MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
MARCH 26, 2019
7:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT:  None-

A. Call to Order

Mayor Price called the meeting to order, welcomed all. 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 Pastor Chris Hallaren, Grace 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 the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 6, Warwick United Methodist Church. Troop 6 was joined by members of Troop 11, Chestnut Memorial Methodist Church.

Scouts from Troop 6 included Kyle and Andrew Hughes, Ryan and Christian Brewer, Joseph Hatch, Julian Weeks, Phillip O’Connell, James Richardson, Montel Hagley, Ethan Williams, Demarias Markes, Tray Gargano, and Troop Leaders Ken Hampton, and Paul Scharsich. Scouts from Troop 11 were Luke Cullison and Justin Rogers.

D. Presentations

1. Proclamation: National Fair Housing Month – April 2019

Ms. Tricia Wilson, Business Development Specialist, Newport News Department of Development; Ms. Karen Wilds, Executive Director, Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority; and Ms. Terri Francis, Fair Housing Counselor, Hampton Roads Community Action Program, accepted the proclamation.

Mayor Price advised that April 2019 marked the 51st Anniversary of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, the Federal Fair Housing Act, which provided for equal
D. Presentations Continued

1. Proclamation: National Fair Housing Month – April 2019 Continued

opportunity for all Americans in the sale, rental, and financing of housing; and prohibited housing discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, or national origin.

Mayor Price indicated the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 added familial status and handicap to those classes protected by Title VIII for the first time in Federal Law, and added strong new rights, remedies, monetary penalties, judicial and administrative enforcement procedures.

Mayor Price stated it was the solemn and sworn duty of government, at all levels, to protect and defend the rights of all of its citizens; and oppose housing discrimination whenever and wherever it occurred. He further stated that illegal barriers to equal opportunity in housing that diminished the rights of some citizens, diminished the rights of all.

Mayor Price, on behalf of his colleagues on the Newport News City Council, proclaimed April 2019 as Fair Housing Month and called upon the citizens to fully support the intent and purpose of the Federal Fair Housing Act, and pursue policies and practices to achieve those ends, and extort all agencies, institutions, and individuals to do the same.

Councilman Harris reminded, at the March 12, 2019 Regular Meeting of City Council, he spoke briefly about a group of young men from Crittenden Middle School (6158 Jefferson Avenue), who were unable to attend the meeting. He was pleased to acknowledge their presence in the Council Chambers to learn more about City Government. He shared that he spent time with the boys on Friday night, March 8, 2019, at a Lock-In. Ms. Tarri Jones, 7th Grade Guidance Counselor, had a phenomenal program for the young men, who were able to learn how to tie neckties, and to receive empowering and encouraging moments with other professionals in the City. He highlighted the following young men, known as “The Men in the Making”: Mr. Antoinne Benton, Mr. Dayvon Bacon, Mr. Malcolm Banks, Mr. Jamel Powell, Mr. Jordan Cunningham, Mr. Jordan Watlington, Mr. Jeremiah Burger, Mr. Jaden Blount-Mack, and Mr. Eric James Patton. Councilman Harris advised that he had a session with the aforementioned young men who showed great leadership potential. He extended thanks to Ms. Tarri Jones, an awesome educator and school counselor for accompanying the students.

Councilman Harris acknowledged the presence of another group, entitled the Catalyst Effect.
E. Public Hearings

1. Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Deed of Easement By and Between the City of Newport News, Virginia and Virginia Electric and Power Company, d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia for an Easement Across City-Owned Property Located at 100 City Farm Road (Riverview Farm Park)

AN ORDINANCE 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 DEED OF EASEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, AND VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY, D/B/A DOMINION ENERGY VIRGINIA, DATED THE 26TH DAY OF MARCH, 2019, FOR AN EASEMENT ACROSS CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 100 CITY FARM ROAD, NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA. This ordinance authorized the City Manager to execute a Deed of Easement by and between the City of Newport News, Virginia and Virginia Electric and Power Company, d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia for an Easement across a portion of City-owned property located at 100 City Farm Road (Riverview Farm Park). At its March 12, 2019 Regular Meeting, City County received one (1) bid in response to a request to receive bids for a utility easement on a portion of City-owned property at 100 City Farm Road (Riverview Farm Park). The successful bidder was Dominion Energy Virginia with a bid of $1.00. The easement was needed to provide electricity to three (3) picnic shelters. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Councilwoman Scott moved closure of the public hearing; seconded by Councilwoman Woodbury.

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

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

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury
Nays: None
E. Public Hearings Continued

2. Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Deed of Easement By and Between the City of Newport News, Virginia and Virginia Electric and Power Company, d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia for an Easement Across City-Owned Property Located at 6940 Huntington Avenue (Huntington Heights Park)

AN ORDINANCE 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 DEED OF EASEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, AND VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY, D/B/A DOMINION ENERGY VIRGINIA, DATED THE 26TH DAY OF MARCH, 2019, FOR AN EASEMENT ACROSS CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6940 HUNTINGTON AVENUE, NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA. This ordinance authorized the City Manager to execute a Deed of Easement by and between the City of Newport News, Virginia and Virginia Electric and Power Company, d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia for an Easement across a portion of City-owned property located at 6940 Huntington Avenue (Huntington Heights Park). At its March 12, 2019 Regular Meeting, City Council received one (1) bid in response to a request to receive bids for a utility easement on a portion of City-owned property at 6940 Huntington Avenue (Huntington Heights Park). The successful bidder was Dominion Energy Virginia with a bid of $1.00. The easement was needed to facilitate the relocation of a utility pole that would allow continued service to area residents and the park. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Councilwoman Scott moved closure of the public hearing; seconded by Councilwoman Woodbury.

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

Councilwoman Woodbury moved adoption of the ordinance as shown above; seconded by Councilwoman Scott.

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury
Nays: None
E. Public Hearings Continued

3. Ordinance Authorizing Change of Zoning No. CZ-2019-0001, to Landlovers, LLC, from C1 Retail Commercial to R5 Low Density Multiple-Family Dwelling with Proffer Located at 14307 Old Courthouse Way

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN ORDINANCE NO. 5028-97 BY AMENDING THAT CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED, "ZONING DISTRICT MAP" (CONSISTING OF REAL ESTATE TAX ASSESSMENT MAPS 001 THROUGH 322 AND KEPT ON FILE IN THE OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF CODES COMPLIANCE AND PLANNING) DATED THE 10TH DAY OF JUNE, 1997, WHICH SAID MAP IS MADE A PART OF THE SAID ORDINANCE NO. 5028-97. This ordinance authorized Change of Zoning Application No. CZ-2019-0001, to Landlovers, LLC for property located at 14307 Old Courthouse Way, from C1 Retail Commercial to R5 Low Density Multiple-Family Dwelling, with provers. The proffered rezoning allowed for the development of ten (10) new for sale residential units. The request was consistent with One City One Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan land use map designation. On March 6, 2019, the City Planning Commission voted unanimously 8:0 to recommend approval of the request. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Councilwoman Cherry moved closure of the public hearing; seconded by Councilwoman Scott.

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

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

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

F. Consent Agenda

Councilwoman Woodbury moved adoption of the Consent Agenda, Items 1 through 3, all inclusive, as shown below; seconded by Councilman Harris.

1. Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 12, 2019

(No registered speakers)
F. Consent Agenda Continued

1. Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 12, 2019 Continued

   Vote on Roll Call:
   Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Vick, Woodbury
   Nays: None
   Abstention: Scott (Was not in attendance at the Special Meeting of March 12, 2019)

2. Minutes of the Work Session of March 12, 2019

   (No registered speakers)

   Vote on Roll Call:
   Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Vick, Woodbury
   Nays: None
   Abstention: Scott (Was not in attendance at the Work Session of March 12, 2019)

3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 12, 2019

   (No registered speakers)

   Vote on Roll Call:
   Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Vick, Woodbury
   Nays: None
   Abstention: Scott (Was not in attendance at the Regular Meeting of March 12, 2019)

G. Other City Council Actions

1. Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents, Including Deeds, Necessary to Effectuate the Conveyance of a Portion of City-Owned Property at 610-26th Street to the Economic Development Authority (EDA) of the City of Newport News, Virginia

   AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND THE CITY CLERK TO ATTEST, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS INCLUDING DEEDS, NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTY TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA. This ordinance authorized and directed the City Manager to execute any and all documents, including deeds, necessary to effectuate the conveyance of a portion of City-owned property at 610-26th Street to the Economic Development Authority (EDA)
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents, Including Deeds, Necessary to Effectuate the Conveyance of a Portion of City-Owned Property at 610-26th Street to the Economic Development Authority (EDA) of the City of Newport News, Virginia

of the City of Newport News, Virginia. To support the implementation of the Transformation Plan for the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood, the EDA had been progressing on the rehabilitation of the structure located at 2506 Jefferson Avenue to create a co-working space. The property line lied at the rear of the building structure. Through the design process, the architect identified the need for additional land to meet building code requirements and allow for ADA ramp access at the rear of the building. To facilitate the building rehabilitation and anticipated activities, inclusion of the required ADA access, and to support redevelopment efforts in the area, a portion of 610-26th Street was necessary. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

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

2. Resolution Authorizing the Formation of the Ashe Manor, LLC by the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, AUTHORIZING THE FORMATION OF THE ASHE MANOR, LLC BY THE NEWPORT NEWS REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY. This resolution authorized the formation of the Ashe Manor, LLC by the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA). In 2004, Ashe Manor, a complex for the elderly, was placed in service and was owned by the Orcutt Senior Housing L.P. Partnership. Part of the original financing included Low Income Housing Tax Credits, requiring a 15-year affordability compliance period, which had passed, and the investor partner and special limited partner, wished to withdraw from the partnership. In order to maintain the partnership and continue operating the affordable housing complex, a successor limited partner was required. The NNRHA wished to create Ashe Manor, LLC to serve as the new limited partner. NNRHA’s Board of Commissioners approved the formation of the entity at its February 19, 2019 Board meeting, and created such to serve to limit any liability specific to the project, and protect other NNRHA assets. To comply with Title E 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 entity. The City Manager recommended approval.
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

2. Resolution Authorizing the Formation of the Ashe Manor, LLC by the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority Continued

(No registered speakers)

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

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

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired whether the NNRHA had always been involved in limited liability companies (LLC). Ms. Wilds responded yes. The Ashe Manor, LLC was the first property developed by the NNRHA with tax credit funding. She explained, because Ashe Manor was developed with tax credit funding, the LLC had to be created. It has gone through the 15 years of its affordability, and those who invested in the tax credits automatically needed to come out of the ownership arrangement. NNRHA was substituting the new LLC, which was controlled by the Board of Commissioners appointed by the Newport News City Council. Councilwoman Woodbury inquired whether the new funding would be tax credits. Ms. Wilds responded that the NNRHA had not applied for tax credits to date, but probably would because Ashe Manor was over 15 years old and would need renovations in the kitchens. With the new entity in place, NNRHA could approach the State and apply for more tax credits to cover the renovations.

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

3. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute the Urban Project Construction Agreement By and Between the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the City of Newport News, Virginia (City) for the Denbigh Boulevard Interchange Justification Review (IJR)

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 URBAN PROJECT CONTRUCTION AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, FOR THE DENBIGH BOULEVARD INTERCHANGE JUSTIFICATION REVIEW (THE "PROJECT") (UPC#114752). This resolution authorized and directed the City Manager to execute the Urban Project Construction Agreement by and between the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the City of Newport News, Virginia (City) for the Denbigh Boulevard Interchange Justification Review (IJR). VDOT
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

3. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute the Urban Project Construction Agreement By and Between the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the City of Newport News, Virginia (City) for the Denbigh Boulevard Interchange Justification Review (IJR) Continued

would conduct a review of locations for a new I-64 interchange between Fort Eustis Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue. The report would inform and assist the City, VDOT, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in determining the feasibility and viability of approving and constructing a new interchange. VDOT required the City to execute a Project Administration Agreement and participate in a 50/50 cost share. The City match of $225,000 was available appropriated Streets and Bridges funding. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

Councilwoman Scott commented that she was excited to support this resolution as this action was for a study to construct a ramp (interchange) off of Denbigh Boulevard. She advised this was greatly needed in the Denbigh area to help citizens wedged between Denbigh Boulevard and Fort Eustis Boulevard. This would help alleviate some of the congestion on Jefferson Avenue and provide access from Denbigh Boulevard.

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

4. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents Necessary to Effectuate the Agreement Between the City of Newport News, Virginia and the Department of the Army for the James River Shoreline Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection Feasibility Study

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 BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS FOR THE JAMES RIVER SHORELINE EMERGENCY STREAMBANK AND SHORELINE PROTECTION FEASIBILITY STUDY. This resolution authorized and directed the City Manager to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the agreement between the City of Newport News, Virginia and the Department of the Army for the James River Shoreline Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection Feasibility Study. The City desired to stabilize the shoreline from 9300
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

4. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents Necessary to Effectuate the Agreement Between the City of Newport News, Virginia and the Department of the Army for the James River Shoreline Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection Feasibility Study Continued to 9502 River Road. The United State Army Corps of Engineers was willing to participate in the study. The project included a feasibility study, land acquisition, utility relocation, design and construction. The total cost of the feasibility study was $444,679. The City’s funding portion for the study was available from previously appropriated FY 2018 Stormwater funds. 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.

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

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

5. Resolution Approving the Issuance by Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority NNRHA) of its Multi-Family Housing Revenue Bonds for the Acquisition, Construction, Renovation, Rehabilitation and Equipping of the Ivy Farms Apartments Project

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 IVY FARMS APARTMENTS MULTIFAMILY HOUSING FACILITY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA. This resolution authorized and approved the issuance by the NNRHA of its Multi-Family Housing Facility located at 617-621 Adams Drive and 698 Dresden Drive. 617 Adams Drive, LLC desired to finance or refinance the acquisition, renovation and equipping of an existing apartment complex, consisting of 168 units, known as Ivy Farms Apartments located at 617-621 Adams Drive. In order to assist with the financing of the project, 617 Adams Drive, LLC sought NNRHA’s issuance of Multi-Family Housing Revenue Bonds in an amount not to exceed $16,780,000. NNRHA approved a resolution at its February 19, 2019 Board meeting for issuance of the bonds for the benefit of 617 Adams Drive, LLC and the Ivy Farms Apartments Project, and held the required public hearing. NNRHA recommended that City Council approve
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

5. Resolution Approving the Issuance by Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA) of its Multi-Family Housing Revenue Bonds for the Acquisition, Construction, Renovation, Rehabilitation and Equipping of the Ivy Farms Apartments Project Continued

the issuance of the bonds as required by statute and the Internal Revenue Code. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

Vice Mayor Vick advised that she was excited about the developer hired to make renovations, Genesis Properties.

Mr. Ed Solarz, with Genesis Properties was present and acknowledged. Vice Mayor Vick advised that she had visited the site. She extended thanks and commended Mr. Solarz for his vision. She indicated the improvements being made would add value to the area.

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

H. Appropriations

None

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

Ms. Rhonda Wagner, 107 Haviland Drive, Newport News, Newport News Public School teacher and parent, as well as President of the Newport News Education Association (NNEA), invited members of the Newport News City Council, and the City Manager, to meet with the Newport News Education Association to discuss Dr. George Parker’s (Superintendent, Newport News Public Schools) proposed budget. She asked that City Council contact the Newport News Education Association prior to the release of the City Manager’s FY 2020 Recommended Operating Budget on April 5, 2019. She distributed an invitation to each Council member and thanked them for their service.

Ms. Cindy Connell, 7 Wakefield Road, Newport News, a 4th grade teacher in the Newport News Public Schools (NNPS), and parent to two children in the NNPS in grades five and seven. She reminded that educators came out in force in 2018 because of the inability of the School Board and City Council to communicate effectively. She advised there had been great
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germane to the Business of City Council Continued

Improvement in that area. According to remarks at the March 26, 2019 City Council Work Session, City Council proposed a zero percent (0%) increase in the Operating Budget for NNPS. City revenue had increased, therefore City Council’s proposal of a 0% increase would not allow the NNPS to fully fund Dr. Parker’s Operating Budget, nor did it provide the approximately two percent (2%) needed to match the 2.5% from Virginia Governor Ralph Northam. A zero percent proposed increase to the Operating Budget sent a clear message that City Council did not value education in the City of Newport News and does not prioritize education in the City. Ms. Connell said this mindset was unacceptable. She indicated that City Council and the City Manager needed to go back to the drawing board and create a budget that fully funds Dr. Parker’s proposed budget. She suggested they create a budget that showed they understood the importance of investing in public education, and in children in the City of Newport News.

Ms. Jannie Bazemore, 1004 Hampton Avenue, Newport News, encouraged City Council to fully fund Dr. Parker’s Recommended Operating Budget as it was necessary for what they needed to get done. On May 8, 2019, Ms. Bazemore announced that there would be a “National Walk and Bike to School Day.” Many Newport News students would have the honor of participating because they had neighborhood schools; but Huntington Middle School students would not be able to participate because their school was boarded up due to a lack of maintenance. With City Council’s help, in a few years, students zoned for Huntington would have the privilege of participating in “National Walk and Bike to School Day” like other students in the City. Ms. Bazemore thanked City Council for seeing the urgency of getting Huntington Middle School rebuilt. She prayed that she would be around to see the ribbon cut. She encouraged City Council to get Huntington Middle School rebuilt and reopened at the same pace that they worked on the Shipyard Building at 28th Street and Jefferson Avenue. She urged City Council to provide the funds and move forward with getting the students back in Huntington Middle School. Ms. Bazemore concluded with her well-known phrase, “Huntington Shall Rise Again.”

Ms. Heather Marconi, 425 Nicewood Drive, Newport News, recalled, in 2018, NNPS requested approximately $5 million in funding from City Council for FY 2019, but only $1 million was approved. In 2019, for FY 2020, Dr. George Parker requested an increase in the basic level of funding. She indicated that Virginia Governor Ralph Northam and members of the Virginia General Assembly had also called for an increase in school funding, allowing an increase for teachers of 2.0% across the board; but localities had to “pony-up” one half or 2.5%. It was Ms. Marconi’s understanding that City Council would not fund one percent in the City Manager’s FY 2020 Recommended Operating Budget, which was disappointing. She advised that health insurance for teachers would increase, and many would leave the profession.

Ms. Mary Vause, 350 Williamsburg Court, Newport News, advised that she was a Newport News resident, an NNPS gradate, a parent of a child in the NNPS, and a member of the Newport News Education Association Executive Board. She advised that she also served on Dr. Parker’s Budget Advisory Committee, alongside the NNEA President, Ms. Rhonda Wagner.
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germene to the Business of City Council Continued

Ms. Vause advised that she was shocked to see that City Manager’s FY 2020 Recommended Operating Budget provided a zero percent (0%) in new funding to the Operating Budget for NNPS. She stated, if City revenue had increased two percent (2%), it was reasonable for the NNPS Budget to also increase by 2%. It was a fair way to share resources with the City’s greatest asset – the children. Ms. Vause stated, failing to increase the NNPS Operating Budget to keep up with the rate of inflation would be an injustice to the children in the City of Newport News. She shared that sixty-seven percent (67%) of NNPS students were on free or reduced lunch. She referenced Vice Mayor Vick’s remarks about the challenges faced by at-risk youth. An increase in funding for NNPS would be an excellent way to address this poverty in the City of Newport News. Public education was the great equalizer in a world that was too often unequal. Students living in poverty, and students of color, received significantly less per pupil funding than students from white or more affluent areas. She indicated that NNPS followed those trends, compared to nearby districts. Ms. Vause advised, if the City Manager’s FY 2020 Recommended Operating Budget were adopted, the NNPS would be worse off compared to their counterparts in Hampton Roads. This could be changed, but it would take the Newport News City Council to be heroes for the City, and asking the City Manager for increased funding, not only from the State, but also from the City. School funding in Virginia was to be a joint effort between City and State, and increasing NNPS debt service would not cut it. Debt Service was from debt owed from schools built in years past, and provided nothing for students, teachers, or staff, in the present. Ms. Vause advised if a member of City Council would substitute teach for one day, their viewpoint would change when looking into the eyes of the children. She asked City Council to instruct the City Manager to go back to the drawing board and make public education a priority in Newport News (a copy of Ms. Vause’s remarks are attached and made a part of these minutes).

Mr. Adrian Whitcomb, 316-54th Street, Newport News, shared three things of particular importance to the children in Newport News; e.g. schools, libraries, and parks. He shared an article entitled, “Growing up near green space reduced risk of mental illness.” which referred to a Danish study (a copy is attached and made a part of these minutes). Mr. Whitcomb indicated that there was something about forests, natural areas, and breathing clean air that appealed to all humans. He suggested providing similar places to everyone. He strongly supported keeping the former City Farm as a park because most citizens could not afford to buy a place on the water. Mr. Whitcomb read a few excerpts from the article – “What the study found was that living close to green space reduce risk of mental disorders anywhere between 15 and 55 percent, depending on the type of illness. Intellectual disabilities ad schizoaffective disorders were not affected in any way, but alcoholism, was strongly associated with lack of access to green space in childhood. Green space seemed to have an association that was similar in strength to other known influences on mental health, like history of mental health disorders in the family, or socioeconomic status. The effect of green space was dosage dependent – the more a child spent close to greenery, the lower the risk of mental health problems in adulthood.” Parks were needed everywhere in the City. He suggested it be made available as soon as possible.

Mr. Whitcomb suggested making children the first priority. He further suggested looking at the City of Newport News as a whole, and making it the best for everyone.
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council Continued

Mr. Whitcomb reminded about the Dream A Park Art Contest,” hosted by “The Citizens for Riverview Farm Park.” He advised that additional details were available at www.cityfarmartcontest.com, as well as www.saverriverviewfarmpark.com. The deadline for all entries was March 29, 2019, at cityfarmartcontest@gmail.com. City Council was invited to attend a display of the art work on Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 6:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula (415 Youngs Mill Lane).

Mr. Antonio Thompson, P. O. Box 413, Newport News, quoted Bible scriptures from Matthew 10:7, as well as 1 Thessalonians 4:16, alluding to United States President, Donald Trump, being the Trump of God. It was his hope that President Trump be re-elected during the next Presidential Election in 2020.

To the Prime Minister of Christchurch New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, Mr. Thompson advised there were no words of condolence or sympathy or pleas for peace that would stop Muslim extremists from retaliating for the slaughter of 50 Muslims in their Mosque (50 were killed in a Christchurch, New Zealand terror attack on March 22, 2019). He advised that every City in the Western World needed to raise their own Terror Alerts into the awareness of every citizen. All forms of terrorism and mass shootings plaguing the world must cease. He prayed for the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, to execute the war plan that God gave to him through Moses for all of Israel, in an effort to destroy the country’s enemies. Mr. Thompson advised that every City must prepare for a great recession.

Ms. Pam Hall, a resident of the Southeast Community, reminded, in 2017, the City’s concept for a campus to house technology, work force development, and recreation, but no Huntington Middle School, was publically reported as a possibility. She reminded, in 2018, Huntington Middle School was closed. In 2019, the Newport News City Council and the Newport News School Board unanimously agreed that there would be a Huntington Middle School. The concept of a campus continued to dominate the conversation, yet the funding for Huntington Middle School continued to be delayed for the City’s vision for property they did not own. No time line had been given. Ms. Hall advised that the mission for the Virginia Department of Education (DOE) was to lead and facilitate the development and implementation of a quality public education system that met the needs of students and assisted them in becoming educated, productive, responsible, and self-reliant citizens. The DOE mandated the educational and facility requirements, not the City. Ms. Hall indicated that it was time to step up (like Barack Obama did, when he pulled the country out of potential recession). She stated it was time to be the change we sought. Ms. Hall urged the Newport News City Council to appropriate and disseminate the funding needed because of the necessity for the City, and the needs of neglect by both parties. She posed the question, if not now, then when?
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments

Councilwoman Cherry extended compliments to Ms. Venerria Thomas, Director, Department of Human Services, and staff for conducting a Poverty Simulation with the Newport News Police Department (NNPD) on Monday, March 25, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Drive). Councilwoman Cherry advised that the simulation was impactful and eye-opening experience to the challenges and barriers that those who live in poverty face on a day-to-day basis. The exercise required focus on different scenarios of families and individuals. The lasting effect was that it caused all of the officers to include the command staff and front-line officers, to have humility. It also brought support, respect, and understanding for citizens who experienced poverty. Councilwoman Cherry extended thanks to Ms. Venerria Thomas and Chief Drew, NNPD for the opportunity.

Councilwoman Cherry announced, that the South District Your Voice Matters Town Hall Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2019, which was typically held at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Drive), would be cancelled to provide the opportunity to participate in the Budget Public Hearing, 7:00 p.m., April 11, 2019, at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard).

Councilwoman Cherry announced that the South District Your Voice Matters Town Hall Meeting would reconvene on April 18, 2019, at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue), 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Councilman Harris announced the registration for “The Heart of Giving” event which he mentioned at the March 12, 2019 Regular Meeting of City Council, was Friday, April 5, 2019. Interested persons were urged to contact Ms. Amy Jones or Mrs. Rasheena Harris, via phone, at (757) 266-7819, or at resources@thoginc.net. Donations of the following were being accepted: gowns, jewelry, racks display stands, clutches, shoes, mannequins, jewelry stands, makeup, shawls, stand along mirrors, glass counter stands, $5 or $10 gift cards; and free or discounted hair and nail services. The website for the event was www.theheartofgiving.org. The first 300 young ladies in need of a formal, that registered, would be invited to an extravagant event for them to pick up their gown.

Councilman Harris extended thanks to the local Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) for hosting a Community Discussion on Violence, a Drumline and Talent Showcase, on Saturday, March 23, 2019, at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard). He was accompanied by Chief Steve Drew, NNPD, School Board Member, Terri Best, and Council colleague, Councilman David Jenkins. It was a phenomenal event. Community leaders listened to the citizens as they offered up solutions to mitigate crime in the communities. He commended Chief Drew, who attended numerous events to share his vision for the community. He offered up astounding numbers and statistics related to where the City was as it looked to eradicated crime at the aforementioned Community Discussion.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilman Harris shared that he attended an Alopecia Awareness event on Saturday, March 23, 2019, hosted by Ms. Tieshe Matthews, Founder of Beautiful Kids, a non-profit organization which focused on alopecia in children (Alopecia is a skin disease, causing hair loss on the scalp, face and sometimes other areas of the body). The group, Beautiful Kids, empowered the children with the condition, letting them know they were beautiful inside and out, despite suffering with alopecia.

Councilman Harris shared that City Council received a copy of the City Manager’s FY 2020 Recommended Operating Budget at its earlier March 26, 2019 Work Session. He advised that members of City Council looked forward to continued discussion. He encouraged citizen to continue to be involved and engaged in the process. Councilman Harris further advised that he looked forward to sitting with the Newport News School Board in the upcoming future to get more of an idea of the needs of the NNPS, and discussing what City Council could do as far as allocating funds to the school system.

Councilman Harris encouraged everyone to be engaged, and stay connected as City Council worked as diligently as possible to ensure the youth, and mature citizens understand that the City of Newport News was a great place.

Councilman Jenkins advised that he first saw the budget proposal by the City Manager earlier at the March 26, 2019 City Council Work Session. He further advised that he was disappointed that it flat-lined the budget for NNPS. He promised to continue to follow-up and look forward to meetings with the City Manager and citizens in an effort see progress on that point.

Mayor Price advised that he and his colleagues attended the Friends of the Badge Expo and Breakfast, sponsored by the Newport News Police Foundation at the Marriott Hotel at City Center (740 Town Center Drive), on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Price advised that he and his colleagues attended the 31st Annual Boys and Girls Clubs Steak and Burger Dinner on Thursday, March 21, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at the Hellenic Community Center (60 Traverse Road). The dinner included presentations from the four Youth of the Year finalist, talent acts from several Club members, and an announcement of the 2019 Youth of the Year, who would then compete in the Region and State competition. Ms. Satinika Perrin was announced the 2019 Youth of the Year.

Mayor Price shared that he attended the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Hampton Roads Mayors’ Masked Ball on Friday, March 22, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at the Hilton Norfolk, The Main, at 100 East Main Street, Norfolk.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Mayor Price announced the opening of a new store on Saturday, March 23, 2019, 9:45 a.m., Rooms To Go, at 12550 Jefferson Avenue. He further announced that a part of the opening weekend’s sales would be donated to An Achievable Dream and the local USO (United Service Organizations), a nonprofit-charitable corporation that supported military service members and military families.

Mayor Price and his colleagues attended the NNPS Resource Fair held at the Discovery STEM Academy on Saturday, March 23, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at 1712 Chestnut Avenue.

Mayor Price announced that the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center hosted an art exhibit, entitled, “A Space of Our Own,” on Saturday, March 23, 2019, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue).

Mayor Price shared that he attended a Town Hall Meeting, hosted by the Virginia Department of Social Services and the Federation of Virginia Foodbanks, on Monday, March 25, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Drive) to talk about poverty in the City and what was being done to combat that.

Councilwoman Scott thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation, to hear information or to share information.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she and her colleagues attended the NNPS Service Awards Banquet on Thursday, March 21, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., at the Marriott Hotel at City Center (740 Town Center Drive). She extended congratulations to the NNPS employees.

Councilwoman Scott shared that she attended the Denbigh-Warwick Area Plan study on Thursday, March 21, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard). She indicated that the citizens in the North District were excited about the Plan. She encourages citizens to continue to be engaged. The study included many moving parts. There was a great deal to be gained by receiving the citizen’s input. She commended the staff and consultants who were involved in the process.

Councilwoman Scott indicated that she was honored to have representatives from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) who unexpectedly stopped by her North District Town Hall Meeting held on Monday, March 25, 2019, 7:00 p.m., at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard). They addressed the new Denbigh Boulevard Bridge Replacement project that would affect numerous citizens. The project would replace the structurally-deficient Denbigh Boulevard Bridge over Interstate 64 and the CSX Railway between Warwick Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue with a new bridge that met geometric and design standards. Information regarding detours, and the length of the project would be disseminated to the public soon. The project would cause a slight inconvenience, but would be impactful to help
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

alleviate traffic congestion in the Denbigh area, along with the Denbigh Boulevard Interchange Justification Review (JIR) Project approved earlier by City Council to construct ramps (interchange) off of Denbigh Boulevard. She extended thanks to staff from the City’s Department of Engineering, Ms. Jacqueline M. Kassel, Chief of Transportation Engineering; Captain Jill Daszkowski, Newport News Police Department, North Precinct, who provided a monthly update on what occurred in the City; Ms. Elizabeth McCoury, Redevelopment Project Manager, Department of Development; and Ms. Angela Hopkins, Senior Planner, Department of Planning, who always brings a wealth of information to the North District Town Hall Meetings. Councilwoman Scott extended thanks to all of the citizens for their attendance and participation in the North District Town Hall Meeting held on Monday, March 25, 2019, at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard).

Councilwoman Scott and Mayor Price attended the “A Space of Our Own,” art exhibit on Saturday, March 23, 2019, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., at the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue).

Councilwoman Scott advised that she was not present at the March 12, 2019 Regular Meeting of City Council, as she was in Washington, D.C. attending the National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional City Conference, held March 10-14, 2019, advocating for funds for Newport News. She advised that a challenge with the NLC Community Economic Development Committee, was to visit Capitol Hill and advocate with the Congressmen and Senators for funding for infrastructure and education, etc. A meeting was requested with Senator Tim Kaine and Senator Mark Warner, as well as Congressman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott. Congressman Scott was gracious enough to receive the Virginia Delegation, for which she was honored that he took the time to hear the Delegation’s concerns, and to offer some suggestions on how to better stay engaged with him.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she was scheduled to moderate a “Mom and Me” Talk, on Saturday, March 30, 2019, 10:00 a.m., at the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue). The first “Mom and Me” event was held at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Drive); the second event was held at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard), with the third being held at the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center. The events included discussions about issues that impacted woman, and provided an opportunity to learn to get along with each other, and understand one another’s differences, as well as to celebrate each other’s power, and to empower one another to be better women. She invited her colleagues from the South District. Dr. Sandra Cherry was an invited panelist to participate at the event.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that she also attended the NNPS Service Awards Banquet on Thursday, March 21, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., at the Marriott Hotel at City Center (740 Town Center Drive). She indicated it was great to be in attendance and to greet many of her former students from Hampton University, who were award recipients. She was proud of all of her students. She further advised that it was great to see the many Newport News Public School teachers, who had done many great things with the children.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Woodbury shared that City Council received a copy of the City Manager’s FY 2020 Recommended Operating Budget at its earlier March 26, 2019 Work Session. She felt it was very important that “thinking people” to get the details first before criticizing. It was important to have all of the information to be able to speak knowledgeably. Members of City Council had not had an opportunity to review the Budget. Councilwoman Woodbury indicated to be accused of not caring about the students was quite hurtful, because City Council does. She reminded that she had served on the Newport News School Board, been a volunteer in the NNPS for as long as she could remember. She encouraged citizens to wait for all of the facts and to weigh all of the facts.

Councilwoman Woodbury thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation, and speaking. She encouraged citizen to make sure they had done their homework prior to speaking on a matter.

Mayor Price announced that citizens that wanted to see the Denbigh-Warwick Area Plan as presented on Thursday, March 21, 2019, at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard), the presentation would be shown on the City’s Cable Channel Cox 48 and Verizon Cable Channel 19, immediately following the meeting.

Councilwoman Scott advised that the presentation could also be viewed on the City’s website, www.nnva.gov.

Councilwoman Cherry announced that a Community Children’s Choir of Newport News would be established. The first meeting was scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2019, 10:00 a.m., at the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue). All children, ages 6-12, would be welcomed.

Councilwoman Woodbury encouraged all teachers in the NNPS to encourage their classes to be a part of designing what the City Farm Park would be by entering the “Dream A Park Art Contest,” hosted by “The Citizens for Riverview Farm Park.” Additional details were available at www.cityfarmartcontest.com, as well as www.saveriverviewfarmpark.com. The deadline for all entries was March 29, 2019, at cityfarmartcontest@gmail.com.

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 7:59 P.M.
A true copy, teste:

City Clerk