MINUTES OF WORK SESSION
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE 10TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
March 12, 2019
4:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Sharon P. Scott, MPA

OTHERS PRESENT: Cynthia Rohlf; Collins L. Owens; Mabel Washington Jenkins; Joye Thompkins; Darlene Bradberry; Shelia McAllister; Flora Chiros; Kate Helwig; Katie Stodghill; Bud Curtis; Fred Coleman; Bryan Stilley; Lisa Cipriano; Constantinos Velissarios; Susan Goodwin; Florence Kingston; Venerria Thomas; Everett Skipper; Louis Martinez; Jeffrey Johnson; Frank James; Jerri Wilson; Elaine Johnson; Alan Archer; David Freeman; Cleder Jones; Eoghan Miller; Zina Middleton; Indiana Brown and Josh Reyes

I. Closed Meeting

(4:05 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.)

II. Sister Cities of Newport News Annual Report

Ms. Cynthia Rohlf, City Manager, introduced Ms. Kate Helwig, Executive Director, Sister Cities of Newport News, Inc., (SCNN) to provide the presentation (a copy of the presentation, "Sister Cities of Newport News, Inc. Annual Report, March 12, 2019" is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Ms. Helwig introduced board members in attendance, Ms. Katie Stodghill, SCNN President; Mr. Lamont "Bud" Curtis, Immediate Past President, Mr. Fred Kohlman; Mr. Louis Martinez; and Councilwoman Dr. Patricia P. Woodbury.

Ms. Helwig noted the SCNN Mission was to build and strengthen international cooperation, understanding and development between the citizens of Newport News and those of the world.

Ms. Helwig indicated the Sister Cities movement began on September 11, 1956, founded by U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, which was originally a part of People to People,
became a part of National League of Cities, and in 1967, Sister Cities International became a separate non-profit.

Ms. Helwig noted the SCNN International Partners:

- Neyagawa City, Osaka, Japan
- Taizhou China
- ZiYang, China
- Universitäts-und Hansestadt, Greifswald
- Saint-Nazaire

Benefits of the Sister Cities Program

- Long-term, Sustainable Partnerships
- Educational, Cultural and Economic Programs
- Links Our City Internationally/Globally

*SCNN serves as the “International Arm” of the City of Newport News – a resource to all departments and community sectors: Government, Businesses, Schools & Citizens

Ms. Helwig advised that SCNN had Leadership Commitment to include a diverse and strong 19-member Board of Directors.

- Board Conducts an Annual Orientation
- Met Monthly
- Members Actively Participate in Program

Ms. Helwig noted the SCNN Citizen Engagement through social media at www.sistercities-nn.com, Newport News Public Schools website, Newport News Now, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Give Local 757 Campaign on Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

Ms. Stodghill noted the 2018 SCNN Accomplishments:

- $39,500 In-kind community support, to include housing, free admissions, transportation, food, and translation services, donated by the community to support incoming international delegations
- $12,374 NET raised with two (2) major Sister Cities fundraisers; the International Breakfast and the Eric Chen Memorial Golf Tournament
- 8,924 Number of page views on the sister cities website
3,592 Names in the SCNN database
1,954 Emails on our MailChimp newsletter list
$2,000 in Youth Scholarships awarded
272 People following sister cities on FACEBOOK
263 Citizens volunteering their time and talents to support international visitors from Japan, China and Germany
102 Members attended the “One City-One World” Annual Meeting in November at Stratford University (836 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard)
79 Warwick High Students attended the Japanese Culture Day presented by the Neyagawa Youth Delegation & hosted by Warwick’s “Sister Cities” Club
39% “open rate” of our MailChimp emails
38 International Delegates hosted by Newport News families in their home included 29 youth
35 Years celebrated with Neyagawa with a visiting delegation
29 Teams participated in our Global Bee International Quiz (topped out at 140 attendees in all) made it the largest quiz in 11 years
18 Citizen Delegates traveling to Japan over the 2018 Thanksgiving break that included 7 high school students
16 Citizen Diplomats Welcomed from Neyagawa, Japan as part of the official anniversary delegation included 9 Youth Delegates
9th year conducting a German Seminar at CNU – this year in partnership with CNU’s Rieff Center
8 Weeks – two (2) NNPS students spent in Germany and two (2) German student spent in Newport News – attended school in SCNN’s 1st long-term exchange program
3 NNPR&T festivals benefiting from Sister Cities participation included – Newport News Fall Festival of Folklife, the World Arts Celebration & the Children’s Festival of Friends supported
1 FANTASTIC Sister Cities street sign installed in City Center

Ms. Stodghill noted the SCNN Opportunities in 2019:

First French High School Exchange – 10 Outgoing students in April and 20 incoming students in October
Third German High School Exchange – 34 Incoming students in April and 16 Outgoing in June
New China Exchanges (proposed) – 2019 Incoming (Summer) / 2020 Outgoing (Fall)
• Summer School Camp (two (2) weeks) at CNU on the College of Natural and Behavioral Science for Chinese College Students
• Official Delegation to Greifswald from May 8 – May 14, 2019
• Continued Support of Newport News Program
• Annual Scholarship Awards – one (1) $1,000 College Scholarship and Two (2) $500 High School Travel Scholarships
• Hosted the Eric Chen Memorial Golf Classic, the 9th Annual Golf Tournament Friday, September 20, 2019

Vice Mayor Vick inquired about the scholarships and whether additional funding would be required. Ms. Stodghill replied that the $500 High School Travel Scholarships almost paid for the airline cost and spending money needed, but many of the students stayed with host families and attended school.

Ms. Stodghill noted the existing partnerships with SCNN:

• Newport News Public Schools
• Newport News Parks, Recreation & Tourism
• Christopher Newport University Reiff Center
• The Mariners’ Museum and Park
• Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center
• Lionsbridge Football Club

Ms. Stodghill noted the pending partnerships with SCNN:

• Newport News Green Foundation – Rain Garden
• Newport News Public Arts Foundation

Ms. Helwig invited City Council to join Sister Cities on June 7, 2019 at CNU for the Annual Breakfast Fundraiser, with featured remarks by Jae Sinnett, Jazz Musician, specialized in drumming, composing, facilitating drum clinics and master classes, as well as hosting Sinnett in Session and The R&B Chronicles on WHRV-FM 89.5 in Norfolk, Virginia.

Vice Mayor Vick questioned the number of adult chaperones needed per trip. Ms. Stodghill replied it was based on the number of students traveling each trip for the homestays. Ms. Helwig advised that Greifswald, Germany Council would love to have City Council members visit.
Councilwoman Woodbury shared that she had traveled to Greifswald, Germany and Taizhou China, had an opportunity to meet amazing people, and had a wonderful time. She advised that she was interested in the France visit and hoped to travel to France in the future.

III. Engineering Project Update

Ms. Cynthia Rohlf, City Manager, introduced Mr. Everett Skipper, Director, Department of Engineering, to provide the presentation (a copy of the presentation, “Engineering Overview, March 12, 2019” is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Mr. Skipper advised that there were approximately 200 plus projects being performed to date. He shared that aspect of operations and maintenance that the Engineering Department performed was related to the traffic systems were signals, signs, and markings. The remainder of the maintenance was handled through the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Skipper advised of the Big Picture:

- ProjectMates – digital project management
- Improving Project Communications
- Train Station Schedule Update
- VDOT Funding Update
  - Last Fall Preliminary approvals
  - This summer preliminary applications
- Streets, Bridges, Traffic (Signs, Signals, Markings), Stormwater, Wastewater, Architecture, Environmental Services
- Design, Analysis, Construction Administration
- Operations and Maintenance for Traffic only (all others by Public Works)
- Over 200 projects active, ranging from less than $10,000 to over $50 million
- Largest projects typically funded by federal or state grants

Mr. Skipper shared the Current Major Projects as follows:

- Streets and Bridges
  - Lake Maury Bridge on Warwick Boulevard – opens spring 2019
  - Huntington Bridge at 39th Street – opens spring 2019
  - Atkinson Boulevard – opens late fall 2020
  - Hogan Road – design finalizing fall 2019
  - Habersham Improvements – bidding spring 2019
  - Bland Boulevard and Warwick Intersection – completed December 2018
- Campbell Road (north from Bland to Warwick Boulevard) — Advertised June 2019, Bid end of July 2019, construction mid-August thru May 2021, delayed about 4 months by land offers being sent in March after VDOT and City Attorney review
- Lower Jefferson Phase II — Construction Notice To Process (NTP) issued January 14, construction March 2019 thru July 2020

- Stormwater
  - Richneck Regional Basin — bidding now
  - Main Street Drainage/Hilton School area — bidding now
  - Warwick Rivermont Drainage — bidding summer 2019
  - Regional Sea Level Rise initiatives — ongoing

- Architecture
  - Newport News Transportation Center — bids summer 2019, construction fall 2019 thru fall 2021. Delays were related to agreements and negotiations between CSX, AMTRAK, DRPT, VDOT and the City
  - Operations Warehouse — in construction, opens spring 2019
  - SCOT Center - in construction, first move-ins summer 2019

- Wastewater
  - HRSD/Regional cooperation on SWIFT and Rehab/WWMP
  - Pump Station 002 R(19th & Oak Avenue) — bids spring 2019
  - Oak Avenue Sewer Replacement — bids spring 2019

- LED Lighting Upgrade — construction starting March in Southeast Community priority area

Councilwoman Cherry inquired about the broadband construction in the Lower Jefferson Avenue corridor. City Manager Rohlf replied that the construction for the Lower Jefferson improvements would be done and would not be impacted. All of the construction would tie into the Lower Jefferson. There would not be an issue on the timing of doing the project as opposed to waiting until the housing phase came into play.

Vice Mayor Vick reminded, during the HUD Visit the question was posed of internet installation and utilities during the housing phase was mentioned. City Manager Rohlf replied there was a basic design, when the housing would be taken down and replaced. Vice Mayor Vick inquired about the utilities that would be included and whether there were any components of construction that would need be be on hold. Mr. Skipper replied the streetscape module itself
included upgrades to all of the facilities that served any connecting development (residential or commercial), sewer, stormwater, and lighting would all be upgraded as a part of the streetscape project.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned whether that area did not have broadband, or whether it would have fiber. Mr. Skipper replied there was fiber in the street associated with the traffic signals and that could be connected and used for other purposes. City Manager Rohlff indicated that the consultants did a study on broadband and providing internet access. The City was looking at a number of different ways to be able to provide access in the Southeast Community (i.e. Library, hot spots, etc.). Looking at this being a community of the future and 5G changed the view and how the internet would be accessed. She hoped that the Southeast Community would be a showplace for technology.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about the AMTRAK Transportation Station. Mr. Skipper replied the largest Architecture project was the Newport News Transportation Center, expected to bid Summer 2019, and finally signing the last of the agreements. The Transportation Station project was complicated because it was funded by several different State and Federal organizations and involved CSX and AMTRAK with construction fall 2019.

Councilwoman Cherry inquired whether a new pump station would be installed. Mr. Skipper replied that the pump station north of Turnberry Boulevard would be connected but no new pump stations would be installed.

Councilwoman Cherry inquired whether there was a list describing the placement of the LED lighting in the Southeast Community. Mr. Skipper replied he could provide City Council with the requested information.

Mr. Skipper shared information about ProjectMates as follows:

- Digital project management, invoicing
- Joint with Waterworks
- Greater visibility/access for schedules, work tasks, costs
- Future digital bidding, expanded dashboards
- Public portal: apps.nnva.gov/ps/
- Map or Listing
- Project Details available
- Project Information
- Contact Details
- Project Schedule
Current Comments
Contract Status
Feedback Button

Mr. Skipper indicated the Train Station Schedule for Newport News (Route 47) had been updated, (pages 10 and 11 is attached and made a part of these minutes)

- Effective March 4, 2019, concurrent with 2\textsuperscript{nd} train to Norfolk
- Weekday schedule: morning departure earlier, evening arrival later, minor changes for morning arrival and evening departure
- Weekend schedule: minor change for evening departure

Councilwoman Woodbury shared that she had concerns about the train station travel times. She traveled to Washington D.C. for a presentation and had to drive to Richmond to catch the train due to a lack of connections and the same concern on the return trip. Mr. Skipper replied those concerns should be alleviated with the new schedule.

Vice Mayor Vick inquired about the ProjectMates website and the updated process for each project. Mr. Skipper replied that the Project Manager should update the system immediately; however, they are human and periodically an update may slip through the cracks, which was why a contact number would be available.

Councilwoman Woodbury questioned whether all projects had been bid on. Mr. Skipper replied no, all the projects had not been bid on.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that she attended a Hilton Community Meeting and ProjectMates would have provided valuable information about projects the community had questions about. Mr. Skipper replied that the website was up and running. City Manager Rohlf indicated that the City needed to do better with getting this information out to citizens, so they could be better informed.

Councilwoman Cherry inquired about the AMTRAK Train updated departure and arrival times. Mr. Skipper replied it was a challenge to get an understanding of the time changes. He noted the Newport News Northbound-Departure Times, where one of the proposed times changed from 9:00 a.m. to 5:20 a.m. on Train 1 and 20 - 25 minutes on Train 2 (see page 10 attached and made a part of these minutes).
Mr. Skipper advised of **Communications Improvements** as follows:

- We have over 200 projects active; effective communications matter
- Project Status public web site exists; not everyone was aware of the site or had access to web
- Citizen Concerns: Richneck Regional Water Quality-Flood Control BMP
  - All notices, permits and public hearings were accomplished
  - Citizens felt surprised by the construction notices
  - Project delayed for more citizen participation (two meetings plus a workshop)
  - Final plans included multiple additions from input
  - Invited public participation to develop improved overall communication
  - Bids scheduled for March 12, 2019

**Communication Plan – General Communication**

- **Annually**, support Communications Department in notifying citizens of newly approved, current Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)
- **As needed**, notify affected citizens of non-CIP projects that would start before a new CIP was published
  - **Tools for as-needed communications**
    - Newport News Now newsletter, included web link
    - Advise local council members; share web link and backup as needed; attend Town Hall meeting on request

**Communication Plan – Project-Specific Communications**

- **Upon beginning design, always:**
  - Notify affected citizens of design start including description, scope, schedule and estimated cost
    - Newport News Now blurb, including web link
    - Advise local council members; share web link and backup as needed; attend Town Hall meeting on request

- Place “New Project” physical sign(s) near project site(s)
  - Signs include web link and 311 information
  - Signs remain in place until construction completed

- **As appropriate to the project**, consider need for an initial public meeting
New “Early” Project Sign
  o Used for All Projects
  o Installed at start of design and remains in place until project completion
  o Multiple signs may be used if site has multiple accesses to include the website, project ID # and telephone number

• Public Meetings
  o Hold during design and prior to bid for major projects:
    ▪ Generally $3 million or more estimated cost
    ▪ Considered for all projects based on public interest and impact
  o As needed to meet permit requirements
  o Tools:
    ▪ NN Alert (Everbridge; calls landlines within the affected area)
    ▪ Newport News Now; included web link
    ▪ Advised local Council Members; share web link and backup as needed; attend Town Hall meetings on request

• For Land Acquisition
  o Affected owners contacted by letter with sketch
  o Formal offer letters/plat/deed sent near design completion
  o Legal closing includes each owner

• For Permit Processes
  o Must meet applicable legal requirements, generally a newspaper notice, immediately adjacent property owner notice, and possibly a public meeting or hearings
  o For public meetings, use the added tools noted above

• Construction
  o As appropriate to the project:
    ▪ Ground-breaking and Ribbon-cutting ceremonies may be held
    ▪ Coordinate with and support Communications Department
    ▪ Use Public Meeting tools for communications
  o Place standard project signs at a designated locations near the project site(s)

Councilwoman Cherry inquired about the number of people reached with Everbridge. Mr. Skipper replied approximately 60% of the homes, because people no longer used landlines, which was the reason that a sign was more important as it would be erected in the neighborhood.
Mr. Skipper indicated the **Communications Summary** was as follows:

- Notification of projects started when not on same schedule as CIP
- New Project Sign – installed at design start for almost all projects, provides web link and 311 info, remains until project completion
- More tools for notice of public meetings – NN Access/EverBridge; City Council specific notice
- Updated Construction Sign
- **ONGOING, ALWAYS-AVAILABLE TOOLS**
  - ProjectMates Web Site
  - 311 System

Mr. Skipper shared the VDOT Funding Update of Currently Funded Projects which included the UPC number, project description, funding type, total estimate, and years funded, (attached pages 20 – 23 and made part of these minutes).

Mr. Skipper advised that the VDOT Funding Update Fall 2018 requests (2024 SmartScale) was as follows:

- **Newport News Smart Scale** projects recommended to Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for funding total $18,070,786 included:
  - J Clyde Morris Corridor Improvement: I-64 to Harpersville $1,768,528
    - Add a northbound through lane between Louise Drive and Traverse Road and north of Harpersville Road creating three northbound lanes between I-64 and the City Line.
    - Delay for traffic between I-64 and Harpersville Road reduced from more than seven minutes to less than four minutes
    - Total Project Cost: $1,800,000
  - Warwick Boulevard at Oyster Point Road $5,445,737
    - Add southbound left turn lane to Warwick Boulevard, save 80 seconds per vehicle
    - Add eastbound through lane on Oyster Point Road, save 30 seconds per vehicle
    - Pedestrian refuge islands on Warwick Boulevard/Boxley Boulevard
    - Total Project Cost: $5,400,000
  - Jefferson Avenue at Oyster Point Road $10,856,521
Add westbound through lane and eastbound left turn lane to Oyster Point Road  
Overall delay-reduction by more than 50 seconds per vehicle  
Add pedestrian refuge islands for Oyster Point Road  
Total Project Cost: $10,800,000

CTB approval expected late spring for the current FY2020 SYIP, which includes these FY2024-planned projects.

FY 21 Revenue Sharing Request

- Complete Streets, 16th Street - $4.8 million ($6.2 million Total)  
- North View Extension (From Ferguson to Blue Crab) - $2 million  
- Hogan Drive Extension Phase II - $2 million ($12 million Total)  
- Pedestrian Improvements, Campbell Road, South Bland to Warwick Boulevard - $1,175,000 ($2.8 million Total)

Councilwoman Cherry inquired about the details of the Complete Streets, 16th Street. Ms. Sheila McAllister, Director, Department of Planning, replied that the elements were landscaping, sidewalks, and allowing for a bike lane. Councilwoman Cherry questioned whether that was a part of the 16th Street and Chesapeake Avenue bike lane. Ms. McAllister replied it would be a part of the Marshall-Ridley CNI (Marshall to Jefferson Avenue). Councilwoman Cherry inquired whether this would take place during the CNI. City Manager Rohlf replied she believed the supported CNI but would not impact anything in the Marshall-Ridley CNI. Ms. McAllister indicated the Complete Streets, 16th Street was Revenue Sharing Funds for FY 21 and should not impact the Marshall-Riley CNI rather complement each other. Councilwoman Cherry questioned whether the Complete Streets, 16th Street, would include underground utilities. Mr. Skipper replied yes.

FY 22 Revenue Sharing Request

- Downtown Pedestrian Improvements - $250,000 ($4.9 million Total)  
- Complete Streets, 16th Street - $1.4 million ($6.2 million Total)  
- Traffic Signal Mast Arms - $0.5 million ($2.2 million Total)  
- Independence Boulevard - $4 million ($16.7 million Total)  
- ADA Ramps/Sidewalks - $0.25 million ($2 million Total)  
- Jefferson Avenue Sidewalks and Lighting, Kings Ridge to Industrial Park - $2 million ($8.5 million Total)
- Pedestrian Improvements, Campbell Road South Bland to Warwick Boulevard - $1,625,000 ($2.8 million Total)

Mr. Skipper advised of the Next Steps:

- August 2019 – City Council Resolution approving the Revenue Sharing applications
- October 2019 – Applications submitted
- February 2020 – Preliminary ranking/approvals
- May 2020 – Commonwealth Transportation Board action, finalizes approvals
- June 2020 – Agreements
- July 2020 – FY 2021 funding available
- July 2021 – FY 2022 funding available

IV. Legislative Package Update

Ms. Cynthia Rohlf, City Manager, introduced Ms. Jerri Wilson, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, Office of the City Manager, to provide the presentation (a copy of the presentation, “2019 State Legislative Priorities Update, March 12, 2019” is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Ms. Wilson advised that Newport News had a good year with the supported 2019 legislative requests.

2019 Legislative Requests

I. Fort Eustis Main Gate Compliance - $950,000 subject to a 1:1 local match, to acquire approximately 30 acres of land that would be used for improvement to the Eustis Main Gate.
   ✓ Did Not Pass

II. Charter Change – Time of First Meeting of Newly Elected Council – to amend Charter 4 Section 4.05 of the City of Newport News Inaugural meetings; induction of members and election of Vice Mayor, such that City Council may set the time for the first meeting of a newly elected Council.
   ✓ Passed and Signed

III. Local Law Enforcement Completion of Fingerprint Background Checks – The City of Newport News asked that the General Assembly amend Code of
Virginia Sections 63.2-1720 through 63.2-1722, 63.2-1724, and 63.2-1725, to allow local law enforcement to complete required fingerprint background checks for child day programs.

✓ Passed and awaiting the Governor’s signature

IV. Definition of Pawnbroker - Amend Sections 54.1-4000 and 54.1-4001 of the Code of Virginia such that the term “pawnbroker” refers to a specific individual for the purposes of licensing and prevents a corporation or business entity from being licensed as a “pawnbroker”.

✓ Passed and Signed

V. Valid, Current Credentials Required to Pawn Goods - amend Code of Virginia Sections 54.1-4009 and 54.1-4101 to specify that government-issued identification cards used for pawning goods must (1) be valid and not expired, and (2) if the identification card does not reflect current address, required documentation of current residence.

✓ Passed and awaiting the Governor’s signature

VI. Local Authority to Prohibit Discharge of Arrows in Heavily Populated Areas - Amend Code of Virginia Section 15.2-916 to allow Cities to prohibit the shooting of an arrow from a bow or bow gun in heavily populated areas of the locality. Counties currently have this authority.

✓ No Patron

VII. Shipbuilders Day in the Commonwealth - establish an annual day of recognition for shipbuilders and the shipbuilding industry as a celebration of their contributions to the economic vitality of the Commonwealth.

✓ Passed – August 13th Annually

2019 Priority Position Statements

1. Oppose Legislation That Preempts Local Authority - The City Council of Newport News urged the General Assembly to oppose legislation that preempts the authority of localities to determine the regulatory framework that best served their community. This request applied to all legislation whether the issue was wireless infrastructure, ride-sharing, home-sharing, fireworks or any other.

➢ Many initiatives were put forward
What Passed:

- Building permit fees and written notification requirements
- Commonwealth’s Attorney hiring ration for body worn cameras
- Personal property tax relief for disabled veterans

2. Support Legislation Authorizing Extreme Risk Protection Orders – The City Council of Newport News urged the General Assembly to enact legislation that would prevent an individual who was in crisis from possessing or purchasing firearms. Extreme Risk Protection orders allow families and law enforcement to petition a court to suspend access to firearms if there was documented evidence that an individual was threatening to harm themselves or other.

- Legislation was introduced HB1763, SB1458
- Each bill died in its own chamber
  - HB1763 MPPS
  - SB1458 Courts

3. Oppose Elimination of BPOL & Machinery and Tools Taxes – The City Council urged the General Assembly to reject any legislation that would negatively impact local government revenue streams and/or cause the tax burden to be shifted to the citizens.

- HB 2640 – to change definition of original total capitalized cost
- Budget language – plan to defer Machinery and Tools for five (5) years

What Passed:
NOTHING

4. Create Grant Program for Military Community Partnership – The City Council of Newport News urged the General Assembly to enact legislation in support. It was noted that in FY16, defense spending on contracts and payroll accounted for 8.5 percent or Virginia’s gross domestic product, making it the top ranked state by that metric. Virginia also ranked high in absolute terms for attracting defense dollars, came in second with $42.7 billion, behind California at $48.8 billion.

- Budget amendments put forth in House and Senate

What Passed:
Not included in either version of budget – Did not move forward
5. Modernize Communications Sales and Use Tax – The City Council supported amending the Communications Sales and Use Tax (CSUT) to allow taxation of streaming and post-paid calling services. City Council also supported increasing the CSUT to the prevailing State tax rate of 5.3 percent.

Ms. Wilson indicated:

- An imposed on the charge for or sale of communications services at the rate of 5%
- Generally collected from consumers by their service providers and remitted to Virginia Tax each month
- A uniform statewide E-911 tax of $0.75 per line also took effect on January 1, 2007, replacing local E-911 taxes for landline telephone service.
- Replaced the following state and local taxes and fees on communications services:
  - Local consumer utility tax on landline and wireless telephone service
  - Local E-911 tax on landline telephone service
  - Virginia Relay Center assessment on landline telephone service
  - A portion of the local Business, Professional and Occupational License tax assessed on public service companies by certain localities that impose the tax at a rate higher than 0.5%
  - Local video programming excise tax on cable television services
  - Local consumer utility tax on cable television services

  ➤ No legislation was introduced


Ms. Wilson shared the following:

- College of William and Mary, Old Dominion University, Hampton University, and likely additional Virginia Institutions to participate
• Nuclear Femtography (NFG) was an emerging field
• NFG is expected to be the next generation of nanotechnology
• Seeking eligibility for additional funds thru the Virginia Research Investment Fund
• Initial ask supports recruitment and salary for a prominent scientist to lead the center effort ($250K); a distinguished visitors program emphasizing inter-disciplinary aspects of NFG ($150K); and related travel and outreach for partner university researchers in this emerging field ($100K).

➢ Introduced budget included $500,000 in each year of the biennium to support the Center for Nuclear Femtography

**What Passed:**
Final conference budget made no changes to this item

7. Expedite Testing in Certain Instances of Possible HIV, Hepatitis B, or Hepatitis C Exposure - The City Council asked that the General Assembly identify and authorize an expedited process for testing in cases of exposure. Under current law when health care providers, public safety personnel, school board employees, or patients are exposed to the bodily fluid of another, the person whose bodily fluids were involved in the exposure shall be deemed to have consented to testing got infection with human immunodeficiency virus or hepatitis B or C viruses. Such person shall also be deemed to have consented to the release of such test results to the person who was exposed (Code of Virginia Section 32.1-45.1).

➢ HB1998 - Requires court to hold a hearing within 48 hours of a petition to compel collection of a specimen for testing for HIV, hepatitis B or C viruses when exposure to bodily fluids occurs

**What Passed:**
HB1998

8. Fund Economic Development/Redevelopment Incentive Programs – The City Council asked that the General Assembly provide increased funding for existing economic development/redevelopment incentive funds such as the Commonwealth’s Opportunity Fund, Aid to Local Ports, Transportation Opportunity Fund, Brownfields Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Assistance Fund. These incentives pay a pivotal role in attracting, retaining, and expanding businesses. Two programs in particular that had been used
frequently and with great success in Newport News were (1) the Enterprise Zone program created an improved climate for private sector investment, development and expansion in targeted areas by providing state grants and local tax relief. (2) The City Council also asked the General Assembly to restore funding of $5 million for Virginia Jobs Investment Program (VJIP) in FY 2020.

Ms. Wilson advised that each ID Waiver slot cost approximately $45,000 per year.

- Introduced budget reduced funding by $2,280,000 over the biennium

**What Passed:** *(Language)*

Conference report authorizes up to $2.7 million of previously awarded funds that have been repaid to the Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund to be used for grants under the VJIP (Norfolk Southern and Arconic)

9. **Enterprise Zone Funding –** Funding E-Zone Program at 100% commitment

Ms. Wilson indicated there were two (2) types of grants: Real Property Investment, Job Creation RPIG’s are subject to proration when grant requests exceed allocated funding.

- Governor’s introduced budget included $13,773,354 in each year of biennium

**What Passed:**

Final conference report increases funding in FY20 by $1 million

10. **Support K-12 Education Funding –** The City Council of Newport News encouraged the General Assembly to increase funding for public education, particularly in two (2) areas: school construction/renovation and school safety.

- Many proposals were considered

School safety bills include annual school safety training requirements; school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans; model MOU for school boards and SROs; compulsory minimum training standards for SROs; mandatory development of case management
tool for threat assessment by VA Center for School and Campus Safety; 3% by end of biennium and 2% by September 1, 2019.

What Passed:

Final budget added $35 million to the Literary Fund to support school construction projects.

Adds $72.8 million to increase pay raises for teachers from 3 to 5%

School safety annual training requirements, minimum training standards for SROs, case management tool for threat assessment, emergency response plans

11. Fund Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) – The City Council supported an allocation of State funding of $50 million annually for the SLAF. Stormwater management was one of local government’s most pressing infrastructure challenges.

➢ Governor’s introduced budget included $50 million SLAF funding in FY20

What Passed:

Final Conference report removed $50 million in FY20 funding

Allows up to $10 million in bond funding to be used in FY20

12. Support Transportation Safety Initiatives – The City Council placed a high priority on the safety of its residents and visitors. Given the vast network of roadways in our City and our region, transportation safety initiatives could have a significant positive impact on the overall well-being of the community. The City of Newport News supported the following initiatives: (1) enacting a primary enforcement safety belt law by all occupants to include back seat passengers; (2) banning the use of hand held technology while operating a motor vehicle; and (3) enhancing penalties for violations of Texting While Driving laws when committed in a school zone or school crossing

➢ HB1811 / SB1341 – Banned use of handheld personal communications devices while driving
➢ SB1768 – Banned use of handheld personal communications devices in highway work zones
➢ HB1911 – Failure to move over on a 4-lane highway Class 1 Misdemeanor
*What Passed:*

SB1768

13. Support Regional Dedicated Funding for Transit – The City Council supported the collaborative development of a viable new regional funding model to support priority regional public transit projects. In order to be competitive in the global marketplace, Hampton Roads needed a fully integrated and optimized regional transit system which should be supported by an adequate, sustainable and dedicated revenue stream.

*Identify adequate, sustainable revenue stream needed to develop and operate fully integrated intercity high-impact core*

- No request was put forward for regional dedicated funding

*What Passed:*

HB2553/SB1680

Provides supplemental operating funds up to $3 million (DRPT) in FY20 to offset losses resulting from implementation of the performance-based allocation process adopted in 2018

14. Support Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) Study of Certification for Small Appliance Repair Technicians – The City Council of Newport News supported legislation that requested the DPOR study the need for certification or licensure of persons who perform small appliance repair. Improper repairs could be costly and posed a safety concerns for residents.

- No legislation was introduced

*What passed:*

HB2028
Requires DPOR to prepare an evaluation of any introduced legislation to increase or begin regulation of an occupation (House 90-7 – Senate 40-0)

Ms. Wilson advised of other budget actions of interest.

- **Industrial Revitalization Fund**
  - $1 million added in FY 20 for Port Host cities to rehab port-related derelict structures

- **Surplus Property for Economic Development**
  - Requires DGS to convey approximately 150 acres, of surplus state property located in York County, Eastern Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority for an amount not to exceed $1.35 million for development of the Hampton Roads Unmanned Systems Park. Authorizes EVRIFA to convey property rights for a solar facility for no more than $1 million.

- **State Aid for Public Libraries**
  - Adds $500,000 in FY20 for additional summer reading materials/programs or STEAM instructional materials

- **SRO Incentive Grants**
  - Adds $3 million in FY20 for SRO grant fund

- **Animal Cruelty**
  - Increases from a Class 1 misdemeanor to a Class 6 felony the penalty for cruelly or unnecessarily beating, maiming, mutilating, or killing a dog or cat (2018 package)

- **DGS Surplus Property**
  - Requires DGS to give locality or economic development entity 180 days for consideration before public sale

- **Enterprise Zones**
  - Increases from two to three number of times the Governor may renew a designation of an enterprise zone for an area upon recommendation of the Director of DHCD

- **Norris Bridge**
Establishes a statewide Special Structures Fund for maintenance and replacement of large and unique structures (e.g. HRBT)

- Unmanned Aircraft
  - Law enforcement may use unmanned aircraft to survey the primary residence of subject of arrest warrant

Next Steps

- Reconvened session (Veto Session) April 3
- All 140 members up for reelection in November
  - New district boundaries may reshape GA control in 2020
    - 25 House districts redrawn, moving at least 370,000 voters
    - So far, 3 Senators have announced retirement from the General Assembly (Dick Black, Bill Carrico, Frank Wagner) and 4 Delegates (Gordon Helsel, Riley Ingram, Steve Landes, David Toscano)
    - Senate – 27 uncontested seats
    - House – 60 uncontested seats

V. Comments / Ideas / Suggestions

City Manager Rohlf introduced Mr. Eoghan “Owen” Miller to provide an overview/recap of the 5th Annual One City Marathon weekend. She thanked the City Council for its continued support and participation.

Mr. Miller advised that the One City Marathon weekend of events were held March 1 – 3, 2019. He stated the temperature was perfect for runners on Race Day at 50 degrees.

Mr. Miller noted there were 2,600 runners in the five races (One City Marathon, Half Marathon, Marathon Relay, Maritime 8K Walk/Run, and Nautical Mile Fun Run). There were 600 runners who participated in the Half-Marathon for its first year. He advised there were runners from 35 States and 4 Countries (Canada, Brazil, Kenya, and Israel) which was an increase from 2018. It was great to see the One City Marathon grow with over 700 volunteers and 40 businesses that participated.

Mr. Miller shared that there was great participation at all of the One City Marathon activities that included:

- The Pasta Dinner held at Tradition Brewing Company (700 Thimble Shoals Boulevard) on Saturday, March 2, 2019.
• The Health and Wellness Expo sponsored by Riverside Health System held at the Denhigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard) on Friday and Saturday, March 1 – 2, 2019.

• One City Marathon Women’s Forum held at the Holiday Inn Newport News (980 Omni Boulevard) on Saturday, March 2, 2019.

Mr. Miller provided some highlights as follows:

• First Place – One City Marathon (Men) – Mr. Will Christian (first place for 2018 and 2019)
• First Place – Maritime 8K (Women) – Ms. Keira D’Amato (set a course record of 27:15)
• The move from Victory Landing Park to the Superblock on Washington Avenue between 26th and 27th Streets was a good move by consensus
• The need to revisit the Family Fun and Fit Day that was scheduled to take place at Piggly Wiggly (3101 Jefferson Avenue) in the Brooks Crossing shopping center and had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. The One City Marathon Committee was working on an alternate plan/location/options in case of inclement weather
• Youth Program Participation Award presented to Greenwood Elementary School
• Spirit Award presented to Lifehouse Newport News Church
• Operation One City presented to the United States Navy
• Director’s Challenge presented to the City’s Department of Waterworks

Mr. Miller advised that they were still crunching numbers, gathering information/data and would continue to do so over the next several weeks. He thanked City Council, City staff, volunteers, businesses, and all that participated to make the 2019 One City Marathon a success.

Councilwoman Woodbury questioned whether the City made any money from the 2019 One City Marathon. Mr. Miller replied numbers still being crunched, as invoices continued to come in. He shared that City Manager Rohlf stated the goal was not necessarily to make money, but to have a great event. Councilwoman Woodbury indicated she understood; however, taxpayers wanted to know. Mr. Miller replied he should have more details within the next several weeks.
Vice Mayor Vick advised that moving this year’s celebration from Victory Landing Park to the Superblock on Washington Avenue between 26th and 27th Streets was great. She commended staff on a job well done.

Councilman Harris advised that the General Assembly has designated the third week of September, 2019 and each succeeding year, as Silence Empowers Violence Break the Code Awareness-to-Action Week in Virginia. Mr. Cortez Higgs, Founder of the Catalyst Effect, LLC, an effective, “outside-the-box” faith-based empowerment training, coaching, and consulting company. He hoped that the City would do something locally to show support. City Manager Rohlf replied she would look into the matter. City Attorney Owens provided City Manager Rohlf with a copy of House Joint Resolution No. 630 and 1063 (is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Councilman Harris inquired about the Building Better Futures Initiative (BBFI) and Summer Training and Enrichment Program (STEP). He advised that businesses should be receiving STEP applications and registrations. City Manager Rohlf replied the City was in discussions with Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) to work in partnership. There were upcoming meetings scheduled with Carrington Consulting, LLC to finalize the report moving forward. Councilman Harris indicated that interested students had inquired about the program. City Manager Rohlf replied that in partnership with NNPS, the applications would be due between March – April timeframe. She indicated STEP had two components: 1) the youth under the age of 17 years old – partnered with the NNPS to include the 9 – 10 week program, to occur during the summer months, and 2) the youth 18 – 24 years old – for the out-of-school youth to work more closely with the workforce development center through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Grant to gain a skill-set and obtain permanent employment.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned whether the NNPS focused only on the 14 – 17 years old youth and how the NNPS would screen the applicants. Assistant City Manager Archer replied the City had not received the Request for Proposal (RFP) from the NNPS, but had been in contact with Dr. George Parker, III, Superintendent of NNPS, and requested a response. The idea was to serve a smaller number of individuals and focus on the outcomes, while focusing on the high priority neighborhoods with defined eligibility criteria and those individuals with barriers that would prevent them from obtaining employment. City Manager Rohlf indicated there would be a STEP program but not with 500 participants, the City could not effectively address or manage a summer program of that magnitude.

Councilwoman Woodbury indicated there would not be a long-term benefit or value to employ an individual who did not obtain the proper skill-set and become marketable for future employment. Vice Mayor Vick noted the individual may not be marketable, but the employment
was needed, especially those youth that came from a generation of poverty. The STEP program gave participants work ethics. Councilwoman Woodbury advised that no data had been provided for the five (5) years of the STEP program, although requested each year.

Councilman Harris shared his reason for inquiring was that some of the students were in the targeted Courthouse Green area. Vice Mayor Vick shared that the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism would have a Job Fair on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Fountain Plaza II (700 Town Center Drive) to fill summer positions. City Manager Rohlf replied that the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism struggled every year to fill summer positions. This was a transitional year. She believed the STEP program had been impactful, and the City had gotten too far away from the original intent of the program. She indicated the needs were there, the benefits were there, but wanted to make the program even more impactful.

Assistant City Manager Archer advised that the timing was perfect in coordination with the Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) with Summer Program for Arts, Recreation and Knowledge (SPARK) announcement. The City would incorporate STEP as a part of the SPARK program and would like to implement a training curriculum that could be used for in-school STEP participants in an effort to transition into one of the many career pathway programs.

City Manager Rohlf replied there was no intention to cut the program funding, but rather partner with the NNPS during this transitional year. She wanted the program to be more impactful and assist the youth that was originally discussed five (5) years ago that had a need. The STEP would be moving forward and City Council concerns would be discussed with the consultant.

Councilwoman Woodbury asked for support among City Council to hold meetings at other locations throughout the City. She reminded she had been advocating for this change for years, which would provide all citizens an equal opportunity to attend City Council meetings. She recommended three (3) meetings in the North District and three (3) meetings in the Central District. Councilman Jenkins replied that he supported the request. Mayor Price had concerns about the participation, and whether it would be cost effective. Councilwoman Woodbury replied it was requested by taxpayers and taxpayers’ money would be used. Vice Mayor Vick stated she could support one (1) meeting because no matter where the City Council meeting was held, it would still be a distance for citizens who wished to participate, and too many schedule changes could confuse citizens causing them to show up at the wrong location. Councilwoman Woodbury stated the City Council meeting would have to be advertised. Councilman Jenkins indicated that City Council met 21 times a year, and asked why not have 15 meetings at its current location City Hall (2400 Washington Avenue) and six (6) City Council meeting throughout the City. Mayor Price directed
City Manager Rohlf to review the request and get the approximate cost, personnel time, and benefit to have City Council meetings throughout the City.

Councilwoman Cherry inquired about the 800 block of 13th Street (she provided City Manager Rohlf with pictures), work had begun; however, the road work had stopped but not completed and the road was messed up. She further stated there were two (2) holes in the road on Shore Drive. City Manager Rohlf replied she would look into the matter.

Councilwoman Cherry shared with her colleagues, that there had been a resolution done prior to discussion as City Council. If agreeable, prior to having the City Attorney’s office write/prepare a resolution, which may not be supported, that it be brought to City Council for discussion and if there was consensus, then move forward. She noted any Council member could have City Attorney’s office prepare a resolution, but should come to some consensus around items before going the City Attorney’s office. Mayor Price replied the resolutions required the consensus of City Council. City Attorney Owens stated, under the charter, any City Council members could request that an ordinance, resolution or motion be presented to City Council for consideration. Councilwoman Cherry replied she understood the process, but because she respected her colleagues and their opinions, she would rather Council have a conversation on the issues before preparing documents. Should four (4) members of Council not support the resolution, that was time wasted by the City Attorney’s office. Councilman Jenkins replied he was guilty of that, and it was not his intention to be rude to his fellow Council members, but thought it could be better explained if details were on paper where thoughts would could be amended or changed. Councilwoman Cherry shared that the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission had much discussion and previously supported the Deployment of An Offshore Wind Farm Off the Coast of Virginia “regionally”. The City was doing additional work, how effective had we become as a Council if we requested a resolution for the City Attorney’s office monthly, which would be inconsiderate of their time. Council members should be more considerate of one another and discuss items first. Vice Mayor Vick agreed, she supported that request to have Council members discuss issues or concerns prior to requesting that a resolution be written/prepared by the City Attorney’s office, and inquired if an item was in the Legislative Package, what was the relevance of having another resolution prepared. Mayor Price replied there was a consensus for Council members to support that suggestion.

Councilwoman Woodbury shared that she had received calls about two (2) roads in Hilton area that had been gravel for over two (2) years. She noticed when she attended the Habitat for Humanity sites the roads were dangerous. City Manager Rohlf replied staff would look into the matter and get a report and status on the projects.
Councilman Jenkins inquired since the consensus was not to involve the City Attorney's office in writing/preparing resolution before discussion amongst Council, he felt there was value to having a written document and he could personally write a resolution, would there be any objections. There were no objections.

City Attorney Owens advised that on Thursday, March 21, 2019, at 4:00 p.m., the Newport News Bar Association would host a dedication ceremony in memory of the Honorable Barry G. Logsdon, in front of Juvenile & Domestic Relations Courtroom #1, a reception would held in the City Hall lobby following the dedication ceremony.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED 6:27 P.M.

Zina F. Middleton, MMC
Chief Deputy City Clerk

McKinley L. Price
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, tests:

City Clerk