

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

June 28, 2016

3:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None-----0

OTHERS PRESENT: James M. Bourey; Collins L. Owens; Mabel Washington Jenkins; Cynthia Rohlf;
Alan Archer; Darlene Bradberry; Wanda Pierre; Lisa Cipriano; Florence Kingston; Clede Jones; Kim
Lee; Jerri Wilson; Jennifer Walker; RoShaundra Ellington; and Amanda Williams

I. Closed Meeting

3:10 p.m. – 6:05 p.m.

II. Comments/Ideas/Suggestions

Mr. James M. Bourey, City Manager, announced that the City received word from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that it had been awarded a HUD Choice Neighborhood Grant in the amount of \$500,000. He advised that this was exciting news, and the City was now eligible to receive up to \$30 million in implementation dollars should a revitalization plan be adopted.

City Manager Bourey stated that he attended the Transformational Transit Summit at the Westin Town Center in Virginia Beach on Monday, June 27, 2016. He voiced concern that transit needed to be viewed holistically with the entire Hampton Roads region in mind. The surrounding localities (Norfolk, Virginia Beach, etc.) had to consider an innovative process.

City Manager Bourey reminded about the Stars in the Sky 4th of July event on Monday, July 4, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., at Victory Landing Park, in downtown Newport News.

Councilman Bateman voiced concern about an area of land at the corner of J. Clyde Morris and Warwick Boulevards that was in need of attention. He stated the area was adjacent to the Christopher Newport University (CNU) Police Department and was used as a staging area by the State during the road improvements along the corridor. He inquired whether the land could be transferred from the State to the City for landscaping purposes. This was an opportunity to improve the aesthetics of the entire intersection. Assistant City Manager Rohlf replied that the land was owned by the State and CNU was trying to acquire the land but it was a very long process. She stated she would look into the matter, but understood that CNU was interested in acquiring the property through transfer of ownership.

Councilman Bateman thanked Assistant City Manager Rohlf and staff for all of their hard work related to community maintenance. Whenever he voiced a concern about community maintenance, City Manager Bourey and Assistant City Manager Rohlf would handle such concern without hesitation. He thanked them for their efforts no matter how much of a nuisance he was. City Manager Bourey thanked Councilman Bateman for voicing his concerns regarding community maintenance. He stated the more that staff was aware of their concerns, the better they could handle such matters. Some matters, unless pointed out, were not detected by staff. He urged members of City Council to report matters of concern to him so they could be handled promptly.

Councilwoman Cherry stated that she and Councilwoman Vick received an e-mail message from Mr. Sean V. Devlin, regarding a request about the need to install speed humps to alleviate excessive speeding along Briarfield Road and Hilton Avenue on Marshall Avenue (copy attached to these minutes). Mr. Devlin advised that he received a response from Mr. Everett Skipper, Director of the Department of Engineering, noting that the Departments of Planning and Fire did not support putting speed bumps along this particular corridor. She inquired about other traffic calming effects that the Department of Engineering could institute to alleviate speeding. Mr. Skipper replied that a similar issue had been experienced on Maxwell Lane where residents did not want speed bumps installed. The Department of Engineering was in the process of testing curb bump-outs.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that the residents of Maxwell Lane were not in support of curb bump-outs or speed bumps. Mr. Skipper replied he was aware of that and was not sure what the answer would be. Additional traffic calming measures that could be undertaken included changing the curbs and roadways or decreasing the speed limit.

Councilwoman Cherry indicated that the roadway from Briarfield Road and Marshall Avenue, up to Mercury Boulevard, in the New Market area, was a two-lane roadway with no sidewalks or ditches. The roadway was already compromised and speeding was not acceptable. She stated that something needed to be done to deter speeding along the roadway. Mr. Skipper advised that the two-way roadway was the critical issue and the residents that travelled down the roadway did not want anything to impede their progress and had pushed against doing anything. The people who lived on the roadway and experienced the speeding indicated there was a problem. The Department of Engineering would continue to work with the residents to identify a workable solution. At some point, the matter would come to City Council to advise how they would like the matter handled.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that there had been approximately three accidents that occurred at 16th Street and Wickham Avenue over the past month.

Mayor Price stated that the last accident occurred because the driver travelling on Wickham Avenue believed that they had the right-of-way and ignored the stop sign at the intersection. The driver admitted that they did not observe the stop sign.

Councilwoman Cherry stated that the City needed to reconsider re-installing a traffic light at the intersections of Wickham Avenue and 16th Street.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that she had received an e-mail message from the City's 3-1-1 Contact Center regarding a concern about traffic travelling behind Family Dollar and Jefferson Brookville Apartments on Jefferson Avenue, between 25th and 26th Streets, from Interstate-664. The resident had voiced a concern about people speeding through the area. Councilwoman Cherry stated that she had received a response from 3-1-1 indicating that they had received her request. She stated that she did not recall sending 3-1-1 a request. She did not know where the request came from or whether the Department of Engineering sent the request to 3-1-1. She never called 3-1-1. She recalled asking about the matter during a Work Session discussion, but had never received a response.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that she had received concerns about the low use of Jim's Local Market. She suggested, as the City provided incentives for City employees to gain a health club membership, perhaps an incentive could be provided to City employees to shop at Jim's Local Market. She asked that the City Manager look into whether an incentive could be offered to City employees for shopping at Jim's Local Market because they needed people to shop in the store. City Manager Bourey advised that the City provided employees with several incentives to improve their health, which would help reduce the City's healthcare cost. Councilwoman Cherry suggested offering employees an incentive for purchasing healthy produce. City Manager Bourey advised that he would have staff look into the matter.

Vice Mayor Coleman commended City staff for finalizing the work at the Wendwood Pond on Oyster Point Road and Warwick Boulevard. He indicated that he received only one complaint from a neighbor about a bucket of dry concrete that was left on the sidewalk in the vicinity of the pond. He asked that the City Manager have staff come out and dispose of the concrete. The City Manager advised that he would have staff take care of the matter.

Councilwoman Scott reminded about the incorrect signage on Denbigh Boulevard that noted the area as the Patrick Henry District. She stated the area of the sign was not located in the Patrick Henry District. She asked the City Manager to have staff address the issue because it made no sense. City Manager Bourey replied that the sign should have been taken down, and he would see that the matter was handled. Councilwoman Scott asked that the City Manager update her on the progress of the matter.

Councilwoman Scott stated that her June 27, 2016, North District Town Hall meeting was very interactive. She was appreciative that Ms. Britta Ayers, Manager of Comprehensive Planning, Department of Planning, was in attendance to participate and offer any assistance. Representatives from the Windy Knolls community were present and voiced concerns about trash and debris at the entrance of their community due to work taking place at the Multi-modal Transportation Center. One resident complained that construction was ongoing, sometimes after 9:00 p.m. Councilwoman Scott inquired about the reason that construction was ongoing after 9:00 p.m. The resident complained that dirt was being hauled in and materials were being hauled out. City Manager Bourey replied that he would have staff look into the issue. He believed it had something to do with the Department of Public Works.

Councilwoman Scott advised that a citizen in attendance at her July 27, 2016, Town Hall meeting voiced concern about flooding on Aspen Meadow Lane and Campbell Road during heavy rain events. The citizen indicated that the last flood event prohibited ingress and egress in and out of the neighborhood. It was noted that drainage ditches had been installed only on one side of the roadway, but not on the other side. Mr. Skipper replied that he would look into the matter to determine the reason that drainage ditches were only installed on one side of the roadway.

Councilwoman Scott indicated that a citizen in attendance at her June 27, 2016, Town Hall meeting noted that a request for City Council to approve a Conditional Use Permit to operate a Tattoo Parlor at 12567 Warwick Boulevard would appear on the June 28, 2016 City Council Regular Meeting agenda. The citizen brought up the fact that a Tattoo Parlor could not be in the vicinity of an establishment that served alcohol. City Attorney Owens advised that there was no prohibition included in the Zoning Ordinance that disallowed a Tattoo Parlor from being located near or at a certain distance from an establishment that served or sold alcohol.

Councilwoman Scott advised that questions were being raised about whether a sidewalk could be constructed on both sides of Campbell Road now that people were aware of the improvements taking place. It had been noted that many people were still walking along the side of the roadway that did not have a sidewalk (the Church side), because they would rather be on the side where the church was. She inquired about the reason that sidewalks were not installed on both sides of the roadway. Mr. Skipper replied that he would look into the matter to determine the reason that sidewalks were not installed on both sides of the roadway.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that the City Manager provided her with a verbal assessment of the region's aircraft tax rates. She asked that the City Manager provide the figures in an Excel spreadsheet. She would like the number of aircraft gained and lost before and after the reduction in the aircraft tax rate at the Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport as well as the number of aircraft that were anticipated to come. City Manager Bourey responded that he would provide the information to Councilwoman Woodbury.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about the status of her funding request for Youth Challenge as she had received several calls from Board members who indicated that they had provided the information that was requested of them by Ms. Lisa Cipriano, Director of Budget & Evaluation. Ms. Cipriano replied that a meeting was planned with the Board members of Youth Challenge on July 8, 2016. Some financial information had been provided by Youth Challenge; however, it lacked an extended history as they had redone their charge accounts as of January 1, 2016. The City Manager felt that a face-to-face meeting was needed to determine where the representatives of Youth Challenge felt they stood. City Manager Bourey advised that part of the challenge was that they did not have a sustainable revenue stream. Secondly, Youth Challenge owed taxes to the City. Ms. Cipriano agreed that Youth Challenge owed the City several thousands of dollars in back taxes, but had made consistent payments from January to May of 2016. City Manager Bourey felt that Youth Challenge could not sustain themselves regardless of City Council granting them a tax exemption or not.

Councilwoman Woodbury requested a breakdown of the 2016 Marathon expenses showing individual budget figures. City Manager Bourey stated he would provide the information once again to Councilwoman Woodbury.

Mayor Price advised that he had received a call from Senator Tommy Norment advising that the State Legislature had voted to place a Memorial for the late Virginia State Police Trooper Chad P. Dermeyer along Interstate-64; however, the City would have to pay for the Memorial, which would cost \$4,500.00. He asked whether the members of City Council were in support of the matter. Members of City Council asked that Senator Norment provide a letter advising of the matter.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 6:35 P.M.


Jennifer D. Walker, MMC
Chief Deputy City Clerk

McKinley L. Price
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk