

**MINUTES OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE**

**July 12, 2016
10:00 A.M.**

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

ABSENT: None-----0

Call to Order

Mayor Price called the meeting to order. He welcomed and thanked all for their attendance at the July 12, 2016 Organizational Meeting of the Newport News City Council. Mayor Price stated the purpose of the meeting was to have the successful candidates duly sworn in to serve for a term of four years, to elect a Vice Mayor, and to adopt three (3) Ordinances regarding the City Council's Rules of Procedure.

Mayor Price recognized elected officials and other dignitaries present.

Invocation

The invocation was rendered by Reverend George Chiros, Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Newport News, Virginia.

The 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 members of the Newport News Mayor's Youth Commission. Participating members included Mr. Sae Kim; Ms. Nitasha Blount; and Ms. Nina Robertson.

Presentation of Certificates of Election by the Newport News Electoral Board and Oaths of Office

Mayor Price introduced members of the Newport News Electoral Board: Mr. Sean Devlin, Chair; Mrs. Eliza Melvin, Vice Chair; and Mr. Wendell A. Barbour, Secretary; to present the Certificates of Election to the newly elected and re-elected City Council members.

(a) Mr. Sean Devlin, Chair, Newport News Electoral Board, presented the Certificate of Election to the Honorable Marcellus L. Harris III.

Presentation of Certificates of Election by the Newport News Electoral Board and Oaths of Office Continued

The Honorable David F. Pugh, Judge, Circuit Court, Newport News, administered the oath of office to the Honorable Marcellus L. Harris III, elected as a member of the Newport News City Council, Seat "A" North District 1, for a four-year term of office, beginning, July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2020.

(b) Ms. Eliza Melvin, Vice Chair, Newport News Electoral Board, presented the Certificate of Election to the Honorable Tina L. Vick.

Pastor Rashad Cartwright, Experience Life Church, Hampton, Virginia, administered the oath of office to the Honorable Tina L. Vick, re-elected as a member of the Newport News City Council, Seat "A" South District 3, for a four-year term of office, beginning, July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2020.

(c) Mr. Wendell A. Barbour, Secretary, Newport News Electoral Board, presented the Certificate of Election to the Honorable Dr. Patricia P. Woodbury.

The Honorable C. Peter Tench, Chief Judge, Circuit Court, Newport News, Virginia, administered the oath of office to the Honorable Patricia P. Woodbury, re-elected as a member of the Newport News City Council, Seat "A" Central District 2, for a four-year term of office, beginning, July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2020.

The Oaths of Office were administered individually to the newly elected member, and re-elected members, of the Newport News City Council (copies are attached and made a part of these minutes). The written oaths were signed by all parties for filing with the Clerk of the Circuit Court for the City of Newport News (copies are attached and made a part of these minutes).

Election of the Vice Mayor

Mayor Price asked for nominations for the position of Vice Mayor for the City of Newport News.

Councilwoman Woodbury nominated Councilwoman Tina Vick for appointment to the position of Vice Mayor; seconded by Councilwoman Cherry.

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Bateman, Cherry, Harris, Price, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: Scott

Motions Regarding Rules of Procedure

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE II., CITY COUNCIL, DIVISION 1., GENERALLY, SECTION 2-21, TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETINGS. This ordinance amended the City Code, Chapter 2, Administration, Article II., City Council, Division 1., Generally, Section 2-21, establishing that the City Council would meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The Charter only required that City Council meet once each month; but the Code required that the City Council meet twice each month. City Attorney Owens advised, historically, City Council, by separate motion, voted to cancel the meetings on the second Tuesday of July, August, and December, but this action was included in the proposed ordinance to prevent City Council from voting on a separate resolution each year.

Councilwoman Scott moved to adopt the above ordinance, cancelling the Regular Meetings of City Council for July, August, and December of each year; seconded by Vice Mayor Vick.

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE II., CITY COUNCIL, BY ADDING THERETO A NEW SECTION, NAMELY SECTION 2-21.1, WORK SESSION MEETINGS. This ordinance amended the City Code, Chapter 2, Administration, Article II., City Council, by establishing a new section, Section 2-21.1, dealing with Work Session Meetings. The Code was silent on Work Sessions, but it had been the normal practice to hold Work Sessions on the days of Regular Meetings of City Council. City Attorney Owens advised that could be done without having to call them as a Special Meeting. This provision would provide that Work Sessions, if needed, could be held on the day that a Regular Meeting of City Council was held. He further advised that the City Clerk had scheduled appointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees quarterly, which had been included in the proposed ordinance amendment as the normal time.

Councilwoman Woodbury moved to adopt the above ordinance; seconded by Vice Mayor Vick.

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE II., CITY COUNCIL, DIVISION 1., GENERALLY, SECTION 2-60, APPLICATION

Motions Regarding Rules of Procedure Continued

OF ROBERT'S RULES AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE. This ordinance amended the City Code, Chapter 2, Administration, Article II., City Council, Division 1., Generally, Section 2-60, which provided where the rules in Chapter 2 were silent, that Robert's Rules and General Principles of Parliamentary Procedure, 10th Edition, would be the parliamentary authority and govern upon all questions where there was no rule. This ordinance modified this Chapter to use the 11th Edition of Robert's Rules and General Principles of Parliamentary Procedure, as opposed to the 10th Edition.

Councilwoman Woodbury moved to adopt the above ordinance; seconded by Councilwoman Scott.

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Remarks by Council Members

(a) The Honorable Herbert H. Bateman, Jr. thanked the citizens for their attendance. He congratulated his colleagues that were sworn in earlier. He indicated that he was excited to have a fresh start, and looked forward to working for the betterment of Newport News – one of the great cities in the greatest country in the world. He stated that he was honored to be a part of the Newport News City Council and looked forward to moving forward, taking action on matters of importance, working together, cooperating and compromising. He welcomed and congratulated newly elected Councilman Marcellus “B2” Harris III, as well as Councilwoman Dr. Patricia Woodbury and Councilwoman Tina Vick on their re-election to the Newport News City Council. He indicated that he was excited to move forward with his colleagues to make a fresh start.

(b) The Honorable Sandra N. Cherry, D. Min. thanked the citizens for their attendance. She thought it was great to have the room filled to capacity, and stated it would be wonderful to have them present to speak to an issue at the Regular Meeting of City Council at 7:00 p.m. Councilwoman Cherry stated that Council members had the heart to do the work for the City of Newport News, and to make Newport News a great City. She reminded that one of the City's mottoes was, “Newport News, A great City where great things were happening.” She stated that great things were happening in the “One City” of Newport News. She asked that citizens keep members of City Council in their prayers, as they prayed for wisdom to do the right thing for the City and the citizens of Newport News. She stated that all members of the Newport News City Council loved their City. She welcomed and congratulated newly elected Councilman Marcellus “B2” Harris III, as well as Councilwoman Dr. Patricia Woodbury and Councilwoman Tina Vick on their re-election to the Newport News City Council, and further congratulated Councilwoman Vick on being elected to the position of Vice Mayor.

Remarks by Council Members Continued

(c) Councilman Harris gave honor to his Lord and Savior. He stated that he was excited about being elected to the Newport News City Council, even though his father, Reverend Marcellus Harris II who wanted to be present, was in the hospital. He asked that citizens pray for his recovery. Councilman Harris thanked his family for being in attendance – his sister and brother; his wife Rasheena, who was phenomenally feisty, and who served as his campaign manager, for her support; his new colleagues, expressing excitement to work with them to make Newport News the best City; his extended family - his church family from First Baptist Church Morrison; his school counseling family for their support; his Director, Ms. Sereethia Brown; his coaching family at Denbigh High School; and the group of girls – the whirlwind of fire, who was with him throughout his campaign. He wanted to extend his gratitude to all that helped him get to his present position. He further thanked members of the Newport News School Board for their attendance and support. His vision was to enlighten the citizens, empower the community to enhance the City, and to ensure that everyone was on the same page, even though they would respectfully disagree at times, but wanted to make sure that everyone was working with the goal in mind, that it was all about the citizens. Councilman Harris acknowledged his good friend, Mr. Andrew Shannon, who had been loyal to him and his father, and had helped him a great deal. Although he did not always agree with Mr. Shannon, Councilman Harris advised that he always had a passion for the citizens, which was his wish for all – to have a passion as fervent as Mr. Shannon's.

Councilman Harris congratulated Councilwoman Dr. Patricia Woodbury and Councilwoman Tina Vick on their re-election to the Newport News City Council, and further congratulated Councilwoman Vick on being elected to the position of Vice Mayor.

Councilman Harris stated that the City of Newport News had great employees that wanted Newport News to be the best City that it could be. He had met the most hospitable and receptive people within the Newport News City Hall to help lead and guide him and to prepare him for his position on City Council. He looked forward to working on the City's strategic initiatives/goals, with the citizens in mind at all times.

(d) Mayor Price thanked the citizens for their attendance. He welcomed and congratulated newly elected Councilman Marcellus "B2" Harris III, as well as Councilwoman Dr. Patricia Woodbury and Councilwoman Tina Vick on their re-election to the Newport News City Council, and further congratulated Councilwoman Vick on being elected to the position of Vice Mayor.

Mayor Price stated that it had been his position to be the head cheerleader for the City, which he did, trying to accentuate the positive about what occurred in the City of Newport News. He reminded of his saying, "May what you say and do uplift the City of Newport News," which was not said lightly, but with meaning. He stated that the City of Newport News had a lot going for itself, and it should be recognized. All cities have problems, and things that could be improved upon. He stated that Newport News had great leadership in City Manager James Bourey, and a great staff that worked more than anyone he knew, for the purpose of growing the City and getting better. Mayor Price stated that it was his responsibility

Remarks by Council Members Continued

as Mayor to be the conduit for the City, to lead the City Council such that they were not segmented, not biased about where they lived in their respective districts, that their decisions were made for the best interest of the entire City.

Mayor Price vowed to continue to do so, and hoped the time and effort was appreciated, as it was not always easy. He reminded that members of City Council were doing the best they could. They appreciated the input and the criticisms of the citizens, as well as suggestions and solutions. Mayor Price advised that he was pleased in the direction in which the City was headed, and prayed that Newport News continued to show other cities how to do things right.

(e) Councilwoman Scott thanked the citizens for their attendance. She was excited to see so many present, and felt the same excitement she experienced during her initial election to City Council. She welcomed and congratulated newly elected Councilman Marcellus "B2" Harris III to be his counterpart in the North District. She congratulated Councilwoman Dr. Patricia Woodbury and Councilwoman Tina Vick on their re-election to the Newport News City Council. She stated there was a great deal happening throughout the City. She advised there were a number of initiatives that Councilman Harris had mentioned, and she looked forward to working with him. They agreed that they would do things together, in unity, for the North District. She reminded that she represented everyone throughout the entire City, and had supported initiatives for all of her colleagues in their district, and she vowed to continue. Councilwoman Scott reminded, when she ran in 2010, her campaign slogan was "One City, One Vision," and observed that "One City" had resonated across the City of Newport News over the past six years and had become even greater. She stated the more the Council talked about being "One City," the more others bought into the fact that Newport News was "One City." As City Council gelled, the Districts would attempt to do their part, as was seen in Community Maintenance, and Town Hall Meetings. She reminded that she was the first to hold Town Hall Meetings, but now everyone was meeting across the entire City. She stated, "A leader without any followers was a person going for a walk," and she did not want to be the individual going for a walk, and always attempted to remain engaged in her City. She promised to do the best that she could to work to support the entire City, and to ensure that City Council continued to promote and do what was necessary to have a good education system. The economic engine of the City was so vitally important so not to put the burden on the residents in the form of real estate taxes. Councilwoman Scott indicated the City had to do a better job of addressing crime issues, job development, and job training for those without skillsets. She further indicated that there was so much to be done. She and her colleagues were committed to doing what was in the best interest of the City, and making sure that Newport News would become a real "One City." She thanked everyone for their attendance and was appreciative of the opportunity to serve the citizens in the North District, and was eternally grateful for the opportunity to represent all citizens throughout the City of Newport News.

(f) Vice Mayor Vick expressed excitement to begin her third term on the Newport News City Council. She stated that she was deeply grateful, and humbled by God to be given the opportunity to serve the citizens of Newport News. She stated the past eight years had

Remarks by Council Members Continued

gone by quickly, reminding that she had pushed for the summer jobs program for youth, which would help the City see less gang violence and more productivity; job development in the South District, and throughout the City for those who did not have a chance, or did not have transportation to obtain those services; and she was ecstatic about Jim's Local Market, a brand new 23,000 square foot grocery store in the Southeast Community. She was pleased of the work that had been accomplished with her colleagues on the Newport News City Council, and was glad to be able to continue. She was humbled to read that she had received 65% of the vote, which was the citizens believing in her, going to the polls to vote and saying they wanted Tina Vick to continue to serve.

Vice Mayor Vick thanked her family for their presence, which made up "Team Vick," comprised of her daughter, Teunsha Vick; her grandsons, Shamar, Tyree, and Tyson; her niece, Ramona; and great nieces, Ravin, Rakayla, and Rihuana; her nephew, and Campaign Manager, Mr. Greg Brooks. Her slogan was, "no matter how much people would say you would win, work like you're losing." She thanked her Pastor, Pastor Rashad Cartwright, of Experience Life Church, for his spiritual guidance. She acknowledged her fellow parishioners from Experience Life Church.

Vice Mayor Vick congratulated Councilwoman Dr. Patricia Woodbury on her re-election bid, and welcomed and congratulated newly elected Councilman Marcellus "B2" Harris III, on his election to the Newport News City Council.

Vice Mayor Vick acknowledged the presence of one of her largest supporters, her seventh grade teacher, Ms. Gail Gwyn, who kept her going.

Vice Mayor Vick thanked her colleagues for their vote of confidence on electing her to the position of Vice Mayor for the next two years. She vowed to continue to work hard in the position and for the citizens in the great City of Newport News.

(g) Councilwoman Dr. Woodbury thanked the citizens for their attendance. She quoted one of her favorite authors, "Here is a test to find out whether your mission in life is finished: if you're alive, it isn't." She advised that she was indeed alive, and considered it an honor to represent the citizens on the Newport News City Council – a very important and special mission. She shared another favorite saying, "A Grateful Heart is a Magnet for Miracles." She advised that her campaign was a miracle of so many people who donated their time, talent, and their treasury to make it happen. She indicated it would take too long to name everyone, but decided to mention a few – God, the ultimate Miracle Maker; her husband Gerard, who had always been her Campaign Treasurer; her daughter and her husband; her granddaughter and grandson; her Campaign Manager, Ms. Lou Call; her Field Director, Mr. Alex Piacente; Mr. Marcus Calabrese, who helped with Public Relations; Delegate David Yancey; friend Mr. Tip Sheets, who donated his band, River Rocks at a fundraiser; Former Vice Mayor Madeline McMillan and Former Campaign Manager, Ms. Juanita Bailey; Mr. A. C. Pulliam, Jr., who was in charge of signs; and Mr. Ray Suttle, Jr., who donated the Campaign Headquarters. A special thanks to the Honorable Peter Tench, the Judge who was generous enough to administer her oath.

Remarks by Council Members Continued

Councilwoman Woodbury indicated that she was often accused of saying “No; but stated that she said “Yes” far more often. She asked a number of questions to inform herself and her constituents. She made the following promises each time she was elected, and advised they still applied: (1) She would say no to unnecessary and wasteful spending; (2) She would say yes to a Citizen Advisory Committee on the budget, similar to the City of Hampton; (3) She would say no to the concept “build it and they will come;” and would let market research and other data guide those decisions; (4) She would say yes to conservation of all natural resources; (5) She would say yes to Newport News becoming the Education City; (6) She would say no to gangs and violence, and yes to public safety; (7) She would say yes to lower taxes so the citizens could keep more of their hard-earned money and not have to leave their homes; (8) She would say yes to transparency in government; (9) She would say yes to working collaboratively with her colleagues on City Council; and (10) She would say yes to the citizens who she respected and whose ideas and input she would count on to guide her to make the best possible decisions for Newport News.

Councilwoman Woodbury shared a quote from Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “It is always the right time to do the right thing.” She indicated that she had always tried to do the right thing, and would continue to do so. When asked what she hoped to accomplish in the next four years, Councilwoman Woodbury replied, (1) Having our citizens more involved by moving some of the City Council Meetings to other parts of the City; and (2) More consideration of tax exemption for elderly who were truly poor and needed relief. She stated that no goal could be accomplished without the support of her fellow Council members; and she asked for their support and vowed to continue to work collaboratively with them to accomplish not just her goals, but that of her colleagues and the strategic goals that were adopted by all members of City Council (a copy of Councilwoman Woodbury’s remarks are attached and made a part of these minutes).

Adjourn

Mayor Price, on behalf of City Council, thanked everyone for their attendance. He extended an invitation to everyone to attend a reception being held in the City Hall Lobby immediately following the Ceremony.

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 10:44 A.M.

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Minutes of Organizational Meeting
July 12, 2016



Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC
City Clerk

McKinley L. Price, DDS
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk