

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
OCTOBER 11, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Sharon P. Scott; Tina L. Vick; Herbert H. Bateman, Jr.; Saundra N. Cherry, D. Min.; Marcellus L. Harris III; and McKinley L. Price, DDS-----6

ABSENT: Dr. Patricia P. Woodbury-----1

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 Reverend Bert Cloud, Warwick Memorial United Methodist 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 Councilwoman Scott.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT; SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN CHERRY; AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXCUSE COUNCILWOMAN WOODBURY FROM THIS MEETING.

D. Presentations

1. Resolution of Recognition: Trinity United Methodist Church – 130th Anniversary

Pastor Donald Blagg, First Lady Nancy Blagg, and Ms. Diane Walker, a member of the Trinity United congregation accepted the resolution.

Mayor Price shared that the City Council wished to honor and recognize the 130th Anniversary of the Trinity United Methodist Church. He shared, in 1881, a small group began meeting on the docks of Newport News to worship. The congregation moved its services to the Union Chapel built by the Old Dominion Land Company and shared by all denominations.

D. Presentations Continued

1. Resolution of Recognition: Trinity United Methodist Church – 130th
Anniversary Continued

In 1886, a Methodist Society was formed and approved at an annual conference; and in 1887, the cornerstone was laid for the Washington Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church South, with the first service held in January 1888.

Mayor Price advised that the congregation grew such that a larger place of worship was required, and in 1900, the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church South was built and dedicated in the 200 block of 29th Street. This remained the home of what is now known as Trinity United Methodist Church. Trinity United Methodist Church had served the Newport News Community since its inception. In the 1890's, Reverend James Cannon, Jr. initiated the building of housing for men working in local industries, such as shipbuilding, enabling the workers to bring their wives and children to Newport News to live together as families.

During World War II, the Fellowship Hall of Trinity United Methodist Church was opened to servicemen waiting to depart overseas as a place to relax on Saturday evenings, spend the night if needed, and have breakfast the following morning. Trinity United Methodist Church led the establishment of Susannah Wesley Hall, which originally served as a dormitory for women working in downtown Newport News, and subsequently became the Youth Challenge Women's Home.

Trinity United Methodist Church continued to serve the community, providing contributions and a facility to feed the hungry through "Teens Opposing Poverty," and providing Youth Challenge women with food, supplies, computer classes, and Bible Studies.

Mayor Price, on behalf of the members of the Newport News City Council, recognized and congratulated the Trinity United Methodist Church family on its 130th Anniversary, for its dedicated service to the citizens of Newport News, and acknowledged the many individuals who supported the church and its leaders in its commitment to mankind through the many ministries, programs, and services offered to the citizens of Newport News. Mayor Price extended best wishes for continued success and development in the City of Newport News.

2. Proclamation: Walk to End Alzheimer's Day, Newport News – October 15,
2016

Ms. Carla Morin-Diehl, Volunteer Chair, Mr. Roger Diehl, Volunteer Co-Chair, 2016 Peninsula Walk to End Alzheimer's, and Mr. Gino Colombara, Executive Director, Alzheimer's Association Southeastern Virginia Chapter accepted the Proclamation

Mayor Price indicated that the Alzheimer's Association was the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support, and research. The Southeastern Virginia Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association served a territory of over 7,400

D. Presentations Continued

2. Proclamation: Walk to End Alzheimer's Day, Newport News – October 15, 2016 Continued

square miles, and provided a wide array of services, including a 24-hour help line, monthly orientations, and caregiver support groups.

Mayor Price stated that the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's was the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. The theme for the 2016 Walk to End Alzheimer's was "The End of Alzheimer's Starts With Me."

Mayor Price, on behalf of the members of the Newport News City Council, proclaimed October 15, 2016 as "Walk to End Alzheimer's Day" in the City of Newport News, and urged all citizens to show their support and join in thanking all involved in the walk for their contributions to research, and for the services provided to those affected, and their caregivers. Significant progress would continue to be made in the fight against Alzheimer's.

E. Public Hearings

1. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Amendment to a Ground Lease By and Between the City of Newport News, Virginia, and Alltel Communications, LLC (d/b/a Verizon Wireless)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND THE CITY CLERK TO ATTEST, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, THAT CERTAIN FIRST AMENDMENT TO LEASE TO THAT LEASE BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, AND ALLTEL COMMUNICATIONS, LLC, D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS, DATED THE 12TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2011, FOR LEASE OF GROUND SPACE AT 100 TOWER LANE, YORK COUNTY, VIRGINIA. This resolution authorized and directed the City Manager to execute an amendment to a ground lease by and between the City of Newport News, Virginia, and Alltel Communications, LLC (d/b/a Verizon Wireless). The requested lease amendment was to continue to provide Alltel use of 2,500 square feet of land at the Ground Air Transmitter (GAT) site located at 100 Tower Lane, York County, Virginia. The land had been leased to Alltel (and its predecessor, Virginia Metronet, Inc.) since 1986. This amendment extended the lease for a five-year period, from November 1, 2016 through October 31, 2021. Rent would begin at \$23,185.48 per annum and continue to be increased annually by an amount equal to three percent (3%) of the rent for the prior lease year. The amendment provided that Alltel also pay to the City a separate, one-time payment of \$20,000 within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the amendment. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

E. Public Hearings Continued

1. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Amendment to a Ground Lease By and Between the City of Newport News, Virginia, and Alltel Communications, LLC (d/b/a Verizon Wireless) Continued

Vice Mayor Vick moved closure of the public hearing; seconded by Councilman Harris.

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

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

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

F. Consent Agenda

Councilman Bateman moved adoption of the Consent Agenda, Items 1 through 3, both inclusive, as shown below; seconded by Vice Mayor Vick.

1. Minutes of the Work Session of September 27, 2016

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

2. Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 27, 2016

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 27, 2016

(No registered speakers)

F. Consent Agenda Continued

3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 27, 2016 Continued

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

G. Other City Council Actions

1. Receipt of Bids for Granting a 15-Foot Wide Easement over 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 15-foot easement over 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 properly advertised in the Daily Press on September 26, 2016 and October 3, 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 October 25, 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. Resolution Supporting the City's Application to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for FY 2018 Revenue Sharing Program Funding

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (VDOT) FOR AN ALLOCATION OF \$10,000,000.00 THROUGH THE VDOT REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM FOR FY 2018. This resolution supported the City's application to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for an allocation of \$10 million through the VDOT Revenue Sharing Program for FY 2018. VDOT accepted applications for FY 2018 State Transportation Revenue Sharing Funds. The City applied for \$10 million in VDOT funds for seven construction projects at a cost of \$20 million. The program required at least a 50/50 City/State match. Applications were due November 2016, with a decision being made by June 2017. The City had applied in the past with success, and had several Revenue Sharing Program projects underway. The City Manager recommended approval.

Vice Mayor Vick moved adoption of the above resolution as revised; seconded by Councilman Harris.

Councilwoman Cherry expressed opposition to the Hogan Drive Extension and Habersham Drive Extension Projects, but would vote in favor of the resolution to support the FY 2018 Revenue Sharing Program.

G. Other City Council Actions Continued

2. Resolution Supporting the City's Application to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for FY 2018 Revenue Sharing Program Funding Continued

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

3. Resolution Endorsing a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for the Washington Avenue Streetscape and Pedestrian Improvements Project

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE CONTINUATION OF A TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROJECT FOR THE WASHINGTON AVENUE STREETScape AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE II, PROJECT IN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS. This resolution endorsed the City's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) application for the Washington Avenue Streetscape and Pedestrian Improvements, Phase II, Project. VDOT accepted applications for the FY 2018 MAP-21, TAP Funds. The City applied for \$400,000 in TAP grant funds for Phase II of this project, to improve the sidewalks, crosswalks, and lighting on Washington Avenue between 30th Street and 34th Street. The Washington Avenue project grant request was \$400,000, with a 20% City match of \$100,000 for a total project allocation of \$500,000. Applications were due November 2016, and a decision made in June 2017. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Councilwoman Scott moved adoption of the above resolution; seconded by Vice Mayor Vick.

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

H. Appropriations

None Submitted

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

Dr. Angela Herring, 11 Digges Drive, Newport News, commented about the City Farm and the barn, and spoke for several friends that could not be present. She stated that the City Farm was a place of beauty, and citizens were lucky to have such a place in Newport News. Dr. Herring indicated that the City Farm belonged to the citizens. It was once designated for park use in the Framework for the Future. She indicated that the barn should be restored and should have been maintained all along as a landmark. What was currently Riverview Farm Park was a

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

wonderful park and was well utilized by the public. Dr. Herring stated the park should be expanded, to include the waterfront, which would serve the citizens well, and would be a successful park. Dr. Herring urged City Council to keep the City Farm usage as a park.

Ms. Carolyn Hughes, 335-60th Street, Newport News, advised that she first moved from rural Kentucky to Newport News to be a City employee in 1970, and worked at the Main Street Library. She was surprised that Newport News had barns and cows in 1970. She left in 1974, returned in 1993, but never lost track of the City. There was a Framework for the Future, and there were plans to have parks. It was taken for granted when City Farm was closed; the area would revert to being a public park. The City had also invested money in a plan for Downtown Newport News, which somehow got shoved aside. Ms. Hughes advised that she had attended church for the past 21 years in the Downtown area as she lived in one of the two historic areas in the City (Hilton and North End Huntington Heights), which came about as a result of a great deal of hard work by the citizens, and were on the National Register.

Citizens were concerned about housing values, and that the middle class was moving from Newport News to Poquoson and York County. She advised that there were many things that the City could do, but had not been doing to raise the value of the houses that were already here, to include: (1) encouraging the residents and investors to use Federal and State Tax Credits for investing in North End Huntington Heights and Hilton. She indicated that Architectural Review Boards (ARBs) had been of great help in holding housing values. City Council needed to be more engaged in the process; (2) look for new areas such as Stoney Brook. Neighborhoods had to be unique to be on National Registers, which Stoney Brook was. It also had a historic connection, which was where astronauts lived. If City Council was concerned about housing values increasing, and attracting more people to live in Newport News, there were a lot of things that could be done besides taking the only open waterfront left. She urged members of Council to leave Riverview Farm Park as a park, expanding it, making it a place for all citizens to enjoy, and a safe place for recreation. Ms. Hughes advised that there were many rumors going around – she asked that there be full disclosure amongst City Council.

Mr. Joe A. Leming, 377 DeShazor Drive, Newport News, commented about the City Farm. He reminded that he appeared before City Council at the September 27, 2016 Regular Meeting, where he expressed opposition to the demolition of the brick barn that sat on the old City Farm/Jail property. He suspected that City Council made the decision to demolish the barn based on information that was accurate, but incomplete. Mr. Leming shared additional information about the situation, hoping City Council would change their mind about demolishing the City Farm barn. The Framework for the Future 2030 was in place and was the guide and the way the City did business until the new Comprehensive Plan was completed. He shared the following from the Framework for the Future 2030, under Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, Goal #1: Provide adequate park space to serve the recreational needs of the residents of Newport News. Policy 1-9; continue to implement the park design master plan developed by the Riverview Farm Park Task Force, adopted by the City Council on July 23, 1991. Strategy 1-9.2: Provide for regular citizen and staff review of the Riverview Farm Park Master Plan, to insure it

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

remained compatible with its original design. Recommend revisions to City Council as appropriate. Strategy 1-9.3, Implementation or Strategy. Evaluate the cost effectiveness and feasibility of reusing existing building facilities on the Riverview Farm Park property to use and to house environmental education programs. The program would create awareness of environmental concerns and educate the public about local flora.

Mr. Leming shared notes from a meeting with the topic being the Riverview Farm Park and City Farm. The Plan made several recommendations for the development of the park, including preserving the historic character. Major concerns regarding development were the loss of the rural feel, the loss of neighborhood characteristics, and the visual impacts. The barn was the last visual symbol of a farming community.

Mr. Adrian Whitcomb, 316-54th Street, Newport News, President of "Citizens for Riverview Farm Park," shared a photo of the City Farm Brick Barn (a copy is attached and made a part of these minutes). He recalled that the City Farm property was rezoned as parkland 25 years prior. Any type of development on this land would detract from its usefulness. He stated there were other areas of the City that were suitable for development and redevelopment along the City's major highways. Mr. Whitcomb stated that the brick barn was of substantive value to Riverview Farm Park. The water and the farm were important to the park. The apparent decision to demolish the barn came as a result of a limited presentation at a City Council Work Session, with no advance notice to the public of what was about to occur, nor any chance to participate in the discussion by the few members of the public that were in attendance. Mr. Whitcomb indicated that the brick barn was historic as shown on the Master Plan: The Deep Creek Menchville Plan was adopted by the City Council in 1990 (a copy is attached and made a part of these minutes). Mr. Whitcomb urged City Council to set up a committee and let the committee bring forth different ideas. The Master Plan for Riverview Farm Park was adopted on July 23, 1991. He felt that City Council should be true to what was promised in 1991, as there was even a greater need for the park for all of the citizens, and for generations to come.

Mr. George Harrison, 123 Longwood Drive, Newport News, addressed two related issues: (1) asked that City Council delay demolition of the brick barn located on the former City Farm property. Delaying demolition would provide City Council the opportunity to seek citizen input on whether the barn should be restored, and how; and (2) asked that City Council act to make the City Farm property a permanent part of Riverview Farm Park. By making the parcel an official part of the Park provided the opportunity to preserve the area for Newport News citizens, which would improve the quality of life for all of the neighbors, and allow public access to the James River in the northern part of the City. Millennials will be more concerned about the quality of the City's schools and access to the river, and parks, than they would with having one additional grocery store or an additional shopping center. When he first moved to Newport News in 1969, there were working farms within the City limits. It was Mr. Harrison's belief that citizens should appreciate their heritage, both good and bad. He also believed that the city would benefit more from preserving the brick barn and providing public access to the James River than the marginal increase in property tax revenues provided from

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

developing the City Farm property. The only way to stop development was to make the City Farm a permanent part of Riverview Farm Park. To allow the barn to be demolished would be the first step to turning the valued parcel over to developers. He urged members of City Council to preserve the property for public use, not only for current residents of Newport News, but for those to come in future generations.

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, commodity investment and the legalization of marijuana.

Mr. Mark Perreault, 950 Hanover Avenue, Norfolk, commented about the Riverview Park Brick Barn located on the former City Farm property. He referenced a book by Jane Jacobs entitled the Death and Life of Great American Cities, where she stated that cities needed old buildings so badly that it was probably impossible for vigorous cities to grow without them. He stated, looking around, one saw cities with vibrant historic districts growing and thriving, e.g. Washington, DC; Boston, Massachusetts; San Francisco, California; and New York, New York. The cities without historic preservation were not doing well, e.g. Jacksonville, Florida and Gary, Indiana, which had not thrived because they had not attended to their historic districts or done what was necessary to attract people to them. Mr. Perreault indicated that Norfolk was infamous for tearing down old buildings, and applied for federal money to demolish districts of old buildings, where some were to become slums and irredeemable. The City of Norfolk learned its lesson and had not torn down anything in the past 10 – 12 years, and as a result, Downtown Norfolk was booming. He urged Newport News to take heed to what was happening in the region. He indicated that Downtown Newport News had basically been demolished and abandoned, with many depressed neighborhoods. There was ugly and massive suburban sprawl lining major roadways for miles, such as Jefferson Avenue and Mercury Boulevard. Every historic asset remaining should be considered important, such as Hilton and North End Huntington Heights. These neighborhoods should be preserved at all costs. Likewise, the Brick Barn on the former City Farm. It would take money to fix it, but was an investment the City should make for its future, as was done with renewing City Center, a resurgent Southeast, and hopefully a renewed and vibrant Downtown Newport News.

J. New Business and Councilmember Comments

City Manager Bourey, addressed earlier comments made regarding the City Farm and the City Farm Barn. He stated that the City Council was committed to preserving historic resources. He shared that City Council did discuss the City Farm Barn in previous meetings. It was scheduled on the agenda for discussion. The Barn suffered significant roof damage. When work for the roof was scheduled, other issues were discovered with the entire structure, i.e. termite damage and other issues that called for a closer look. An Engineer was called in, and concluded that it would cost at least \$330,000 to restore and preserve the structure so that it would not fall down. Millions of dollars would be needed to preserve the Barn for any additional use. The Barn was old, not historic. City Council discussed the matter of whether to spend the

J. New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

\$330,000 to restore a building that had no use and would cost millions of dollars to maintain. City Council, at that point, decided against moving forward spending \$330,000. City Manager Bourey felt this was a prudent decision and was wise for the taxpayers.

The issue of what to do with City Farm was a conversation for City Council to have in the future. No use, plan and or decision had been made for the City Farm.

City Council would have a conversation with deliberate public input. This would take place in a thoughtful decision-making process. The Barn was an immediate need. To spend \$330,000 would be throwing money at a very negative situation. He had major concerns about the structural integrity and safety of the Barn.

City Manager Bourey announced that Mayor Price would present his Annual State of City Address on Tuesday, October 18, 2016, 12:00 noon, at the Marriott Hotel City Center. Citizens were encouraged to attend.

City Manager Bourey advised as a result of the Summer Training Enrichment Program (STEP) and the Schools SPARK program, and the advent of the juvenile curfew program stepped up enforcements, there had been a significant downturn in the amount of juvenile crime over the summer. Looking at the same number of juvenile arrests, 2015 showed a nine percent (9%) decrease in the amount of juvenile arrests over the summer; and in 2016 for the same time period, there was a 27% decrease in juvenile arrests. There had been an increase in the amount of gun violations over the summer. Guns in the hands of youth continued to be a major problem in Newport News and needed to be addressed.

Councilwoman Scott thanked the Department Heads and the City employees who played any role in keeping the City safe over the period of time that Hurricane Matthew impacted the City. There was a great deal of wind and rain, and there were many citizens still without utilities. She asked for citizens' patience as the City did its part to remove trees, debris, and whatever made their neighborhood unsafe. She also thanked the First Responders, as well as the Fire and Police, who were on the frontline to ensure the residents were safe (The City began to feel the effects of Hurricane Matthew on Friday, October 7, 2016). Councilwoman Scott encouraged citizens to utilize the 3-1-1 Center to report additional issues as a result of Hurricane Matthew.

Councilwoman Scott extended belated birthday wishes to Ms. Clede Jones, Director, Department of Communications, who celebrated her birthday with Councilwoman Scott on Monday, October 10. She also extended belated birthday wishes to Ms. Geneva Brown, Mr. Melvin Allen, Ms. Sherron Walker, North District Volunteer, and Mr. Antonio Thompson.

Councilwoman Scott announced that the next North District Town Hall Meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 24, 2016, 7:00 p.m., at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard).

J. New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Vice Mayor Vick attended the Virginia Municipal League (VML) Annual Conference, held October 9 - 12, 2016, at the Sheraton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel (3501 Atlantic Avenue). VML is a statewide non-profit, nonpartisan association of City, town, and county governments established to improve and assist local governments through legislative advocacy, research, education, and other services. The City of Newport News' Summer Training and Enrichment Program (STEP) received a public safety award at the VML's Annual Innovation Awards for Excellence in Local Government banquet. The statewide competition recognized innovative problem-solving, excellence in management, increased citizen participation, and improved services to citizens. Awards were given in five (5) fields within local government: infrastructure, economic development, public safety, working with youth, and communications. She explained that STEP was one component of the Building Better Futures – Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Initiative to increase positive outcomes for youth and young adults between the ages of 16 to 24. The 10-week summer program provided meaningful work readiness training, offered participants paid work experience, workshops, financial literacy, and GED preparation classes. Many of the participants requested information about STEP. Vice Mayor Vick advised that she was joined by Assistant City Manager Alan Archer, and Ms. Marhonda Echols, Building Better Futures Program Coordinator, and Ms. LaToya Delk, Street Outreach Worker, to accept the award. Vice Mayor Vick also thanked the businesses that stepped up to make the program successful.

Councilman Bateman thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation and for sharing their thoughts and concerns about the Brick Barn located on the former City Farm site. He shared his knowledge about Jamestown, which was tilled by a group of farmers. The farmers dug and found a lot of relevant items and artifact about the sites past. Not comparing Jamestown to the City Farm site, Councilman Bateman advised that there was a lot more history than the barn. He thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation and for sharing their concerns with City Council. He stated that he too shared much of their beliefs. He advised that he would like to work with them on how the City Farm land was used in the future. He did not feel, if the Barn was demolished, that it could not be reconstituted or remodeled and put somewhere other than in the center of the property, where it could be a full-functioning barn and have the same use. Archeological surveys were being done on the property. Councilman Bateman stated that there was untold history on that land that citizens needed to learn about. He commented on remarks made by Mr. Perreault, sharing that Newport News restored Lee Hall Mansion, Endview Plantation, preserved the battlefield and the earthworks of the Newport News City Park, where the Battle of Burnt Chimney was fought (Dam Number 1). Newport News had a long and proud history of preservation and restoration. Speaking to those citizens that were a part of the Riverview Farm Task Force, Councilman Bateman advised that the information had extraordinary relevance and did not think that it could not be a full-functioning farm where people could come and see how things used to be. He stated there might be other uses that tied the history of what was on the land long before the barn was there. He pledged to work with the citizens and asked them to do away with their suspicions. He supported the vote to demolish the barn, but could see a way to rebuild it at a fraction of the cost, utilized, and it could still be iconic and useful. The process to come was one where there was consensus, and the contributions would be heard again.

J. New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

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. Members of City Council were concerned about the issues presented.

Councilwoman Cherry congratulated Assistant City Manager Alan Archer, Ms. MaRhonda Echols, and her team, for the hard work to make STEP successful and to be an award winner at the VML Conference. This award said a great deal about the City, and the commitment to the youth.

Councilwoman Cherry shared, during the timeframe of STEP and SPARK programs, there was a photography program for youth – “Point Aim & Shoot,” held at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, with the LeMelle Group. She advised that the group remained out, at different events, taking photographs. She indicated this was a rewarding time for the youth, who learned various skills.

Councilwoman Cherry extended congratulations to Apostle Charlie Ammons, Founder of Restoration Christian Church, on his Apostolic Confirmation and Commissioning Ceremony held on Sunday, October 2, 2016.

Councilwoman Cherry announced the next South District “Your Voice Matters” Town Hall Meeting, would be held on Thursday, October 13, 2016, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., at the Brittingham Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Drive), for residents from Mercury Boulevard South to the waterfront. The Guest Speaker would be Mr. John Eley, member of the Newport News School Board. The topic of discussion would be the progress of Newport News Public Schools (NNPS). The “Your Voice Matters” Town Hall Meeting, usually held at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, would be on Thursday, October 20, 2016, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., at Jim’s Local Market (3101 Jefferson Avenue). The topic of discussion would be the progress of Newport News Public Schools (NNPS). The title and dialogue for both meetings would be about the progress of Newport News Public Schools (NNPS). The Guest Speakers would be Mr. Carlton Ashby, member of the Newport News School Board, and Dr. Ashby Kilgore, Superintendent, NNPS. All citizens were welcome to attend.

Councilwoman Cherry congratulated Deer Park Elementary School, which was selected and named as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the Department of Education, for strong academic performance. Deer Park was listed as one of the top performing schools in the nation. She extended kudos to the Newport News School Board, and the staff and faculty at Deer Park Elementary School.

Councilwoman Cherry announced that the Community Fall Fest would be held on Saturday, October 29, 2016, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. This would be a fun day for the children, who were welcome to attend, and dress in costume. There would be pony rides, face painting, games, and prizes for all. Donations of candy were sought and could be delivered to the City Clerk’s Office. Each child would leave with a miniature pumpkin to take home. Citizens were advised to contact the City Clerk’s Office for additional details, at 926-8634.

J. New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilman Harris thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation and for voicing their concerns, and to those watching in from the comfort of home.

Councilman Harris reiterated the remarks made by Councilwoman Scott, about the great job that the City departments did to make sure that the City was safe and secure throughout the course of the inclement weather (rain and flooding) that took place as a result of Hurricane Matthew. He also commended Newport News citizens, who were out during the storm with a spirit of generosity – helping to pick up trees, debris, and helping one another in their neighborhoods, to ensure that the City was back together in one piece.

Councilman Harris commended the members of the “STEP Team,” Ms. Delk and Mr. Terry, who visited Denbigh High School and Heritage High School to check up on some of the youth whom they worked with throughout the course of the summer. The students were excited to see their mentors come into the building. Councilman Harris thanked Ms. Delk and Mr. Terry for their work as they continued to build relationships with the youth.

Councilman Harris also congratulated Deer Park Elementary School, which was named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the Department of Education, for strong academic performance, and was excelling with the youth (Deer Park was listed as one of the top performing schools in the nation). He also commended other Newport News schools that continued to work with the youth as the first nine week of school came to a close. He asked citizens to continue to encourage and motivate the youth.

Mayor Price advised that City Council would have a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2016, but reminded that the November 8, 2016 Regular Meeting of City Council had been canceled for Election Day.

Mayor Price reminded of a scheduled Walk To End Alzheimer’s. Alzheimer’s was personal to his family and he was sure that other citizens were aware of others affected by the disease. Mayor Price stated that the Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s was the world’s largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer’s care, support, and research. He announced the Walk To End Alzheimer’s would be held on Saturday, October 15, 2016, at Port Warwick. He urged all citizens to join and show their support. The theme for the 2016 Walk to End Alzheimer’s was “The End of Alzheimer’s Starts With Me.”

Mayor Price announced, due to inclement weather, the “1000 Youth Stop Bullying March” had been rescheduled to Sunday, October 16, 2016, 2:00 p.m., at Todd Stadium (12465 Warwick Boulevard). He invited all citizens to participate and show their support. Mayor Price announced that the City had joined with the U. S. Conference of Mayors, and Parents Against Bullying in an attempt to prevent bullying, which occurred regularly in the NNPS. Bullying occurred, physically, mentally, and through social media. The City wanted to educate the youth and provide another outlet.

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 8:10 P.M.



Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC
City Clerk

McKinley L. Price, DDS
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk