

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
APRIL 26, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Herbert H. Bateman, Jr.; Sandra N. Cherry, D. Min.; Robert S. Coleman;
McKinley L. Price; DDS; Sharon P. Scott; Tina L. Vick; and Dr. Patricia P.
Woodbury-----7

ABSENT: None-----0

A. Call to Order

Mayor Price called the meeting to order and welcomed all. He stated the City Code identified the procedure for citizen participation regarding items on the Council agenda, as well as the opportunity for citizens to address City Council on matters germane to the business of the Council. He explained matters that were germane to the business of Council meant matters that the City Council, by law, were empowered to act upon. This did not include announcements that were personal to an individual, business, or organization. He pointed out copies of the ordinance highlighting citizen participation and encouraged citizens to review the document.

Mayor Price requested that cell phones and/or pagers be silenced or turned off.

B. Invocation

The invocation was rendered by Pastor Justin White, City Life Church.

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Councilman Herbert H. Bateman, Jr.

D. Presentations

None

E. Public Hearings

None Submitted

F. Consent Agenda

Councilwoman Scott moved adoption of the Consent Agenda, Items 1 through 4, both inclusive, as shown below; seconded by Councilman Bateman.

F. Consent Agenda Continued

1. Minutes of the Work Session of April 12, 2016

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Bateman, Cherry, Coleman, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

2. Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 12, 2016

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Bateman, Cherry, Coleman, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 12, 2016

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Bateman, Cherry, Coleman, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

4. Resolution of Recognition: 50th Anniversary of Newport News Park

A Resolution of Recognition in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Newport News Park. Newport News Park, at 7,711 acres, and one of the largest municipal parks east of the Mississippi River, was dedicated on May 28, 1966. Mr. Joseph C. Biggins, Newport News City Manager from 1925 to 1965, was credited with the idea of the creation of the park. In 1962, the City's Department of Planning proposed the development of the area that now comprises Newport News Park as a recreational facility. In 1964, City Council made the first appropriation to implement this plan, and authorized commencement of the first phase of development of the proposed park. On May 28, 1966, the park was "dedicated to the citizens of Newport News, their Peninsula friends, neighbors and visitors, for a permanent year-round recreational and enjoyment" location. This resolution of the City Council recognized Newport News Park on the 50th Anniversary of its dedication. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Bateman, Cherry, Coleman, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

G. Other City Council Actions

1. Receipt of Bids for Granting a 20-foot Easement Across City-owned Property Located at 15402 Warwick Boulevard

One (1) bid was received and opened from Dominion Virginia Power in the amount of \$1.00, granting a 20-foot easement across City-owned property located at 15402 Warwick Boulevard. A request to receive bids for a utility easement over City-owned property at 15402 Warwick Boulevard was advertised in the Daily Press on April 11, 2016 and April 18, 2016. The easement request accommodated improvements as part of a larger project to provide the Atkinson Boulevard and Bridge Project. A public hearing was advertised for the May 10, 2016 Regular Meeting of City Council for consideration of the ordinance, which would grant the easement to the successful bidder. No action was required of City Council. The bid was forwarded to the City Manager for review and evaluation.

2. Receipt of Bids for Granting a 30-foot Easement Across City-owned Property Located at 13141 Jefferson Avenue

One (1) bid was received and opened from Dominion Virginia Power in the amount of \$1.00, granting a 30-foot easement across City-owned property located at 13141 Jefferson Avenue. A request to receive bids for a utility easement over City-owned property at 13141 Jefferson Avenue was advertised in the Daily Press on April 11, 2016 and April 18, 2016. The easement request accommodated improvements as part of a larger project to provide the Atkinson Boulevard and Bridge Project. A public hearing was advertised for the May 10, 2016 Regular Meeting of City Council for consideration of the ordinance, which would grant the easement to the successful bidder. No action was required of City Council. The bid was forwarded to the City Manager for review and evaluation.

3. Resolution Approving the Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development – Annual Action Plan FY 2016-2017

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS APPROVING THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS INCLUDING THE PROPOSED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME FUNDS AND CERTIFICATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 AND AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THIS PLAN TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT. This resolution approved the Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development Annual Action Plan for the City, including the proposed use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Funds and certifications for Fiscal Year 2016-2017, and authorized submission of the Plan to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development Annual Action Plan identified the City's needs for housing and community development, the resources available to meet the needs and the priorities for directing those resources, and required the approval of City Council. This document was required by HUD, must be submitted to, and approved by HUD, for the City to receive its allocation of

G. Other City Council Actions Continued

3. Resolution Approving the Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development – Annual Action Plan FY 2016-2017 Continued

CDBG and HOME funds each year. The Annual Action Plan included the proposed use of funds for upcoming FY 2016-2017, and included HUD entitlement funding and program income for both CDBG and HOME in an aggregate amount of \$2,187,056.00. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Councilwoman Woodbury moved adoption of the above resolution; seconded by Councilwoman Scott.

Councilwoman Cherry referenced the continuation of the Newport News Urban Development Action Grant Program (NNUDAG), which provided loans to for-profit entities in order to facilitate the creation of jobs for low and moderate income persons, and asked for an example. Ms. Karen Wilds, Director, Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority, responded that these represented the amount of repayments for outstanding NNUDAG grants, and was an estimate of the amount to be received in repayments for existing loans. This money would be available to make new loans in the coming year.

Councilwoman Cherry referenced the Freedom Outreach Center regarding counseling and crisis intervention activities. She inquired who was trained to do the counseling, and questioned what type of counseling was entailed. Ms. Wilds replied that Reverend Robinson, and he actually did the counseling in the jails.

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Bateman, Cherry, Coleman, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

4. Ordinance Repealing City Code, Chapter 29, Parks, Squares and Recreational Facilities; Article II., General Regulations Governing Parks; Section 29-53.1, Flying of Model Aircraft Prohibited

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 29, PARKS, SQUARES AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE II, GENERAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING PARKS, SQUARES, BEACHES, GOLF COURSES, ETC., BY REPEALING SECTION 29-53.1, FLYING OF MODEL AIRCRAFT PROHIBITED. This ordinance repealed the City Code, Chapter 29, Parks, Squares and Recreational Facilities; Article II, General Regulations governing Parks; Section 29-53.1, Flying of Model Aircraft Prohibited, to adhere to new State regulations. In the 2016 General Assembly, a House Bill was passed and signed into law by the Governor pertaining to localities regulating the use of privately owned, unmanned aircraft systems. As

G. Other City Council Actions Continued

4. Ordinance Repealing City Code, Chapter 29, Parks, Squares and Recreational Facilities; Article II., General Regulations Governing Parks; Section 29-53.1, Flying of Model Aircraft Prohibited Continued

adopted, the new state law prohibited localities from regulating the use of privately owned, unmanned aircraft systems within its boundaries. City Code, Section 29-53.1 prohibited the flying of unmanned aircraft in City parks, squares, and recreational facilities. This ordinance amendment would align the City Code with the new State law. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Councilman Bateman moved adoption of the above ordinance; seconded by Councilwoman Vick.

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Bateman, Cherry, Coleman, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

H. Appropriations

Councilwoman Scott moved adoption of Appropriations, Items 1 and 2, as shown below; seconded by Councilwoman Vick.

1. Department of Engineering – The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) and the Water Quality Banking Program Fund; Construction of the Stoney Run Regional Best Management Practice (BMP) Retrofit; Stream Restoration and Lake Dredging Project

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM STATE REVENUE (\$2,275,200.00) AND WATER QUALITY BANKING PROGRAM FUND (\$400,000.00) TO STONEY RUN REGIONAL BMP RETROFIT; STREAM RESTORATION AND LAKE DREDGING PROJECT (\$2,675,200.00). This resolution appropriated \$2,675,200.00 from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) and the Water Quality Banking Program Fund for the construction of the Stoney Run Regional BMP Retrofit; Stream Restoration and Lake Dredging Project. The existing drainage channel was experiencing severe embankment erosion and degradation throughout the majority of its reach. The lakes were not fully utilized as stormwater management facilities. The proposed retrofit, stream restoration and lake dredging project was intended to expand the capacity of the existing Stoney Run BMP to meet current, more stringent Stormwater regulations associated with pollutant reductions required through the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limit set by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) delegated from the EPA. The total cost of the project was estimated at \$4,550,400.00. In addition to the

H. Appropriations Continued

1. Department of Engineering – The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) and the Water Quality Banking Program Fund; Construction of the Stoney Run Regional Best Management Practice (BMP) Retrofit; Stream Restoration and Lake Dredging Project Continued

requested funds of this appropriation, \$1,875,200.00 was available from previously appropriated project funds. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Bateman, Cherry, Coleman, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

2. Department of Engineering – State Revenue Sharing Program; FY 2016 Bond Authorization, Streets and Bridges Category; and FY 2016 Bond Authorization, Streets and Bridges Category; and from the FY 2016 Bond Authorization, Community Development Category: Various Roadway Projects

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM BONDS AUTHORIZED AND UNISSUED (\$7,075,000.00) AND STATE REVENUE (\$7,075,000.00) TO ATKINSON BOULEVARD UPC #004483 (\$5,500,000.00) ADA CITYWIDE SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE REPLACEMENT UPC #107279 (\$1,500,000.00), ADA CITYWIDE SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE REPLACEMENT UPC #107280 (\$100,000.00), PATRICK HENRY DRIVE EXTENSION UPC #107271 (\$5,500,000.00), HUNTINGTON AVENUE BRIDGE REPAACEMENT UPC #094832 (\$2,500,000.00), AND HARPERSVILLE ROAD EXTENSION UPC #107276 (\$400,000.00). This resolution appropriated \$7,075,000.00 from the State Revenue Sharing Program, \$4,325,000.00 from the FY 2016 Bond Authorization, Streets and Bridges Category, and \$2,750,000.00 from the FY 2016 Bond Authorization, Community Development Category for various City roadway projects. The State Revenue Sharing Program provides funding for use by the City to construct or improve highway systems within the City. The program required at least a 50/50 City/State match. The funds would be used for the following: Atkinson Boulevard project; ADA Citywide sidewalk project; ADA Citywide Sidewalk Maintenance Replacement project; Patrick Henry Drive Extension project; Huntington Avenue Bridge Replacement project; and the Harpersville Road Extension project. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Bateman, Cherry, Coleman, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germane to the Business of City Council
Continued

Mr. John Gergely, 449 Winterhaven Drive, Newport News, addressed City Council on the proposed Wegman's grocery store project. He reminded that there were three new supermarkets, including Whole Foods, Lidl, and Aldi; And now, Wegman's. He stated there was no grocery store in the Southeast Community and reminded that Councilwoman Vick had been fighting for the residents for years. Mr. Gergely referenced Jim's Local Market as the "Mom and Pop" grocery store, which City Council heavily subsidized. He felt that Jim's Local Market did not have a chance to be successful in the Southeast Community because they would not be able to compete with the big markets. The Supermarket business works on a 2% profit margin. He suggested Wegman's build a store in the Southeast Community or in the North District. The Central District was overrun with grocery stores.

Ms. Rona Altschuler, 951 Edgewater Drive, Newport News, addressed City Council on the proposed Wegman's grocery store project. She expressed concern about the City of Newport News, specifically seeing businesses opened, then shut down, on a recurring basis. What was thought to be a great shopping center was no longer, with stores moving out only to relocate to a place they perceived to be better. She stated that she was worried for the City's future as a person that loved the community, when there was a piece of land that was green, and officials could not leave it alone. Ms. Altschuler indicated that Newport News had plenty of grocery stores. There was a grocery store on every corner. Ms. Altschuler read a mission statement from a foundation that was tied to the City's website. It read as follows: "The mission of the Newport News Green Foundation is to promote the creation and preservation of green space throughout the City of Newport News through advocacy, acquisition, and assistance to others in order to make Newport News a more visually attractive place to live, work, and play." She stated she would like to see this and urged City Council to leave Newport News alone. There were other more important issues to worry about.

Mr. Antonio Thompson, 1211-25th Street, Newport News, addressed City Council on the topic of the City's treasury enrichment, public safety and security, as well as the importance of recycling. He discussed the legalization of marijuana and prostitution in an effort to help build up the City's treasury.

Ms. Angela Harris, Newport News, commented about an incident with the Newport News Police Department, specifically police harassment of her children. She felt that a detective and former officer in the Newport News Department, South District, preyed on her child. The same Detective attacked her grandson's mother. The Detective then showed a warrant for trespassing against Ms. Harris's son. He was later charged with assault and battery of a police officer. It was determined that the Detective filed false charges against her son. The Commonwealth's Attorney noll processed the case rather than dropping the charges, which meant the assault and battery charges would remain on her 24-year old son's record. They threatened to noll process her son for another charge for something he did not do.

I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germane to the Business of City Council
Continued

Ms. Harris advised that her youngest son, who was preparing to graduate from college, had been stopped by the police three times in a three month period. Ms. Harris asked members of City Council to investigate the NNPD, who had appeared to have it out for her family, and continued to harass them.

Ms. Jessica Bennett, 23 Ringo Drive, Newport News, advised that she had attended a Candidate's Forum sponsored by the York-River Group Sierra Club, April 13, 2016, 6:30 p.m., at the Main Street Library (110 Main Street). Councilmembers Tina Vick, and Dr. Patricia Woodbury were in attendance. Ms. Bennett commented about proposals for the City Farm property. She recommended that the property be used to promote education by constructing a research facility, which would be stocked with professors and researchers. She indicated that one of the greatest buildings in the City of Newport News was the Thomas Jefferson National Laboratory (Jefferson Lab), located at 12000 Jefferson Avenue. Visitors from across the world flocked to Newport News when the facility originally opened in an effort to view what had been developed. Ms. Bennett felt the same academic environment should be promoted. The 2015 Menchville High School graduate, stated that a research facility would benefit both the students and the public school system to promote this facility to allow continued research on the City Farm property. The facility could partner with the Newport News Public Schools and higher education institutions, such as Christopher Newport University, Thomas Nelson Community College, and any other institutions that would be interested in conducting research and promoting education. The facility would be open to the public, and devoted to informing them and providing information on the environment. Ms. Bennett further suggested that this building be the first facility completely run on renewable energy. Dominion Virginia Power was on record expressing support for solar energy and had developed a solar field. By partnering with local businesses to promote clean energy, Newport News could be first in the region to have a building that was completely sustainable. Energy generated from Solar panels and wind turbines could be provided to the citizens in surrounding areas and residents in the entire Hampton Roads region.

Mr. Stephen F. Bennett, 23 Ringo Drive, Newport News, a long-time resident of Newport News, expressed concern for the senior citizens of the City, those who had made the City what it is. Mr. Bennett stated that the elderly had no tax breaks, as was done in the past. The elderly were allowed tax deferrals. Senior citizens struggled with making tax payments and leaving nothing for their children or their children's children. City officials gave nothing in return to senior citizens. Senior citizens were taxed to death. Mr. Bennett urged members of City Council to look into this critical issue and come up with a favorable plan for the elderly. He stated that Medicare increased from \$99.00 to \$121.00, yet there had been no increase in Social Security Income, or small pension funds. He asked for a tax break, not a tax deferral (a copy of Mr. Bennett's remarks are attached and made a part of these minutes).

Ms. Lucille Dixon, 21 Ringo Drive, Newport News, indicated that she was a senior citizen that paid property taxes, and admitted that it was very hard. She recalled the timeframe when senior citizens received tax breaks, known as a tax abatement plan. Ms. Dixon

I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germane to the Business of City Council
Continued

stated the City switched to tax deferrals, which meant when the senior citizen died, their children would not be able to afford to pay the taxes, and would lose the family home. She asked members of City Council to give consideration to giving senior citizens a break on their taxes.

Mr. Al Riutort, 29 Langhorne Road, Newport News, Retired Director, Department of Planning, advised that he generally stayed out of planning matters since retiring from the City of Newport News. He thanked the City Manager for the informative City Council Work Session dealing with the rezoning of property at Brick Kiln Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue. Mr. Riutort advised that he learned a great deal from the presentations and many of his questions were answered. He expressed disappointment in the presentation by the Planning staff as there was no mention of the Framework for the Future, with emphasis on protecting neighborhoods and communities, as well as protecting and maintaining entrances to communities, specifically Brick Kiln Boulevard, the entrance to Kiln Creek and Lake Cambridge. Mr. Riutort stated that most uses around the Newport News-Williamsburg International Airport were Light Industrial. The Framework for the Future recommended open space of the proposed site to protect the approaches to the airport. The ramp from I-64 provided a good boundary as things were visible. He felt one reason for the change in land-use plan was because the airport layout plan showed the area between Jefferson Avenue and Brick Kiln Boulevard for non-aviation activity. He stated there had been a great deal of studies performed regarding the land uses and what was compatible around airports. He stated that putting a 176,000 square foot shopping center in front of a runway, even though it was out of the runway protection zone, was very risky. He discovered that the moving of Runway #2 had not been approved by the Federal Aviation Association (FAA). It was in the plan, but required approval of the FAA for shortening the runway. Mr. Riutort provided a copy of the Traffic Analysis Plan regarding the Plaza at Jefferson, which is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Ms. Elizabeth Lewis, 188 Bret Harte, Newport News, a senior citizen, also expressed disappointment that the City eliminated the tax abatement plan that was available for senior citizens, military, and handicapped individuals. She asked that members of City Council reconsider the tax deferral program and restore the tax abatement plan. She was aware of numerous senior citizens that could not attend tonight's meeting because they could not afford the gas, and lived only on Social Security Income.

Mr. Keven Underwood, 714 MacNeil Drive, Newport News, advised that he was a former officer with the Newport News Police Department (NNPD) from 2006-2012, until his health would no longer allow him to serve with the NNPD. When Mr. Underwood left, he made a promise to the men and women of the NNPD that he would never let them down. Mr. Underwood shared with City Council an issue brought to him by police officers, to include his wife, who also was a Newport News Police Officer. He stated there was systematic discrimination within the NNPD, starting with Chief Richard Myers, and Assistant Chief Stacey Kelly. Mr. Underwood alleged that the Chiefs were using the Internal Affairs Division to systematically target members of the NNPD that they did not care for. Four ranking members of

I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germane to the Business of City Council
Continued

the NNPD would attest to the unethical, immoral, and borderline illegal acts performed during Internal Affairs investigations. Chief Myers received the lowest possible unfavorable rating from an internal survey conducted within the NNPD. Mr. Underwood advised that Chief Myers lead a Nazi type regime and forwarded e-mails threatening officers would be suspended without pay for failure to turn on their body cameras. He further advised that there was no police officer in the Department above the rank of Sargent of Hispanic descent. There was an all-white Assistant Chief Staff, one white female Captain, and one white female Lieutenant. He questioned the diversity, asking how one could serve the community without understanding the community's needs. His bilingual wife, was Hispanic, had a Master's Degree in Business, and was passed over numerous times for promotions by officers less qualified.

Ms. BeKura Branch, Newport News, expressed outrage about police brutality against African-American children. She had left Newport News due to judicial misconduct and police misconduct. She, her husband, and her children were pulled from a car upon her return, due to a capias, which was from a charge from 2001 on her husband. Her 16-year old disabled son tried to ask what he should do, when Officer Houser pulled a gun on him. Her son had never had an interaction with the police. Citizens were left with nowhere to go and no one in which to turn. City officials do nothing about the police brutality. Her entire family was handcuffed, but her infant child was left in a car seat alone in the car. She questioned the justice in this situation, and questioned why the NNPD were to be respected. She advised that she did not respect, would never respect the NNPD, nor did she respect those who allowed this behavior to occur. Ms. Branch stated that she had experienced trumped charges and extortion for the past 10 years. She left Newport News to pursue a better life for herself and her children. She did not deserve to be subjected to NNPD's bullying and brutality. She had no confidence in the system or the City Council.

Mr. Anton Richards, Newport News, was not available to speak when his name was called.

Mr. Twan Branch, Jr. Newport News, was not available to speak when his name was called.

Mr. Miklos Kiss, 921 Willow Point, Newport News, advised that he was a 75-year old citizen that escaped from the North and came to Newport News to seek a better life, which he did, until he heard about the disturbing news about the rezoning of the airport property at Brick Kiln Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue for a proposed shopping center. He sympathized that the Newport News-Williamsburg International Airport needed revenue; but stated that they were not in the land leasing business, but the transportation business. In order to get more money, officials should try harder to get new airlines in to serve the community. The extra 7,000 cars would be a huge traffic burden, leading to a major traffic jam in the case of an emergency. Mr. Kiss urged City Council to oppose the rezoning of the property and hoped his comments helped them make the decision to oppose the rezoning.

I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germane to the Business of City Council
Continued

Ms. Christine Teece, 929 Willow Point, Newport News, commented about the rezoning of Airport property at Brick Kiln Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue. She presented a petition with the signatures of 251 citizens requesting that City Council deny the request to rezone the property (a copy of Ms. Teece's remarks, along with the petitions, are attached and made a part of these minutes). The citizens, many of whom were small business owners adjacent to the proposed property, asked the City to allow for the completion of the ongoing construction of two grocery stores, 400 apartments, the relocation of the SCOT center, and the expansion of the shopping center on the corner of Bland Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue. They further requested that a comprehensive traffic study be completed to identify all problems that would be fixed prior to the City considering adding anything else to this corridor; and further felt that acceptable standards regarding emergency management, public safety, ease of use, and quality of life had already been stretched past the point of acceptability, and to proceed would be irresponsible. The citizens were pleased that Councilman Bateman had planned to recuse himself from the vote and that he resigned from the Peninsula Airport Commission. They further requested that Councilwoman Sharon Scott recuse herself from the vote on the rezoning issue to ensure a vote without conflict of interest. As citizens, they deserved a clean vote on an issue that would forever change the City.

J. New Business and Councilmember Comments

City Manager Bourey presented A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 12783-15, ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 8, 2015, THAT APPROVED A CAPITAL IMPROVMENTS PLAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 FOR THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA. This resolution would transfer an additional \$1 million into the NNPS Capital Improvements Program (transferred from Community Development funds). This matter had been discussed on a number of occasions.

Vice Mayor Coleman moved adoption of the above resolution; seconded by Councilman Bateman.

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Bateman, Cherry, Coleman, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

City Manager Bourey announced the Grand Opening Celebration for Jim's Local Market (3101 Jefferson Avenue) would be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. The store would officially open to the public following the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Citizens were invited to attend. City Manager Bourey thanked members of City Council for their incredible and amazing unwavering support for the project.

City Manager Bourey announced that a citizen survey would be conducted in early May 2016 as part of the City's efforts to identify citizens' views to rate how the City was doing as part of the outcome based performance measurement program.

J. New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilman Bateman thanked all of the citizens for their attendance and participation at the meeting to discuss various subjects. It helped City Council to make better decisions.

Regarding tax abatement, Councilman Bateman advised that City Council had held various conversations related to remarks made by citizens. He stated tax abatement was allowed for the elderly in 2008 because the City was hurting, and it was something that could be done. City Council found, through a Sustainability and Efficiency Committee, if the City continued with the tax abatement program, millions of dollars would be lost. Council agreed to look at helping those who were elderly that were in a worse financial condition. Tax deferral did remain an option.

Councilwoman Cherry thanked all of the citizens for their attendance and participation at the meeting to express their points of view. She reiterated that their voices mattered, particularly to the senior citizens. She stated that City Council was committed and they did care.

Councilwoman Cherry extended congratulations to the recipients of the charitable funds from the One City Marathon – Transitions Family Violence Services, Fear 2 Freedom, and the Center for Sexual Assault Survivors. Transitions Family Violence Services had provided comprehensive services to adult and child victim of domestic violence on the Peninsula since 1977. The Center for Sexual Assault Survivors played an active role in the reduction and elimination of sexual and domestic violence in Hampton Roads since 1996. Fear 2 Freedom was established in 2011 to redeem and restore those wounded by sexual assault. She thanked each of the charities for their services to the community and for being an asset to the community. She hoped the funds received would help them continue the good work they provided in the community.

Councilwoman Cherry thanked Mr. Howard Gwynn, Commonwealth's Attorney, and his office, for hosting the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony, on Thursday, April 14, 2016, at the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue). She thanked them for everything they did to provide victims needed services when experiencing an unfortunate situation in their lives.

Councilwoman Cherry extended congratulations to the Newport News Police Department and the Neighborhood Watch Coalition. The 9th Annual Neighborhood Watch Conference was held on Saturday, April 23, 2016, at the City Center Marriott (740 Town Center Drive). The theme for the conference was "A New Perspective." The conference was successful, with approximately 150 attendees. Topics discussed included the use of high technology in law enforcement, promoting urban renewal, and domestic terrorism.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that Arbor Day was celebrated on Saturday, April 23, 2016, at Marshall Early Childhood Center (743-24th Street). Three trees were planted – one in

J. New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

honor of Mr. Thomas Gaynor, of Gaynor Construction. Mr. Gaynor and his family were in attendance at the ceremony.

Councilwoman Cherry extended a Happy Administrative Professionals Week to all Administrative Professionals, and thanked them for all of their hard work and everything they did for the City Council and the City as a whole.

Councilwoman Cherry extended condolences to Mrs. Jane Susan Frank, wife of former Mayor Joe S. Frank, and family, on the loss of her mother, Ms. Rose Frances Glasser. Ms. Glaser died on April 22, 2016, at the age of 101.

Councilwoman Cherry reminded residents in the South District, that the South District “Your Voice Matters” Town Hall Meetings would be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Drive) for residents that lived from Mercury Boulevard North to Harpersville Road; and Thursday, May 19, 2016, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue) for residents from Mercury Boulevard South to the waterfront. All residents were invited to attend. These meetings were a collaborative effort of the Newport News Police Department, the Newport News School Board, and the Newport News City Council.

Councilwoman Cherry extended congratulations to the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center, Mr. Michael Poplawski, Director and staff of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, for allowing a repeat performance of The Wiz. Tickets for all performances were sold out on the second day.

Councilwoman Cherry looked forward to National Tourism Week, and all planned activities, scheduled for May 1 – 7, 2016.

Vice Mayor Coleman advised that he had a great time hanging out with 225 Middle School students on Friday, April 22, 2016, at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Drive) at the Mayor’s Youth Commission Lock-in, 10:30 p.m. – 6:30 a.m. The kids had a great time, playing basketball, video games and other fun activities in a safe environment. He commended the staff of the Mayor’s Youth Commission, as well as the staff of the Department of Human Services for their hard work.

Vice Mayor Coleman thanked City Manager Bourey, staff, and the Developers, for an informative City Council Work Session earlier in the day (April 26, 2016), dealing with the rezoning of property at Brick Kiln Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue. A great deal of information was shared about the proposed Wegman’s project, and upcoming Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) projects. Vice Mayor Coleman thought the earlier session was a good reason to televise the City Council Work Sessions. He felt the public would have enjoyed hearing the information shared, particularly about the proposal to rezone the property at Brick Kiln Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue.

J. New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Vice Mayor Coleman thanked the senior citizens – Mr. Bennett, Ms. Lewis, and Ms. Dixon, for their attendance. He shared that his parents experienced similar challenges, as did many senior residents in the City. He stated that City Council would continue its discussions about alternate proposals. City Council would like to help the lifelong citizens of Newport News, who helped to make the community what it is.

Councilwoman Scott thanked City Manager Bourey, staff, and the Developers, for an informative City Council Work Session earlier in the day (April 26, 2016), dealing with the rezoning of property at Brick Kiln Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue. She advised that she and Dr. Cherry requested the Work Session. She agreed with Vice Mayor Coleman that it was a good Work Session to have been recorded because so much vital information was shared. She hoped that City Council would continue to have similar Work Sessions. When a project was this major, and would impact a great number of people, it was important that City Council received all of the information.

Regarding Ms. Teece's remarks about her not following Councilman Bateman's decision to recuse himself from the vote on the upcoming issue regarding the rezoning of property at Brick Kiln Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue, Councilwoman Scott stated that Sharon Scott had opinions as a citizen; but as a Council woman, Sharon Scott operated on facts and information shared through different City Department Heads, and through Work Sessions, and made informed decisions based on information made available to her, not based on personal opinion. She did not feel the need to go along with the flow and do what her colleagues were doing. After serving on City Council for 14 years, everyone should know that she was the one that advocated for open government and transparency, and would continue to do what was in the best interest of the citizens. Councilwoman Scott indicated her heart was always in the right place, and when she made decisions, it was always with the citizens in mind.

Councilwoman Scott empathized with the senior citizens, as she would turn 60 years of age in October. She agreed with Vice Mayor Coleman that City Council will continue discussion about options to assist senior citizens with their tax burdens. She stated that 25% of the City's residents were over 65 years of age. City Council would look for a way to help those that were in most need.

Councilwoman Scott indicated that her heart got heavy whenever she heard a citizen utter complaints about how they were treated by the Newport News Police. She asked that Chief Myers set up meetings to have a conversation with the families of the citizens that voiced complaints. She was disappointed when she heard about the people that were sworn to serve and protect may be doing things that were intimidating to some of the citizens. She hoped that this matter would be an item of discussion in the staff meetings of the NNPD. She also hoped that no officer or citizen was denied the opportunity to file a complaint. Councilwoman Scott indicated that she had nothing but respect for the members of the NNPD, and wanted the citizens to feel the same.

J. New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Vick thanked all of the citizens for their attendance and participation at the meeting to express their points of view. She had an opportunity to speak with Ms. Teece, whose words were very powerful and provided City Council with ideas about the issues the Kiln Creek residents faced.

Councilwoman Vick concurred with her colleagues, advising when City Council voted to change the tax abatement program to a tax deferral program, and promised to review and continue discussions about how the program affected senior citizens. After hearing from the seniors about their challenges, Councilwoman Vick advised that it was a great time for City Council to have further discussions about other options for seniors to help make their lives a little easier.

Councilwoman Vick extended a fond farewell to Mr. Elliott Gruber, Executive Director of the Mariners' Museum, who advised that he and his wife were leaving the area to pursue other opportunities. Mr. Gruber had led the Mariners' Museum for the past three years, and had done a fantastic job.

Councilwoman Vick extended congratulations to the C. Waldo Scott Center for H.O.P.E., who provided after school care and activities for youth in the Southeast Community. The C. Waldo Scott Center for H.O.P.E. celebrated 25 years in the community on Thursday, April 21, 2016. The mission of the Scott Center was to provide HOPE to families while developing the WHOLE CHILD, accomplished by providing multi-disciplinary services to educate and foster the growth and development of youth and families. Community supporters were asked to make a commitment by "Celebrating A Child" through event sponsorship, and securing an advertisement in their commemorative event booklet. All efforts helped in sponsoring scholarships for Newport News high school seniors and supported the Scott Center's programs and services.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that there had been discussion about what happened to the senior citizens in Newport News. She stated it had been on her agenda, and would continue. She had asked City Manager Bourey, and the Budget Director, Ms. Lisa Cipriano, to look for a compromise to see how to correct the tax deferral program. Councilwoman Woodbury admitted to voting in favor of this program initially because of some of the uses that were occurring with people that had huge amounts of money, but qualified for a tax abatement. There were abuses to the system. She indicated that City Council failed to realize that the criteria could have been changed, and the City remain fiscally responsible. She shared that she was upset because there were citizens that received reverse mortgages that did not qualify for a tax deferral. She shared a story about an 84-year old man who would lose his house and would be homeless. She was glad to hear that her colleagues on City Council were willing to continue discussions about the deferral program.

Councilwoman Woodbury extended congratulations to the students that received STAR (Students Taking Action and Responsibility) Awards at the Middle and High School Ceremony, held on Tuesday, April 26, 2016, at the Newport News Marriott at City Center (740

J. New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Town Center Drive). Each year, the Newport News School Board and the Superintendent recognized students for leadership and dedicated service to their school and community.

Councilwoman Woodbury questioned how the citizen survey would be conducted, on-line, or called. City Manager Bourey responded that there would be an option for citizens to take the survey on-line, but the majority would be called.

Councilwoman Woodbury and her colleagues attended the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony, on Thursday, April 14, 2016, at the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue). She thanked them for everything they did to provide needed services when experiencing an unfortunate situation in their lives.

Councilwoman Woodbury extended congratulations to the Kiwanis Club of Denbigh, on their Spaghetti Splash Celebrity Fundraiser, held on Monday, April 25, 2016, 5:00 – 8:30 p.m., at IHOP (15447 Warwick Boulevard). All of the event proceeds collected would be distributed to charities, such as The Boys and Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula, the Menchville House, and the Joy of Reading Program for Pre-School Children at Denbigh Early Childhood Center.

Councilwoman Woodbury and her colleagues attended the Riverside Neighborhood Watch Meeting, held on Monday, April 25, 2016, at North Riverside Baptist Church (311 Selden Road). She shared the importance of Crime Watch Programs in the City's neighborhoods, and encouraged citizens to be a part.

Councilwoman Woodbury and her colleagues attended the 9th Annual Neighborhood Watch Conference held on Saturday, April 23, 2016, at the City Center Marriott (740 Town Center Drive). The theme for the conference was "A New Perspective." The conference was successful, with approximately 150 attendees. Topics discussed included the use of high technology in law enforcement, promoting urban renewal, and domestic terrorism.

Councilwoman Woodbury shared that Mr. Elliott Gruber was one of the best Directors of the Mariners' Museum. He reached out to everyone in the community, and would be sorely missed. His ideas and creativity made a huge difference in the City of Newport News, and with the Mariner's Museum specifically. She wished Mr. Gruber and his family well.

K. Adjourn

Mayor Price adjourned the meeting by addressing the citizens. He stated, "May what you say and do uplift the City of Newport News."

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS,
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 8:15 P.M.

Mabel Washington Jenkins

Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC
City Clerk

McKinley L. Price, DDS
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk