |
| • Fringe Benefits  | \$ 73.0 million | 23.9% |
| • Non-compensation | \$ 51.9 million | 17.0% |

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about items that were included in the Non-Compensation Category of the School Board Budget. Dr. Kilgore replied that material and maintenance supplies, textbooks, etc. were included in the Non-Compensation Category.

Dr. Kilgore noted the Funding Priorities for the FY 2017 School Board Budget:

- Salary increases for all employees
  - \$8 million invested in employee salaries
- New elementary school teachers for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades
- Technology (computer replacement postponed)
  - Improve wireless access
- Cash capital (partially funded)

Dr. Kilgore noted NNPS teacher salary comparisons at various levels of experience compared to other regional school divisions (see the comparisons as part of the presentation attached to these minutes). NNPS felt the salary increase was needed to recruit and retain teachers in Newport News. NNPS also wanted to return to parity with City salary increases. NNPS proposed a 3.0% salary increase for all employees. NNPS also instituted salary adjustments for employees with higher levels of experience. NNPS devoted a total of \$8 million for salary increases and adjustments for FY 2017.

Councilwoman Woodbury questioned whether Dr. Kilgore meant salary adjustments for employees that had been with NNPS for more than ten years and not in parity with newer employees. Dr. Kilgore replied that salaries became compressed so this would offer a 4% increase to employees that had worked 12 or more years with NNPS.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired whether a comparative study had been done to show where the employees should be. Dr. Kilgore replied yes.

Vice Mayor Coleman recalled, approximately three to four years ago, the City gave all employees a 5% pay increase over and above their merit increase to make their own VRS and NNERF contributions. He inquired whether NNPS did the same. Dr. Kilgore replied that NNPS did the same (see information in presentation attached to these minutes).

Dr. Kilgore noted future initiatives for NNPS:

- Additional salary adjustments
- Capital needs
- Bus and support vehicle replacements
- Technology
- Extended learning
- Early career
- Employee apprenticeship program expansion

Dr. Kilgore advised that during the FY 2015 – 2016 school year, NNPS was piloting 25 youth who had finished high school in January 2016 and were attending Thomas Nelson Community College and taking career readiness programs. She stated that this was the next step for NNPS to prepare students for college and/or a career. NNPS paid one-half (½) of the tuition, while the students paid the remainder.

Dr. Kilgore advised that NNPS was one of five school divisions in Virginia to be chosen to receive an innovation grant to revolutionize what high school could be. NNPS worked with Heritage High School to create five new career academies for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders in 2017. Heritage High School currently had a Governor's Stem Academy and a University Magnet. Students would be eligible to gain certification in all academic areas. She believed NNPS would be on the cutting edge of reshaping what high school would be. It was going to be an exciting program beginning at Heritage in 2017.

NNPS was the only school division in Virginia that was connected with the Apprenticeship Council and offered apprenticeship certifications to custodial, transportation, child nutrition and clerical staff. Dr. Kilgore advised there was much thinking going on in how to build a better organization and a better school system and prepare graduates for college, career, and citizenship.

Councilwoman Vick commended Dr. Kilgore and NNPS for the work they were doing to connect the dots that would help youth understand the importance of education to their future.

## **2. Waterworks Department**

City Manager Bourey introduced Mr. Scott Dewhirst, Interim Director, Department of Waterworks, to provide an overview of the FY 2017 Waterworks budget.

Mr. Dewhirst stated the Waterworks Proposed FY 2017 Budget totaled \$88.75 million, which was a 0.7% increase over FY 2016, or \$0.22 per month on the average residential monthly customer's bill (a copy of the presentation, Waterworks Budget Presentation to City Council, Fiscal Year 2017, April 12, 2016, is attached and made a part of these minutes). A stable water demand at 33.5 million gallons per day (MGD) was budgeted, which was exactly the same as in 2016.

Councilwoman Scott inquired whether Waterworks was only asking for a 1% increase in the water rate. Mr. Dewhirst replied yes, which equated to a \$0.22 per month increase for the average customer. The increase allowed Waterworks to fund programs, a salary adjustment, pension and benefits and reduce attrition credit and a hiring lag. They carried a relatively large hiring lag for a number of years and had reduced approximately 30 positions over the past decade. It had become difficult to maneuver around the hiring-lag. Positions were filled as they became available because it was difficult to leave positions vacant for extended periods of time.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the types of positions that needed to be filled that were making an impact on the organization. Mr. Dewhirst replied that they were field level positions which affected the daily operation of the utility, such as personnel responsible for pipelines, grounds maintenance, water treatment operations, etc.

Mr. Dewhirst advised that the 2017 Waterworks Budget included funding for:

- Lift-Up program
- Smart Cities/AMI project
- Strategic Plan/EUM Implementation
- Paperless Initiatives
- Plant and infrastructure maintenance and improvements

Councilwoman Vick inquired whether Waterworks was working with the SMART Cities program with the Department of Human Services. Mr. Dewhirst replied that the AMI project could be coupled with the SMART Cities program.

Councilwoman Scott inquired whether Waterworks was upgraded to the point where customers could receive their bills in either paper or electronic form. Mr. Dewhirst replied the option to receive one's bill in either paper or electronic form would be available in approximately one month. He stated the more people that received their bills electronically, the better. Waterworks was about to unveil a revised e-billing system that would revamp the existing web site through a third party vendor where one could pay using any method.

Mayor Price inquired whether Waterworks would have the capability to monitor leaks in a customer's system. Mr. Dewhirst replied yes, and Waterworks would notify the customer.

Mr. Dewhirst noted the breakdown of the FY 2017 Waterworks Recommended Budget:

- |                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| • Salary and Fringe Benefits | \$28,277,039 |
| • Debt Service               | \$18,487,902 |
| • Transfers & ROI            | \$13,063,492 |

• Other	\$13,265,673
• Cash Capital	\$ 7,982,665
• Chemicals	\$ 3,025,096
• Utilities	\$ 3,076,404
• Leases	\$ 860,759
• Fuel	\$ 690,000

Mr. Dewhirst noted proposed Waterworks FY 2017 Revenue adjustments:

- No change to the service fee
- Increase consumption rates across all tiers and blocks (see rates in presentation attached to these minutes)
- Other fees adjusted per ordinance (no impact on most customers)

Mr. Dewhirst noted the FY 2017 Recommended Budget Effect on an Average Residential Customer:

• Service Fee	\$12.00
• Volumetric (Lifeline & Gen.)	<u>\$19.34</u>
Total	\$31.34
Net Increase/Month	<b>+\$0.22</b>
	<b>0.7%</b>

Councilwoman Cherry inquired about discrepancies in the figures in the FY 2017 Budget PowerPoint presentation made at the March 22, 2016 Work Session as opposed to figures in the FY 2017 Recommended Budget document. Ms. Cipriano replied that the discrepancies in the figures were due to the rounding-up of numbers in the PowerPoint presentation for simplicity.

Councilwoman Cherry understood the rounding-up of figures, but indicated there was a difference in rounding-up from \$1.8 million to \$1.9 million. The budget noted \$1.8 million, but the difference, if subtracted correctly, was \$1.9 million. There was a difference in some of the Department of Waterworks figures presented by Mr. Dewhirst than what was reported at the March 22, 2016 Work Session by Ms. Cipriano. Ms. Cipriano reiterated that the numbers were rounded-up for simplicity. Councilwoman Cherry repeated that there was a difference from rounding-up from \$1.8 million to \$1.9 million. Ms. Cipriano replied that all of the numbers contained in the FY 2017 Recommended Budget were accurate. She offered to redo the chart in the PowerPoint presentation for Councilwoman Cherry to show the exact numbers.

Councilwoman Cherry thanked Ms. Cipriano for the offer, but indicated she was only asking because there was a huge amount of information to study. While reading through the presentations and the FY 2017 Recommended Budget document, she noted different figures through her calculations.

She questioned which calculations (PowerPoint presentations or FY 2017 Recommended Budget book) should City Council consider. Ms. Cipriano replied, for the sake of simplicity, the numbers in the PowerPoint presentations were the most understandable. The accurate numbers were in the FY 2017 Recommended Budget document.

Councilwoman Cherry inquired how the numbers added up correctly if the FY 2017 Recommended Budget document had \$1.8 million and the difference, by her calculation, was \$1.9 million. Ms. Cipriano replied that the difference could have been \$1.875 million versus rounding-up to \$1.9 million.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that the PowerPoint presentation provided at the March 22, 2016 Work Session noted that the Schools would receive \$119.3 million, which was a difference of \$1 million; however, \$118.3 million was shown in other documents that she received. She questioned what happened to the \$1 million. City Manager Bourey replied that the \$1 million was budgeted separately due to the City using the NNPS fiber optic cable or the City having to purchase fiber optic cable from the Schools. NNPS had indicated that they wanted the City to pay for the use of the Schools' fiber optic cable. The City would use the \$1 million to purchase some of the fiber optic cable that existed.

Councilwoman Cherry recalled that the City Manager had indicated that the Schools' would receive an additional \$1 million and there was no contingency attached to the funding. She was now hearing that there was a contingency attached to the \$1 million. City Manager Bourey replied that there were two separate matters. He stated the funding was shown in two places in the budget. He reminded about discussion held in December 2015, regarding that staff would attempt to find an additional \$1 million in additional Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) funding to provide revenue to the Schools for the FY 2017 CIP, because it was noted that the Schools did not receive sufficient funding. That was separate from the FY 2017 operating budget.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that throughout the budget documents she received the \$118.3 million was noted. She asked where the additional \$1 million was located in the budget. Ms. Cipriano replied the additional \$1 million was reserved in Non-Departmental in the FY 2017 Recommended Budget. Councilwoman Cherry wanted to make sure that the funding was included as she did not see it. Ms. Cipriano replied that Councilwoman Cherry would not see it in the Budget document, as the FY 2017 Recommended Budget was not a line item detailed budget; however, a balanced budget could not have been achieved without including the \$1 million. City Manager Bourey replied that he and Ms. Cipriano noted where the funding was listed.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that was the reason for her questions because some of the calculations were not accurate when she compared some of the budget figures. City Manager Bourey advised that details were not posted in the overall budget.

Councilman Bateman inquired about the \$1.5 million increase for NNPS's VRS Retirement Hybrid plan listed on page 84 (see attached copy) of the FY 2017 School Board's Adopted Operating Budget. Ms. Cipriano replied that the VRS Hybrid plan was added in 2014 as a third plan offered to NNPS. The \$1.5 million increase was a mixture of the contribution between the employer and employee into a 457 plan. The employee had the benefit of going up to three times their contribution rate into the plan. She believed NNPS was budgeting for the additional employee contribution into the 457 plan. City Manager Bourey explained that VRS recognized that defined benefit plans were difficult to fund overtime. He believed this was the start of transition from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan. A Hybrid plan was part defined and part contribution wherein an employee received a match of their donation. The City operated different retirement plans as well, to include the NNERF plan, the regular VRS plan, and the Hybrid VRS plan. Ms. Cipriano advised that all NNPS employees hired after January 1, 2014 were included in the VRS Hybrid plan.

Councilman Bateman inquired whether the City had the same type appropriation and, if so, where it was listed in the FY 2017 Recommended Operating Budget. Ms. Cipriano replied yes, and it was listed in the City's FY 2017 Recommended Operating Budget under Non-Departmental. She advised that the City experienced an increase of approximately \$233,000 in FY 2017.

Councilman Bateman inquired about the 140.5% increase for NNPS's Insurance listed on page 85 (see attached) of the FY 2017 School Board's Adopted Operating Budget. Ms. Cipriano replied that the 140.5% increase was due to the increased cost for School's auto self-insurance for their buses and driver education vehicles.

Councilman Bateman inquired whether the increase was because the Schools were getting more buses. Ms. Cipriano replied no; the increase was due to a change in how the City calculated the funding in the current fiscal year and the onetime break the Schools received in FY 2016.

## **II. Tourism Zone and Technology Zone Boundary Amendment Briefing**

City Manager Bourey introduced Ms. Florence Kingston, Director, Department of Development, to provide the briefing.

### **1. Tourism Zone**

Ms. Kingston advised that the Tourism Zone program was an important tool used to incent tourism-related economic development which had the potential to further diversify the City's tax base and build upon existing quality of life amenities. The program was available to small and large businesses, and existing and new businesses, and was accessible to companies making varying levels of investment that met qualification criteria. There were four Tourism Zones throughout the City that were

in need of amendments. She noted the four Tourism Zones throughout the City (a copy of the presentation, "Tourism Zone Boundary Amendments, City Council Work Session, April 12, 2016," is attached and made a part of these minutes):

- Upper Warwick Boulevard/Denbigh Tourism Zone
- Greater Hilton Tourism Zone
- Southeast Community Tourism Zone
- Patrick Henry Tourism Zone

Councilwoman Woodbury asked for several examples that explained what Tourism Zones did for economic development. Ms. Kingston replied that local incentives were provided to businesses who located in a Tourism zone.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired whether the City was responsible to provide the incentives. Ms. Kingston replied yes; there was a state gap financing program that required the City to develop its own local tourism plan and incentives.

Ms. Kingston advised that the Upper Warwick Boulevard/Denbigh Tourism Zone covered the Warwick Boulevard corridor, from Oyster Point Road to Fort Eustis Boulevard. She stated the proposed amendment would include Oriana Road, along Denbigh Boulevard and the Warwick Boulevard corridor. The Greater Hilton Zone would be amended to include 70<sup>th</sup> Street to Main Street along Warwick Boulevard, and 79<sup>th</sup> Street to Aberthaw Avenue, along Jefferson Avenue, without including residential areas along the corridors. Proposed amendments to the Southeast Community Tourism Zone would add the downtown area from 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and West Avenue to 39<sup>th</sup> Street and Warwick Boulevard, and the downtown waterfront from Nelms Avenue to 14<sup>th</sup> Street between Terminal and Marshall Avenues. The proposed amendment to the Patrick Henry Tourism Zone would include City Center Boulevard to Oak Circle, between Rock Landing Drive and Jefferson Avenue (see boundary maps in the presentation attached to these minutes).

## **2. Technology Zone**

Ms. Kingston stated staff had identified a need to adjust the boundary of the existing Newport News Technology Zone to include additional research and development properties located near the Thomas Jefferson National Laboratory. The amendment would expand the availability of the Newport News Technology Zone Program to new properties and businesses which could assist in further development and growth of technology-related businesses in Newport News (a copy of the presentation, "Technology Zone Boundary Amendment, City Council Work Session, April 12, 2016," is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Councilwoman Cherry questioned who benefitted from a Technology Zone Boundary Amendment. Ms. Kingston replied the occupants of the buildings that were located in Technology Zones

would benefit. Businesses would receive a reimbursement of their business license fee and/or some technical assistance. The Technology Zone created and fostered a more entrepreneurial environment. The State allowed the City to create incentive programs and offered tools to craft and promote the type of business activity that was needed.

Councilwoman Vick believed the biggest advantage for such incentive programs was that the State allowed the City to adopt their own ideas in what they wanted in certain areas. Ms. Kingston agreed. She indicated that such programs would not impede upon the City's current budget base, but would encourage new investment.

Councilwoman Cherry understood that staff was proposing an amendment to the Technology Zone to allow additional buildings in the Tech Center project. City Manager Bourey replied no; the proposed amendment would allow additional buildings to be included in the Technology Zone. Ms. Kingston explained the amendment would cover new companies that located in the Technology Zone to be able to gain incentives.

### **III. Comment/Ideas/Suggestions**

City Manager Bourey thanked all for their participation at the preview and media tour of Jim's Local Market (3101 Jefferson Avenue), held on Monday, April 11, 2016. He stated the project was happening due to City Councils' unanimous support to address a need in the Southeast Community. He thanked City Council for their support as the project could not have happened or in such a short timeframe without them. The Grand Opening Ceremony of Jim's Local Market was scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. The store would open to the public immediately following the grand opening celebration.

City Manager Bourey advised, in response to questions raised by Councilwoman Woodbury and others about the reconciliation of the costs associated with the 2016 One City Marathon, since the reconciliation of bills had not been finalized, he was not in a position to state the actual amount of funding that would be awarded to the charities. He hoped to plan an event for Tuesday, April 19, 2016, to announce the information. The cost of the 2015 One City Marathon totaled approximately \$187,000, including the celebration. The cost of the 2016 One City Marathon totaled approximately \$82,331.37, including the celebration. Staff was able to save more than \$100,000, which he knew was a desire of City Council. Most of the cost went to the celebration. There were some minor costs (\$30,000) associated with the event. The goal was to build sponsorships in order to cover the entire cost of the 2017 One City Marathon.

Councilwoman Scott inquired how the charities were chosen. City Manager Bourey replied that the One City Marathon Committee chose the charities. The theme of the 2016 One City

Marathon was based on helping those who had been subject to violence and domestic abuse. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was submitted, to which a number of charities applied. The committee then made a decision based on what seemed appropriate.

Councilwoman Scott questioned who the RFP went out to. Dr. Telly Whitfield, Assistant to the City Manager and the 2016 One City Marathon Coordinator, replied the RFP was submitted through Community Support Assistance and went to charities that applied in the past and was posted at various locations. Approximately, 40 applications were received. City Manager Bourey advised that he would ensure that future information would be forwarded to members of City Council, should they have charities that they wanted to recommend and/or make aware of the process.

Councilwoman Scott stated she would like to be included in the process to be able to answer questions of individuals who questioned the reason that they did not receive a solicitation. She did not want to tell people that she was not sure of the process. She believed it was important to share information with members of City Council so that they could understand processes that they were responsible for.

Councilman Bateman thanked City Manager Bourey, Assistant City Manager Rohlf, and staff, for their assistance in getting Dominion Virginia Power to replace blown-out street lights along the J. Clyde Morris and Warwick Boulevard corridors. He also thanked staff for their responsiveness to clearing up the graffiti on Route 17 under the I-64 overpass.

Councilwoman Cherry thanked City Manager Bourey and staff for the new trees planted along Jefferson Avenue. The area looked much better.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that she received several calls from residents of the City of Hampton who indicated they were receiving the "Newport News Now" daily e-mail blog, but were not interested. She inquired how they could opt-out of receiving the blog. City Manager Bourey advised that they could opt-out of receiving further e-mails by following the unsubscribe prompt at the bottom of the e-mail they received. They could also contact 311 if they had difficulty in unsubscribing.

Councilwoman Cherry inquired whether a presentation would be held at a City Council meeting before the Public Hearing to approve the rezoning request for Wegman's. City Manager Bourey replied he did not see a need for discussion of a rezoning issue at a Work Session since a Public Hearing was scheduled. He could not remember discussion of a rezoning issue at a Work Session.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that she would like to have a Work Session presentation about the store in general, not the rezoning issue. City Manager Bourey advised that there had been approximately five discussions about the store in Closed Session.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that she would then have to hold her questions to ask at the Regular City Council meeting when the matter is presented; however, she preferred to ask questions in a Work Session.

Councilwoman Scott agreed with Councilwoman Cherry that it would be beneficial to have a Work Session discussion because there were many questions being asked throughout the community that members of City Council could not answer. It was a volatile and very controversial issue. She understood that the matter had gone through the Planning Commission; however, something that controversial should be discussed at a Work Session.

City Manager Bourey stated he was totally in support of having a Work Session discussion; however, he did not recall such matters being discussed in a Work Session, since becoming the City Manager. He stated he would schedule the matter to be discussed at the April 26, 2016 Work Session.

Vice Mayor Coleman stated he did not believe that it would be anything different from the neighborhood meetings that they were having in Kiln Creek with the developers, Wegman's, and the representatives. Councilwoman Scott advised that she was not privy to the Kiln Creek meetings. Vice Mayor Coleman advised that he did not attend either, but felt it would be the same information. City Manager Bourey stated a conversation could certainly be held in a Work Session.

Vice Mayor Coleman inquired whether City Attorney Collins Owens had any precedence about the matter being discussed at a Work Session. City Attorney Owens replied that land use changes and rezoning's had previously been discussed in Work Sessions. Public hearings were scheduled at Regular meetings to allow public comment. There was nothing that prevented the discussion to be held at a Work Session.

City Clerk Mabel Washington Jenkins asked members of City Council to review their "Calendar of Events" as there were a number of events scheduled, most importantly, the Budget Public Hearing scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2016, 7:00 p.m., at the Denbigh Community Center.

Mayor Price stated he appreciated the City Manager's comments about the tour of Jim's Local Market. He indicated that he took the tour and was "blown away" by the quality of the store and the plans. He felt it would be a tremendous asset to the community. He commended the City Manager and staff for finding a way to finance the facility. It was a joint effort between City Council and City staff in making the store a reality.

Councilwoman Scott agreed with the Mayor that the store was awesome. She was impressed by the tour.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about future streetscape upgrades or improvements planned from Oyster Point Road to Fort Eustis Boulevard. She had received a question about the matter. City Manager Bourey replied that he would look into the matter, but was not aware of any pending projects for the area.

Councilwoman Scott inquired whether the Department of Codes Compliance could do a better job with checking businesses to ensure that they maintained and kept their properties in good condition. She advised that the gentleman who purchased the Burlington Shopping Center property at Denbigh and Warwick Boulevards had pointed out blighted conditions in the area, such as the SunTrust Bank at the corner of Oriana Road and Warwick Boulevard. She recalled voicing concern about the area and that it was continuing to deteriorate. Businesses were not keeping up with their landscaping, etc. Councilwoman Scott stated that she would like the Department of Codes Compliance to do a better job of monitoring businesses who may be in violation. City Manager Bourey stated he would have staff look into the matter. He indicated that the City operated mostly by complaint.

Councilwoman Vick voiced concern about the Newsome House not receiving adequate funding to function as an organization. Ms. Cipriano replied that the Newsome House did not receive any additional funding this year.

Councilwoman Woodbury stated she received several calls about two streets that had the same name in the same zip code. She did not know whether such matters could be fixed. She would forward the information to the City Manager.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that she received a request from a new resident of the City who suggested that the trash pick-up schedule be added to one's Water bill. City Manager Bourey stated he would look into the matter.

Councilwoman Woodbury presented a letter from Mr. Curtis Harris of the "Original Brothers" to the City Manager. She advised that Mr. Harris indicated that he had forwarded the letter to the City Manager and City Council; however, she did not recall ever receiving a copy of the letter. She stated on two separate visits to the Original Brothers location, during spring break, she witnessed the children that Mr. Harris mentored. He provided afterschool computer access to the children to do their homework; however, there was not internet service available on one particular day that she visited because Mr. Harris could not pay the bill. She had spoken to Assistant Manager Alan Archer to inquire about a grant from the Youth and Gang Violence initiative, as she felt Mr. Harris offered a positive program for youth of the community. She inquired whether the City Council could appropriate funding to the organization. City Manager Bourey advised that there was funding available in the City Council

Contingency budget, but it was up to City Council. City staff was evaluating funding available in the Youth and Gang Violence Initiative. He reminded that the STEP initiative was upgraded to cover 600 youth, which would be a huge price tag. He stated \$50,000 was still available in City Council Contingency. Councilwoman Woodbury asked for support of City Council to allocate \$10,000 to the "Original Brothers" organization.

Mayor Price voiced concern in that there were several 501-C (3) organizations that asked for assistance from the City. He suggested that the "Original Brothers" become a part of the Youth and Gang Violence Initiative and communicate with Ms. MaRhonda Echols who operated the STEP program. It became difficult to offer them individual funding if they were not willing to do that.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that Mr. Harris did not like to play in other people's "sand boxes". She indicated that she had spoken to Mr. Harris about the matter. As was required of other organizations to report sustainability issues, so was required by the "Original Brothers." Mr. Harris did not want to partner with the City. The City provided him with \$10,000 in FY 2015 – FY 2016.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about the accountability that Mr. Harris needed to report to the City. Councilwoman Cherry replied that he needed to show sustainability in what he was doing. Mayor Price replied that Mr. Harris could join the City's initiative, as he did good work with the youth of our community. Councilwoman Cherry agreed that Mr. Harris did good work; however, it was difficult to get Mr. Harris to work with the City.

Councilwoman Woodbury stated she saw a room full of children and felt the City needed to assist with the program. Mayor Price indicated there were many programs throughout the City that assisted children. He felt Mr. Harris should become a part of the City's initiative. Councilwoman Woodbury agreed and did not have a problem with accountability. Councilwoman Cherry indicated, from her own experience, it was difficult to get Mr. Harris to partner or do programs with the City. He had been invited to work with Ms. Echols, but had not taken advantage of the matter.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned what was done with the funding provided to Mr. Harris over the past several years. She stated that was the accountability piece.

Councilwoman Scott noted that unfortunately, sometimes small organizations did good work, but were poorly managed and could not sustain themselves. Councilwoman Woodbury agreed and indicated that they did not know how to be sustainable.

Vice Mayor Coleman voiced excitement about the opening of Jim's Local Market although he missed the tour held on Monday, April 11, 2016. He voiced excitement about the opening on May 10. He felt Brooks Crossing would be a rising tide in the Community. He voiced concern about established businesses in the area of Brooks Crossing that had maintained their occupancy. He asked the City Manager and staff to be mindful of their commitment. He did not want them to get lost in the mix. He felt the City needed to look into incentives to help small businesses in the area and suggested that the City offer an educational component to explain how to apply for the incentives. Overall, he was excited about all that was happening in the Southeast Community.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS  
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 5:10 P.M.

Jennifer D. Walker, MMC  
Chief Deputy City Clerk

McKinley L. Price  
Mayor  
Presiding Officer

A true copy, tested:

City Clerk