MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
JANUARY 8, 2019
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: David H. Jenkins; McKinley L. Price, DDS; Sharon P. Scott, MPA; Tina L. Vick; Dr. Patricia P. Woodbury; Saundra N. Cherry, D. Min.; and Marcellus L. Harris III

ABSENT: None

A. Call to Order

Mayor Price called the meeting to order, welcomed all, and extended greeting for a Happy New Year. He 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 Peggy Langille, 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 Councilman Harris.

D. Presentations

None

E. Public Hearings

None

Suspension of Rules

Vice Mayor Vick advised that Section 2-36 of the City Code established the order of business at meetings of the City Council and placed Old Business near the end of the agenda. Pursuant to Section 2-61, of the City Code, Suspension of Rules, Vice Mayor Vick moved to suspend the rules establishing the normal order of the agenda and move Old Business
Suspension of Rules Continued

forward to be considered prior to the Consent Agenda for the meeting of January 8, 2019; seconded by Councilwoman Scott.

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Harris
Nays: None

Motion for Reconsideration

Vice Mayor Vick moved that the City Council reconsider the resolution in support of ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) that was defeated on December 11, 2019, at the Regular Meeting of City Council. As required by Section 2-56 of the City Code, written notice of her intent to make this motion was provided to members of City Council by letter dated December 17, 2018; seconded by Councilwoman Scott.

Vice Mayor Vick shared that she chose to reconsider the resolution because January 8, 2019 was the date that City Council decided, as a body, to further discussion and vote on the matter.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she was prepared to support the resolution because the point of contention at the December 11, 2018 Regular Meeting of City Council, was more discussion about what the resolution meant, the implications to the City, and what impact would be made. Councilwoman Scott advised that she was prepared to support the resolution after additional research, and conversation with her colleagues on the federal level about the matter.

Vice Mayor Vick added, as a member of City Council, she had a duty to research all matters brought to her attention in order to make the best decision.

(No registered speakers)

Councilwoman Cherry shared her reason for opposing the resolution. She stated, historically, the formerly proposed equal rights amendment to the United States Constitution was passed by both the House and the Senate in 1972. The resolution required that the amendment would take effect two years after the date of ratification, which would have been in 1974. That did not occur. On October 4, 1982, per curium decision, the Supreme Court ruled that the issue was moot because the ERA had failed to be ratified within the time deadline imposed in its Congressional enactment. If the time deadline had no effect, and the ERA could still be ratified, the case would not have been moot. With that said, she could not support the ERA amendment.
Motion for Reconsideration Continued

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes:  Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Harris
Nays:  Woodbury, Cherry

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RATIFICATION BY VIRGINIA OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION. This resolution expressed support of ratification by Virginia of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.

(No registered speakers)

Councilwoman Woodbury shared her reasons for opposing the resolution. She stated that City Council members were elected by their constituents to do research on various matters, which was the reason the resolution had been postponed. Councilwoman Woodbury advised that she had researched the 14th Amendment. One portion stated, “equal rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex.” She added that the 14th Amendment was in the Constitution and guaranteed equal rights. Her grandson, Michael, read her the 14th Amendment. She stated there was an equal protection clause in the 14th Amendment. Councilwoman Woodbury advised that she had spoken with members of other governing bodics in the Hampton Roads area, who did not plan to support the ratification of the ERA because the time limit had expired for ratification. There were five states that did vote for ratification, but were attempting to rescind that ratification. Councilwoman Woodbury shared some of the unintended consequences of the ERA (attached and made a part of these minutes): (1) Elimination of Sex-segregated Sports Programs; (2) Lower Physical Standards for Military Personnel; (3) Loss of Battered Women’s Shelters; (4) Elimination of Separate Bathrooms, Locker Rooms and Dressing Rooms; (5) Increase in Women’s Insurance Premiums; (6) Loss of tax exemptions for churches; and (7) ERA’s language broad and inflexible. Councilwoman Woodbury felt that women were already covered under the law and that the amendment was poorly worded; and would restrict all laws and practices that made distinctions based on gender. She stated that such an extreme restriction would wipe out beneficial programs for women and prohibit necessary distinctions even when they logically made sense.

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

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes:  Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Harris
Nays:  Woodbury, Cherry

F.  Consent Agenda

Councilwoman Woodbury moved adoption of the Consent Agenda, Items 1 through 5, all inclusive, as shown below; seconded by Vice Mayor Vick.
F. Consent Agenda Continued

1. Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 11, 2018

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Harris
Nays: None

2. Minutes of the Work Session of December 11, 2018

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Harris
Nays: None

3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 11, 2018

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Harris
Nays: None

4. Resolution of Recognition: The Apprentice School of Newport News Shipbuilding (A Division of Huntington Ingalls Industries) – 100th Anniversary

A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL OF NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING (A DIVISION OF HUNTINGTON INGALLS INDUSTRIES) ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY. This resolution recognized the Apprentice School at Newport News Shipbuilding on the celebration of its 100th anniversary, on July 1, 2019. The Apprentice School graduated its first apprentice on April 4, 1894, and was formalized in 1919. The apprenticeship developed from an informal method of learning to a highly effective, structured, instructional system for apprentices, combining essential academic education and skills training, while earning compensation for on-the-job training experience. Approximately 800 young men and women were enrolled in 28 different, four-, five-, and eight-year apprenticeships, provided by the Apprentice School. The Apprentice School contributed significantly to Newport News Shipbuilding’s reputation, tradition, and success, graduating more than 10,800 apprentice in its history. In 2013, a new facility for The Apprentice School was opened, with a mission focused on craftsmanship, scholarship, and leadership. The Apprentice School would celebrate throughout 2019 with various announcements, events, and activities. This Resolution of Recognition recognized and celebrated the Apprentice School at Newport News
F. Consent Agenda Continued

4. Resolution of Recognition: The Apprentice School of Newport News Shipbuilding (A Division of Huntington Ingalls Industries) – 100th Anniversary Continued

Shipbuilding on its 100th Anniversary in the City of Newport News. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Harris
Nays: None

5. Ordinance Amending and Reordaining City Code, Chapter 26, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, by Repealing Article II., Transportation Safety Commission

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 26, MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, BY REPEALING ARTICLE II., TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION. This ordinance amended and reordained the City Code, Chapter 26., Motor Vehicles and Traffic; by repealing Article II., Transportation Safety Commission. The State Code that required a local Transportation Safety Commission was rescinded approximately 10 years ago. Its funding and safety responsibilities were reassigned to the Departments of Planning Engineering, and Public Works. Newport News was the only Hampton Roads City still maintaining such a Commission. City management, along with the Engineering Department, planned to consider an advisory group on transportation issues that would be a part of the Engineering Department. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Harris
Nays: None
G. Other City Council Actions

1. Resolution Authorizing Jurisdictional Approval for the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA) Issuance of Multi-Family Housing Revenue Bonds, in an Amount Not to Exceed $18 Million, for the Benefit of Harbour-Newport News Limited Partnership and the Newport Harbour Apartments

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, APPROVING THE ISSUANCE BY THE NEWPORT NEWS REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY OF ITS MULTIFAMILY HOUSING REVENUE BONDS FOR THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, REHABILITATION AND EQUIPPING OF THE NEWPORT HARBOUR APARTMENTS MULTIFAMILY HOUSING FACILITY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA. This resolution authorized jurisdictional approval for the issuance of multi-family housing revenue bonds by the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA), in an amount not to exceed $18 million, for the benefit of Harbour-Newport News Limited Partnership and the Newport Harbour Apartments Project. The Harbour-Newport News Limited Partnership desired to finance or refinance the acquisition, renovation and equipping of an existing apartment complex consisting of 200 units known as Newport Harbour Apartments, located at 2301 Madison Avenue. In order to assist with the financing of the project, Harbour-Newport News, Limited Partnership sought NNRHA’s issuance of Multi-Family Housing Revenue Bonds in an amount not to exceed $18 million. NNRHA approved a Resolution at its December 18, 2018 Board meeting for issuance of the bonds, and held the required public hearing. NNRHA recommended that City County approve the issuance of the bonds as required by the statute and the Internal Revenue Code. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Ms. Karen Wilds, Executive Director, Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority, 227-27th Street, Newport News, was available answer questions.

Mr. Scott Coggins, Silver Street Development Corporation, was available answer questions.

Ms. Anne Curtis Saunders, bond counsel with McGuire Woods, LLP, was available answer questions.

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

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Harris
Nays: None
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

2. Resolution Authorizing the Formation of the Choice Neighborhood I LLC and Choice Neighborhood I Development Corporation by the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA)

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, AUTHORIZING THE FORMATION OF THE CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD I LLC AND THE CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD I DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BY THE NEWPORT NEWS REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY. This resolution authorized the formation of the Choice Neighborhood I LLC and the Choice Neighborhood I Development Corporation by the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA). The City and NNRHA submitted, and had accepted by HUD, a Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) Transformation Plan, which outlined steps for the redevelopment of the Ridley Circle public housing complex. In order to initiate the first phase of residential development for CNI, which would be in the 2800 block of Jefferson Avenue, NNRHA partnered with Pennrose LLC, a private developer. In order to help finance the first phase of residential development of the CNI Transformation Plan, NNRHA planned to utilize federal low income housing tax credits (LIHTCs). To take advantage of, and accept the LIHTCs, a separate development corporation and a limited liability company must be established, which served to limit any liability specific to the project, and to protect other NNRHA assets, as well as for tax purposes. To comply with Title 36 of the Code of Virginia, which enumerated the activities of redevelopment and housing authorities, it was necessary that City Council approve the formation of the proposed development entities. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Ms. Karen Wilds, Executive Director, Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority, 227-27th Street, Newport News, was available to answer questions.

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

Regarding the development project at 2800 Jefferson Avenue, Councilwoman Cherry inquired about the type of housing, and whether it would be mixed-use. She expressed concern that it would become problematic if the City continued to build housing without amenities. She stated that although the City was in the CNI process, the Southeast Community lacked amenities. If houses continued to be built, other amenities are not considered for the residents in the community, there would be a problem and the City would build to the point where housing was revitalized, but there would be no basic amenities wanted, other than fast food restaurants. The terminology, “if you build it, they will come” may work for some communities, but the Southeast Community would not become sustainable for tax revenue other than housing. People would still need to leave the community to get what they need for quality living, which was not the vision she would like to see. Councilwoman Cherry suggested, when planning housing, look at what would be done as far as development for amenities in the Southeast Community.
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

2. Resolution Authorizing the Formation of the Choice Neighborhood I LLC and Choice Neighborhood I Development Corporation by the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA) Continued

Ms. Wilds indicated this was the first phase of the Choice Neighborhood Plan, which was a very comprehensive development plan, which included future plans for development. She reminded, directly across the street was a grocery store, daycare center, employment with the new Shipyard building being constructed. Ms. Wilds responded that the building itself would be mixed use, with the first floor containing commercial space. Tenants were being sought, i.e. a restaurant, or a medical center. The building would provide for replacement housing for the units to be lost at the Ridley site. It would also include mixed income. There would be a tax credit developed so that some of the units would be assisted. There would be a workforce housing opportunity.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that NNRHA had done an excellent job on building, but expressed concern because people were beginning to “hang out” in front of those housing units. The City could not govern where an individual stood on a public street, but if it were public housing and a mixed-use, people would not want to live where individuals were “hanging out.”

Ms. Wilds advised that NNRHA had a great partnership with the Newport News Police Department to handle any illegal types of activities, but individuals standing around could not be governed.

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Harris
Nays: None

3. Ordinance to Allow a Fence Encroachment into the Public Right-of-Way at 5905 Madison Avenue

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND THE CITY CLERK TO ATTEST, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, AN ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS AND QUINTON C. BRANCH AND DAFFIE E. BRANCH FOR AN ENCROACHMENT UPON THE MADISON AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY IN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY SET FORTH HEREIN. This ordinance allowed a fence encroachment into the Seventy-Six foot right-of-way at 5905 Madison Avenue. An existing wooden fence encroached into the seventy-six foot right-of-way. The fence was in disrepair, and the owner wanted it repaired or replaced. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

3. Ordinance to Allow a Fence Encroachment into the Public Right-of-Way at 5905 Madison Avenue Continued

Vice Mayor Vick moved adoption of the above ordinance; seconded by Councilman Harris.

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Harris
Nays: None

4. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement for Cost Sharing of the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) Payment Agreement

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 AGREEMENT FOR COST SHARING OF THE HAMPTON ROADS SANITATION DISTRICT HUXLEY PLACEY TO MIDDLE GROUND BOULEVARD INTERCEPTOR FORCE MAIN EXTENSION (JR012100) AND CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS HUXLEY PLACE SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION AND REPLACEMENT (“AGREEMENT”). This resolution authorized and directed the City Manager to execute an agreement for cost sharing of the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) Huxley Place to Middle Ground Boulevard Interceptor Force Main Extension (JR012100) and City of Newport News Huxley Place Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation and Replacement (“Agreement”). The HRSD Huxley to Middle Ground Boulevard Interceptor Force Main Extension project included the installation of 2,250 linear feet of 36-inch force main from the intersection of Maxwell Lane and Warwick Boulevard, to the intersection of Huxley Place and Carnegie Drive. The existing City-owned 8-inch sanitary sewer mains within HRSD’s projects limits had reached the end of their service life and would be replaced as part of the HRSD project. The total project cost was $3,286,000, of which the City’s portion was $605,000. Funding was available from the FY 2018 Bond Authorization, Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Category. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Councilwoman Woodbury moved adoption of the above ordinance; seconded by Vice Mayor Vick.

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Harris
Nays: None
H. Appropriations

None

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

Mr. Cleon Long, 62 Settlers Road, Newport News, Drive, Newport News, thanked members of City Council for passing the resolution for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). He advised that equal rights afforded to women in America were not guaranteed and were not considered important enough to include in the United States Constitution. When proposed in the 1920’s the Equal Rights Amendment was meant to be a complement to the 19th Amendment – Women’s right to vote. He commented on the importance of having the Equal Rights Amendment. In the absence of the ratification, women had to fight for equal rights through the Equal Pay Act, Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Mr. Long advised that although wage discrimination, sexual assault, and judicial indifference were not separate issues, they were all a part of one great injustice in society that was vast enough that it deserved to be rejected. Laws could be weakened or appealed, and new laws enacted to discriminate against women if the fundamental principle was not included in the Constitution. Mr. Long quoted a Supreme Court Cases where violence against women were deemed unconstitutional, and no longer had a recourse in federal court. He indicated that now was the time for ratification, and the country should move forward as some attempted to regress to days of past (a copy or Mr. Long’s remarks are attached and made a part of these minutes).

Councilwoman Woodbury shared that she ran a program at Fort Eustis in the late 1970’s, when female soldiers had to score eight to ten points higher than men to attend Officers’ Training School or to receive a promotion. When discovered, she went to the JAG Joint Advocate) Office and the Commander’s Office. Because of the 14th Amendment, those requirements were corrected. She shared to say there were some protections for equal rights.

Ms. Lucy Van Tine, 105 Cannon Drive, Newport News, advised that Newport News citizens were excited about the prospect of the former City Farm Park property becoming a part of the existing Riverview Farm Park. The former City Farm property was one of the most beautiful pieces of park land in the City because it afforded the citizens a gorgeous and generous view of the water surrounding the Peninsula. The James River, running the entire length of the City, but closed off to the citizens, is something the citizens all wanted access to. Citizens eagerly anticipate City Council establishing a line item in the CIP. The monies allocated did not have to be large. Citizens would be happy to have a simple trail to walk, jog, bike, or picnic along the Warwick River, James River, and the Deep Creek. Ms. Van Tine indicated that citizens also desired a single fence around the raised building sites.

Dr. Robin Van Tine, 105 Cannon Drive, Newport News, Past Chair of the Newport News Environmental Commission, Professor Emeritus of Human Ecology and Environmental Studies, advised that 2019 was a great opportunity for City Council to work toward using the beautiful Riverview Farm Park that City Council voted to retain designated as
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council

Continued

park land and making it available to the citizens of Newport News. He suggested that 2019 presented an opportunity to add a line item in the CIP to begin getting citizens into the park and enjoying ‘their land.’ Dr. Van Tine indicated that citizens needed to see their new land. He reiterated remarks made by Ms. Van Tine, that it would not take much to add a walking/jogging trail. He suggested opening the land to the citizens one weekend each month.

Dr. Van Tine also requested the continuation of a Citizen’s Advisory Board Force to develop a plan for the land that was promised to the citizens since 1968.

Dr. Van Tine thanked members of City Council for their hard work. He indicated that he looked forward to working with City Council to help the dreams of Newport News citizens, with their beautiful land, come to reality.

Councilwoman Cherry thanked Dr. and Mrs. Van Tine for their attendance and participation. She indicated that she had issued a challenge to the Central District Council members to begin a Focus Group because it did not have to be initiated by City Council as a Group. They could meet with the focus groups and begin conversations with citizens of the Central District.

Mr. Hassan E. Ali, 4214 Jefferson Avenue, Newport News, a member of the Taxi Advisory Board (a City Council appointed board), reminded that approximately 10 years prior, Chapter 41, Vehicles For Hire, Article III., Taxicabs, of the City Code, was updated. The cabs should be no more than 10 years old, and kept in good condition, with an updated State and City inspection. Mr. Ali advised there were more than 400 drivers, full and part-time, who would lose their jobs due to the City’s interpretation of the law. Mr. Ali urged City Council to get involved. Mr. Ali further urged that City Manager Rohlf halt the decision being enforced by the Newport News Police Department. An amendment was approved by the Taxi Advisory Board to change the City Code. He advised that the drivers were afraid, and were not sure whether they would be stopped, and prohibited from continuing to operate their taxicabs, because it was over 10 years old. He asked that City Council consider the recommendation that would come before them at the January 22, 2019 Regular Meeting of City Council from the Taxi Advisory Board.

City Manager Rohlf advised that Assistant City Manager, Alan Archer, had a scheduled meeting with the representative of the Taxi Advisory Board. That report, with recommendations from the Board and the NNPD, would be put before City Council at its January 22, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Vice Mayor Vick recalled that City Council agreed that taxi cabs could be older than 10 years.

City Attorney Owens advised that the ordinance was amended to prohibit taxicabs, older than 10 years, from operating, at the request of the Hospitality Industry, who received complaints about the conditions of some of the taxicabs.
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council Continued

Vice Mayor Vick recalled the discussion, and mentioned that all taxicabs were not for the tourism industry. The residents in the South District used taxicabs as a means of transportation. She recalled Mr. Ali mentioning that a car’s life could be longer than 10 years, as long as it was properly maintained. Vice Mayor Vick also recalled then Vice Mayor Madeline McMillan indicating that affordability was not the same for every cab company as the larger taxi companies.

City Manager Rohlf indicated that more information would be forthcoming about the issue.

Reverend James W. Brown, 46 Whetstone Drive, Hampton, commented on the rebuilding of Huntington Middle School. He indicated that cost of materials for construction was increasing, and would continue to increase, particularly with the trade agreement with China. He stated the $2.8 million for the design work should be allocated as well as the $50 million requested to rebuild Huntington Middle School. Our children are our future and should be viewed as such. Reverend Brown urged members of City Council to put the children first. Huntington Middle School was needed in the Southeast Community, between An Achievable Dream and Heritage High School. He prayed the funds would be put in the budget in 2019 to begin the design and construction of Huntington Middle School.

Mr. Adrian Whitcomb, 316-54th Street, Newport News, reminded citizens about the Denbigh-Warwick Area Plan Meetings was scheduled for Wednesday, January 9, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., and Thursday, January 10, 2019, 8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m., at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard). For additional details, citizens were encouraged to visit www.saveriverviewfarmpark.com. Mr. Whitcomb advised, even though Riverview Farm Park was not included in the study area, it was on its border.

Mr. Whitcomb shared that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) had been discussed at City Council Work Sessions over the past few months. There was always a temptation to look for quick money when considering all of the City’s needs. He stated that a park would actually increase the value of surrounding neighborhoods. Citizens would want to live in a neighborhood with close access to the water, with a natural park.

Mr. Antonio Thompson, P. O. Box 413, Newport News, quoted bible scriptures from I Thessalonians 4:16, alluding to United States President, Donald Trump, being the trump of God.

Mr. Thompson commended Congresswoman Elaine Luria, who during the government furlough, waived receiving a pay check.

Mr. Thompson urged citizens to support Newport News Police Chief, Steve Drew, as well as the Newport News Police Foundation.
I. Citizen Comments on Matters germane to the Business of City Council
Continued

Mr. Thompson suggested the need for a “stand-your-ground” law in the City of
Newport News (the stand-your-ground law established a right by which a person could defend
one’s self or others against threats or perceived threats, even to the point of applying lethal force).
He further indicated that all citizens should be armed with guns, particularly 13 years and above.

Ms. Rena Crabill, 422 Eastwood Drive, Newport News, reiterated remarks made
by Dr. and Mrs. Van Tine. She also looked forward to having access to the City Farm property,
all of the way to the river, for all Newport News citizens in an orderly process, as soon as
possible.

Ms. Crabill advised that the Foodbank of the Virginia Peninsula was in dire need
of food, volunteers, and donations. The Greater Peninsula had a very high percentage of food
insecure families. The possibility of that growing, due to the government shutdown was
anticipated. The Foodbank had less than one-third of the amount of food from 2018. Donations
were down. She urged citizens to give what they could to the less fortunate citizens — whether in
time, in food, or in donations. The website could be found at hrfoodbank.org. Ms. Crabill also
shared the phone number for the Foodbank, (757) 596-7188, to receive additional details.

Ms. Kathryn Nowinski, 109 Haviland Drive, Newport News, was sorry that City
Council had adopted the resolution for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), as she
expressed opposition. She felt the ERA was old-fashioned, was dead, and was not needed. She
reiterated Councilwoman Woodbury’s comments that women already had protection under the
14th Amendment. She expressed concern that the ERA would dilute or negate the powers
between the States and the federal government by giving Congress more power over the State to
enact laws that the State should be covering, such as legislation for family law, public schools,
private schools, healthcare, etc. Of particular interest was the endeavor by the pro-abortion
groups where the ERA language had been adopted into state constitutions as a tool to invalidate
any laws that treated abortion differently than any other medical procedure, which meant that
Virginia laws would requiring parental consent, or a 24-hour waiting period, would be in
jeopardy. Ms. Nowinski advised that passage of the ERA would enshrine non-federal tax payer
funded elective abortions into the United States Constitution despite the fact that after 46-years of
legalized abortion by the Supreme Court, the injustice of denying God-given live to a living
human being in the womb of his or her mother was still an unsettled issue that weighed heavily
on the hearts of and minds of millions of Americans.

Mr. Robert Williams, Jr., 331 Judy Drive, Newport News, Chairman of the Taxi
Advisory Board, commented on issues and concerns of the board members. He referenced the
ordinance in the City Code, Chapter 41, Vehicles For Hire, Article III., Taxicabs. The ordinance
proved to be confusing to the operators of the taxicabs regarding the age of the vehicles (cabs) —
no older than 10 years of age. The taxicab operators thought their cabs were good as long as it
passed the State inspection and the City inspection. As of November 2018, the NNPD issued a
report advising that taxicabs would no longer be inspected if the cab was over 10 years of age.
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germene to the Business of City Council Continued

Mr. Williams indicated that some taxicabs were already 10 years old, and when up for inspection, were denied inspection. He advised that the Taxi Advisory Board would submit recommendations to address the problems and to make City Council aware of the issues. Mr. Williams advised there were a few burdensome regulations which hurt the “little guy.” He shared that Delegate David Yancey had address the Taxi Advisory Board about issues. He was appreciative of those showing concern for “little person,” and not only the major businesses. Mr. Williams advised there were approximately 240 certificates in the City of Newport News. A cap was put on the number of certificates. Mr. Williams advised there were approximately 180 certificates or less. The City was losing revenue because the smaller owners could not spend $10,000 for a taxicab that was 10 years or younger. He reminded that taxicabs were in the same business as Hampton Roads Transit, which had buses over 10 years old. The Taxi Advisory Board urged City Council members to review the ordinance and the regulation about not allowing taxicabs to operate if older than 10 years. The taxicab industry employed many drivers, who would be out of business.

Ms. Mary Vause, 350 Williamsburg Court, Newport News, thanked members of City Council for passing the resolution for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). She stated that the ERA was necessary as it would provide American women more legal recourse in court cases dealing with issues such as unequal pay, gender discrimination, domestic violence and sexual assault. Newport News would join the 25 other Virginia localities that took a stand in support of equal legal rights for their female constituents, making State legislators think twice before killing the ERA in committee as was done in the past. This action helped Virginia become the 38th and final State needed to enshrine equal legal rights for women into the United States Constitution. Ms. Vause indicated that “far right conservatives” had come up with bogus claims about how ERA would cause unisex bathrooms, the end of marriage, etc. She indicated these false excuses worked to derail the ERA in the past, but would not today. Attorney General Mark Herring advised that the ERA could be ratified because time limits on amendments were not written into the United States Constitution. Ms. Vause predicted that the ERA would pass the State Legislature as 26 Cities and Counties had taken stands in support of women’s legal rights. A CNU poll showed that 86% of voters in Democratic House Districts and 77% of voters in Republican House Districts in Virginia, supported ratifying the ERA. A common sentiment heard at the December 11, 2018 Council Meeting was that City Council should not be about taking a stand on issues, and she felt it was an odd stance for community leaders to take. Ms. Vause hoped that when progressive resolutions were brought forward in the future, that there would not be efforts behind the scenes to prevent a vote. She asked that resolutions with broad community support not be prevented from receiving a fair vote.

Ms. Jannie Bazemore, 1004 Hampton Avenue, Newport News, advised that she was angry because for several years the Huntington Alumni Association had fought for the rebuilding or renovation of Huntington Middle School; and yet approximately $30 million had been appropriated for a parking garage in City Center, which meant parking garages were put before education. She indicated that all of City Council were aware of the plight of Huntington Middle School as the Alumni Association had come before City Council for over one year asking for funding to replace the “blighted” Huntington Middle School. Ms. Bazemore reiterated a
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council
Continued

comment by a Councilmember at the November 2018 Joint Meeting between City Council and the School Board, that it seemed as though Huntington was purposefully neglected. She questioned how the point was reached to close Huntington Middle School when it was such an integral part of the school system. She urged the City Council to take the necessary steps not to repeat the history of Huntington Middle School. She indicated that best way to do that was to put funding for the School into the CIP. She expressed the importance of City Council making Huntington Middle School a priority. Huntington would be non-existent when seventh graders became eighth graders in 2020. She ended with her slogan, "Huntington shall rise again."

Mr. Ernest Thompson, 645-19th Street, Newport News, advised that 2019 would be a year of unlimited possibilities. He reminded that the Southeast end of Newport News, had historically been under-resourced, non-resourced, historically neglected. Somehow, parents always found a way. Teachers and instructors shared history provided a great education. He stated that an education was required to be something or to be about something. Somehow, City Council had to find a way to build Huntington Middle School so that the children today would have the unlimited possibilities of being whatever they chose to be, whether Mayor or President. Mr. Thompson indicated, to leave Huntington Middle School in the dark would be heartbreaking. He hoped, in 2019, that Huntington Middle School be reopened. He advised that the children were our future.

Ms. Pam Hall, Newport News, indicated, as leaders of the City, that City Council was setting a poor example for the children, on how to work together for a common goal. Huntington Middle School and the education of the children must be a priority. She urged members of City Council to sit down with members of the Newport News School Board to come up with a solution. When $31 million could be allocated for another parking garage in City Center, it did not appear that money was the issue. Ms. Hall stated, the education of the children, who were the future of the City, was more important than a parking garage. City leaders must be better examples for the children and show them how mature individuals resolved problems. The partnerships of community businesses, such as Jefferson Laboratories, Huntington Ingalls, and Piggly Wiggly would return as soon as the doors to Huntington Middle School were reopened.

J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments

Councilman Jenkins apologized to his fellow Council members for the way things occurred at the December 11, 2018 Regular Meeting of City Council with regard to the resolution for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). It was not his intent to embarrass anyone or to embarrass the City of Newport News. He did not want his colleagues to believe that he was difficult to work with. He explained that some of his constituents had approached him in November 2018 about the matter. He had a resolution compiled, and distributed it to City Council on November 27, 2018, and had requested that the matter be added to the agenda for the December 11, 2018 Regular Meeting of City Council. There were no comments in opposition. A subtlety of the Council Work Sessions was that the City Manager based her decisions on what to add/not to add to an agenda, based on the consent of City Council.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

He contacted people that had requested that this issue be voted on, who had made time in their schedule to address Council on the matter. He was not notified ahead of time that that matter was not on the agenda. He believed that his fellow Councilmembers had had two weeks to thoroughly research the issue, and come up with their own conclusions and be prepared to vote. He did not believe in surprising his colleagues, nor did he intend to do so or to create controversy. Councilman Jenkins advised that he spoke with the City Attorney, City Manager, and the City Clerk once he realized the matter was not on the agenda, and advised that he intended to introduce the resolution under New Business, as was the right of every Councilmember. During the Council Work Session of December 11, 2018, he informed his colleagues of his intent to introduce the ERA resolution under New Business, and a couple of his colleagues advised that they were not prepared to vote for the resolution. Nevertheless, it was his belief that a majority of City Council would vote for the ERA resolution if presented. Someone suggested deferring the matter until the January 8, 2019 Regular Meeting, and judging by consensus, it appeared to be the consensus that the resolution be added. He informed his wife, and others, that the vote would not occur. Some left and did not speak. He came to the conclusion that the Newport News City Council would vote and carry the ERA resolution if introduced, and believed that it was the right thing to do. Several of his colleagues spoke with him about angry e-mail messages they received criticizing them for supposedly not supporting the ERA resolution. Councilman Jenkins felt, by calling a vote on the resolution, would allow those Councilmembers to clarify their stand with the public and top some of the angry e-mail messages. He expressed regret that the resolution did not pass at the December 11, 2018 Regular Meeting of City Council, and thanked his fellow Councilmembers who did vote in favor of the resolution at the top of the January 8, 2019 Regular Meeting of City Council. He did not want any ill feelings, he hoped to move forward and that the body could come together as a Council due to his actions, and he expressed his sincere apologies.

Mayor Price stated that Dr. Martin Luther King believed that life’s most persistent and urgent question was, “What are you Doing for Others?” In answer to that question, Mayor Price announced that January 21, 2019 would be A Day of Service, and that he was pleased to partner with United States Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott; Virginia Delegate, Marcia Price; and Newport News Sheriff, Gabriel “Gabe” Morgan, Riverside Health System, the Virginia United Project, and the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank to host the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Food Drive, on Monday, January 21, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank (2401 Aluminum Avenue, Hampton). Mayor Price hoped that churches, businesses, and civic groups would spread the word and invite others to participate. For additional details, citizens interested in volunteering were asked to contact the Mayor’s Office at (757) 926-8403. By working together, the Foodbank’s supply of food could be replenished, as well as honor the legacy of great service Dr. King.

Councilwoman Scott wished all in attendance a Happy New Year. She thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. City Council appreciated hearing from the citizens.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Scott reminded that she was big on hunger abatement, and encouraged everyone to support the Mayor’s Day of Service on January 21, 2019. The One City Celebrations Holiday Food Drive Committee hosted one of the most awesome events ever held in the history of the City of Newport News - the One City Celebrations Holiday Food Drive event December 12 - 17, 2018, at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard). For the past 17 years, they had consistently collected non-perishable food items from the community, raised money to purchase turkeys, solicit donations of bicycles, books, and toys in an effort to improve the quality of life to the disadvantaged.

Councilwoman Scott advised that over 650 families were served, supported two food pantries, and touted over 200 volunteers, to include over 75 soldiers from Fort Eustis, and Langley. The Job Fair included 84 employers, with over 600 registering. She thanked PETA who had a Spay and Neuter Clinic, free to the public, collecting several hundred vegan items. She was pleased to host this community event, empowering citizens by allowing them to have a moment to breathe, to think, and to feed their children. A Youth Advisory Group from Fort Eustis received bicycles as well.

Councilwoman Scott encouraged citizens to get involved and to continue supporting everything that helped the community.

Councilwoman Scott extended condolences to the family of former Newport News Councilman, the Honorable Joseph C. Whitaker, on his passing on January 8, 2019 (Joseph Whitaker served the South District with distinction since his election to City Council in 2004. He also served as Vice Mayor for two years, as well as on the Newport News Planning Commission. He worked on behalf of the Southeast Community in many capacities, to include a long association with the Boys and Girls Club, established scholarships with the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority for students residing in public housing, and fundraising for diabetes research with his annual 20-mile runs).

Councilwoman Scott thanked the Fort Eustis Youth Advisory Council from the Boys and Girls Club for allowing her the opportunity to speak to them on Monday, January 7, 2019, about what happens on City Council. They were interested in knowing what they could do to get involved in the City. She was impressed with the questions asked.

Councilwoman Scott looked forward to a great year, working with her colleagues on City Council. She advised the citizens that they were heard and City Council was working with City Manager Rohlf toward reaching some of the goals that would best address all in the City of Newport News.

Councilwoman Scott extended thanks to the City Manager and staff, City Clerk and staff, and the City Attorney and staff, who had provided services to the City Council.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Vice Mayor Vick wished all in attendance a Happy New Year.

Vice Mayor Vick extended thanks to Mr. Michael Poplawski, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and staff, for on having the City beautified for the holiday season; as well as providing adults and young people the opportunity to enjoy the Celebration in Lights, Virginia’s first drive-through holiday light event, held November 22, 2018 – January 1, 2019, in Newport News Park, 5:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. In its 26th season, the event added special effect snow that fell on the cars as they drove into the Winter Wonderland area, as well as a new Gingerbread House display and new scenes on its two giant screens of color-changing LED lights.

Vice Mayor Vick announced that the City had received notice that its proposed initiative entitled Navigating Wealth-Building for the Residents of the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood would receive state grant funding beginning January 15, 2019. The initiative received the largest funding commitment among 25 competing proposals considered for this grant round. It would be administered through the City’s Department of Development. The 18-month grant in the amount of $896,802.58 was awarded to the City to support this new initiative (see description and guidelines attached and made a part of these minutes).

Councilwoman Woodbury spoke with City Manager, and inquired of her colleagues on City Council whether they would support a contribution of $15,000 to the Peninsula Agency on Aging, Meals on Wheels, from the City Council Contingency Fund. There were approximately 12 citizens on a list that had not been served and were in immediate need of food. She apologized for not discussing the matter at the City Council Work Session. City Manager Rolph advised in order to serve the 12 individuals on the waiting list through the end of the years would cost approximately $15,000. City Attorney Owens advised that this would be a donation to Meals on Wheels as the City could not donate to private individuals. The money was available in City Council Contingency. Mayor Price inquired of City Council. There was consensus among City Council to make a $15,000 donation to Meals on Wheels from City Council Contingency. Mayor Price asked for a formal motion.

Councilwoman Woodbury moved to donate $15,000.00 from City Council Contingency, to Peninsula Agency on Aging, Meals on Wheels; seconded by Vice Mayor Vick.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she had reached out to the Peninsula Agency on Aging (PAA) to discuss the matter. She also had a meeting scheduled to discuss helping PAA to raise funds. Councilwoman Scott recalled that the City provided funds to them through Community Support.

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Harris
Nays: None
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Woodbury also extended condolences to the family of former Newport News Councilman, the Honorable Joseph C. Whitaker, on his passing on January 8, 2019. She advised that she had the privilege of serving with Mr. Whitaker on City Council for several years.

Councilwoman Woodbury extended congratulations to the Newport News Public School system (NNPS). Her grandson, Michael, read and had a discussion with her about the 14th amendment of the United States Constitution, as well as the Preamble to the Constitution, and the Gettysburg Address. She was pleased that the NNPS taught civics, and making sure the students were prepared to participate in government.

Councilwoman Woodbury also wished all in attendance a Happy New Year.

Councilwoman Cherry wished all in attendance a Happy New Year.

Councilwoman Cherry also extended condolences to the family of former Newport News Councilman, the Honorable Joseph C. Whitaker, on his passing on January 8, 2019.

Councilwoman Cherry extended thanks to Mr. Michael Poplawski, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and all of the staff who helped to bring to light Bayport Credit Union’s 25 Nights of Northern Lights. She advised this was an exciting new holiday event, which began on Saturday, December 1, 2018, at City Center (700 Town Center Drive), with a state-of-the-art synchronized music and light show.

Councilwoman Cherry also extended thanks to Mr. Michael Poplawski, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and all of the staff for the Celebration in Lights, Virginia’s first drive-through holiday light event, held November 22, 2018 – January 1, 2019, in Newport News Park. She stated, along with the Story and tree show, the snow machines were the most exciting part of the season. The children loved it.

Councilwoman Cherry also extended thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas for the Children Celebration on Saturday, December 22, 2018, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., at 617-27th Street. Donations of toys and winter clothes were received from various individuals, organizations, schools, and faith communities. She advised that contributions were distributed to more than 500 children in the community, and more than 60 bicycles were given away. Councilwoman Cherry thanked Vice Mayor Vick for her attendance and livening up the celebration. She also thanked Councilwoman Scott for the donation of the bicycles. It was a great event.

Councilwoman Cherry acknowledged Mr. Cortez Higgs and his work with youth development, and engagement in the community through The Catalyst Effect organization. She had the pleasure of meeting him on Sunday and looked forward to working with him and the youth in the organization.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Cherry announced extended thanks to Chief Steve Drew, NNPD, and the Boys and Girls Club for their collaborative partnership for the 3-on-3 Basketball League games. She advised that the final basketball game was scheduled for Saturday, January 1, 2019, at the Boys and Girls Club, 629 Hampton Avenue, 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon. She encouraged citizens to attend and show their support. It had been a great partnership and a great opportunity for relationship building between the children, the community, and the Newport News Police Department. The tournament would be on Saturday, January 19, 2019, at the Boys and Girls Club, 629 Hampton Avenue, 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon.

Councilwoman Cherry announced extended thanks to all of the clergy and their representatives for attending the Faith, Justice & Community Meeting, held on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, hosted by the NNPD, at the Newport News Police Headquarters (9710 Jefferson Avenue). She indicated it would be important for all organizations, citizens, and faith communities to come together to help bring about transformation in the City. She thanked Chief Steve Drew, NNPD, and staff for hosting the meeting and providing statistics to advise where the City stood. Councilwoman Cherry encouraged Pastors to attend or to send a representative.

Councilwoman Cherry announced the T.A.S.T.E. (Take a Student To Eat) program on the Day or Service, Monday, January 21, 2019, 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m., at Pearlie’s Restaurant (2108 Jefferson Avenue), for the Martin Luther King (MLK) Celebration. Lunch would be free for all children in the community. Volunteers were welcome to celebrate with them.

Councilwoman Cherry announced that the first South District “Your Voice Matters” Town Hall Meeting, was scheduled for Thursday, January 10, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Drive); and on Thursday, January 17, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue). An exciting speaker was scheduled – Ms. Sonia Alcantara Antoine, Director, Newport News Department of Libraries and Information Services. All citizens were welcome to attend.

Councilman Harris wished all in attendance a Happy New Year.

Councilman Harris acknowledged the presence of several School Board Members. He introduced Ms. Shelly Simonds and Mr. John Eley. He also acknowledged the presence of the Commissioner of the Revenue, Ms. Tiffany Boyle.

Councilman Harris announced that he and School Board Member John Eley collaborated together to do a School Supply Drive. They sought donations of school supplies for the Re-up School Supply Drive, in an effort to help students in need of additional supplies to begin the second semester of school. The event was scheduled for Saturday, January 26, 2019, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., at Boathouse Live in City Center at Oyster Point (11800 Merchants Walk.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

#100). Following the Re-up event, at 7:00 p.m., all NNPS employees would be energized and entertained by the Unitec Souls Band. The concert would be free of charge for all NNPS employees, by displaying their NNPS badge. They were excited to bring all NNPS employees together to kick-off the second semester.

Councilman Harris announced, on Sunday, January 20, 2019, 1:30 p.m. the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Parade, Banquet and Andrew Shannon Gospel Music Celebration Concert would be held to honor the slain civil rights icon, Dr. Martin Luther, King, Jr. The Parade would begin with Opening Ceremonies at 1:30 p.m., at New Beech Grove Baptist Church, 361 Beechmont Drive, and kick-off at 1:45 p.m. The parade would proceed to Manna Church, 326 Tabbs Lane where the Parade and March would end. The Parade Grand Marshall would be Dr. Willard Maxwell, Pastor of New Beech Grove Baptist Church. Newport News Police Chief Steve Drew, and local SCLC Vice-President Ms. Edna Davis would serve as Co-Grand Marshals.

Councilman Harris encouraged everyone to support Mayor Price and the Day or Service Food Drive, as well as the T.A.S.T.E. celebration at Pearlie’s Restaurant, all taking place on Monday, January 21, 2019.

The young person that Councilman Harris wanted to recognize could not be in attendance – Ms. Amiaya Robinson – a senior at Denbigh High School. Amiaya had attended three different high schools, and managed to maintain a 4.32 GPA. She had been accepted into numerous colleges and received several scholarships. Amiaya continued to volunteer at elementary schools in Hampton and Newport News, and aspired to be a Chemist. He encouraged everyone to continue to celebrate our young people.

Councilman Harris reiterated that our children should be a priority, and we must continue to promote the good things they were doing. He shared an encounter that Chief Drew had with a young individual and played a vital role in rectifying the situation. He was encouraged to hear of the outcome and the Chief’s positive encounter with the family to ensure that the young man was safe.

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 8:33 P.M.
Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC
City Clerk

McKinley L. Price, DDS
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, testo:

City Clerk