MINUTES OF WORK SESSION
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE 10TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
April 23, 2019
4:30 p.m.

PRESENT: David H. Jenkins; McKinley L. Price, DDS; Sharon P. Scott, MPA; Tina L. Vick; Patricia P. Woodbury; Saundra N. Cherry, D. Min.; and Marcellus L. Harris III; -7

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Cynthia D. Rohlf; Collins L. Owens; Mabel Washington Jenkins; Joye Thompkins; Darlene Bradberry; Lisa Cipriano; Constantinos Velissarios; Shelia McAllister; Flora Chiros; Susan Goodwin; Florence Kingston; Everett Skipper; Veneria Thomas; Sonia Alcantara-Antoine; Louis Martinez; Jeffrey Johnson; Steve Drew; Steve Carpenter; Yann LeGouellec; Craig Galant; Alan Archer; David Freeman; Cleder Jones; Kim Lee; Eoghan Miller; Mary Vause; Rhonda Wagner; Dale Goode; Zina Middleton; and Josh Reyes

I. City Manager’s FY 2020 Recommended Operating Budget – Community Support Award Grants

City Manager Rohlf advised, in keeping with City Council past practices, she had scheduled presentation on Community Support Grants, related to the FY 2020 Recommended Operating Budget. She introduced Ms. Lisa Cipriano, Director, Department of Budget & Evaluation, to share the information and actual data on the Community Support Award Grants. City Manager Rohlf shared that City Council met with Dr. George Parker, III, Superintendent, and the Newport News School Board (NNPS) in a joint meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2019, to discuss the NNPS FY 2020 Operating Budget. Out of that meeting some members of City Council were not ready to accept the NNPS proposals. She indicated her willingness to answer any questions regarding the City Manager’s FY 2020 Recommended Operating Budget and the options given to the NNPS with regard to funding.

Ms. Cipriano stated that she would provide the Community Support Overview of the FY 2020 Recommended Operating Budget (a copy of the presentation, “Fiscal Year 2020 Recommended Operating Budget – Community Support Overview, April 23, 2019,” is attached and made a part of these minutes). She further pointed out, on page 72 of the City Manager’s FY 2020 Recommended Operating Budget, a list of the Community Support Agencies.
Ms. Cipriano indicated that Regional agencies were based on contractual agreements, with regional benefits, and generally based on an agreement on a per capita rate, or service per rate (hourly), which equaled $9 million.

Ms. Cipriano noted the FY 2020 Recommended Budget for Community Support Agencies were comprised of 35 Agencies, with individual requests for specialized services at $2.6 million in the FY 2020 Recommended Budget.

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<th>FY 2019</th>
<th>FY 2020</th>
<th>Variance</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Community Support</td>
<td>$2,589,089</td>
<td>$2,584,323</td>
<td>($4,766)</td>
<td>(0.2%)</td>
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Ms. Cipriano advised that the recent history of Community Support was level funded from FY 2017 to FY 2019 with the following exceptions:

Exceptions:
New Agency Support
- Community Free Clinic (2017)
- Behavior Health Docket (2019)
- Serve the City Newport News (2019)

Additional Agency Support
- LINK of Hampton Roads (2019)

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about the funding for LINK, as they lost the $10,000 grant a few years prior. Ms. Cipriano replied, for the most part, LINK had made up the difference. LINK had seen an increase in costs, the City wanted to see if placement and service provided by the Day Service Center would reduce the demands on PORT Shelter. City Manager Rohlf advised, if the funding for LINK became an issue, the City would be prepared to address those concerns as was done in the past.

Ms. Cipriano advised after an extensive review and application period, the City partnered with the Department of Human Services (DHS) as there were many agencies that DHS had day-to-day relationships with, either by referring clients or extending their own services. She stated approximately 9 – 11 DHS staff members reviewed the applications for the quality, quantity,
and variety of services that were provided. The agencies financial reports were reviewed, where the agency had been in the past, and where they were to-date. The requirement for each agency was to submit a quarterly report, performance measures, and determine where the agency anticipated being in the remainder of the year, as the City was moving into a Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) phase and took into consideration the main drivers of the City Manager’s Operating Budget for enhanced public safety, community revitalization, and community wealth building while looking at the funding request in FY 2020 for agencies that would partner with the City and provide additional services in the CNI, and particularly with the Day Service Center initiatives.

Ms. Cipriano noted the FY 2020 Recommended Budget for Community Support Requests of the 35 existing agencies, 59% requested higher level of funding and eleven (11) were new agency applications. The recommended budget was ($4,766) or (0.2%) less than FY 2019:

**Level Funded All Agencies**

**Exceptions:**

- Human Rights Commission - $6,000  
  - To provide additional services for housing, training, and conferences that foster services in the CNI area
- Boys and Girls Clubs - $15,715  
  - Critical partner in the CNI area
- Transitions Family Violence Services - $26,637  
  - Services to expand into the Homeless Day Service Center for family participants
- Newport News Public Art Foundation - $13,767  
  - Operating cost were critical with maintaining the structures
- Peninsula Fine Arts Center - $770
- Serve the City Newport News – ($3,000)  
  - Purchase tools and trailer – operating cost for Neighborhood Blitz
- Virginia Arts Festival – ($15,000)

**New Agencies for FY 2020**

- **THRIVE Peninsula**  
  - To provide for critical bill assistance for Newport News residents facing eviction and utility cut-off
Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about the Port Warwick Summer Concert Series. Ms. Cipriano replied level funding at $155,000.

Councilwoman Woodbury questioned whether funding was provided to the Virginia Arts Festival. Ms. Cipriano replied no, the Virginia Arts Festival had withdrawn participation from the Newport News World Arts Festival.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned why the City continued to provide funding to the Peninsula Fine Arts Center (PFAC) and at what point does the City stop providing funding to the PFAC now that it was under Christopher Newport University (CNU). City Manager Rohlf replied that CNU took ownership of the PFAC building. She shared that PFAC was a stand-alone entity and received minimal support from CNU. PFAC continued have fundraisers and asked only for level funding. Councilwoman Cherry noted that every year PFAC was discussed and she had a concern with the continued funding knowing PFAC was a part of the CNU project. Ms. Cipriano advised that the additional $770 to PFAC was because they had a partnership with the Newport News Public Schools (NNPS), veterans, and the community, that the additional minimum amount requested seemed reasonable upon review of the application. Councilwoman Cherry believed level funding should be provided for one year and see what could be done within their budget. Mayor Price indicated that PFAC does good work.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned how decisions would be made with THRIVE Peninsula and whether the churches would be involved. Ms. Cipriano replied that staff would provide information to Council. Mayor Price indicated, with THRIVE Peninsula, once an individual had been identified there would be free counseling services provided to prevent reoccurring events. He stated that a financial management company had donated their services. Vice Mayor Vick indicated that Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) had traditionally served and supported the Southeast Community, and THRIVE Peninsula could assist and support in the North District.

Ms. Cipriano noted the FY 2020 Recommended Budget for Regional Organizations was comprised of 11 Agencies, based on a contractual agreement at $9 million.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Regional Organizations</th>
<th>FY 2019 Adopted Budget</th>
<th>FY 2020 Recommended Budget</th>
<th>Variance</th>
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Ms. Cipriano noted the history of the Regional Organizations level funded from FY 2017 – FY 2019.

Changes due to contractual/per capita obligations:
- Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance
  - ($6,654) or (3.9%)
- Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
  - Per Capita, MCSC, MMRS, Sea Level Rise
    - ($4,763) or (2.38%)
- Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC)
  - Site Improvements and Rent
- Thomas Nelson Community College
  - Workforce Development Center
- Hampton Roads Transit (HRT)
  - $161,219 or 2.1%

Regional Air Service Enhancement, Community Free Health Clinic, and HRCAP additional funds were included in the Contingency for FY 2020

Community Support Contingency
- Base Contingency
- Regional Air Service Enhancement
- Community Free Clinic
- HRCAP – CNI Activities

Councilwoman Woodbury indicated she served on the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance (HREDA) and understood there was new proposal for economic development for the region. She stated it appeared to be a duplication of services with economic development. City Manager Rohlf replied it was a part of the new model not to duplicate services, rather compliment. Councilwoman Woodbury stated the HREDA had not brought any new economic development to the City of Newport News, many of the project were primarily done on the Southside. She questioned why the City was supporting both efforts (HREDA and RIFA). City Manager Rohlf replied that she did not disagree with Councilwoman Woodbury, which put into motion to do a complete turnaround of HREDA and its functions.

Vice Mayor Vick said she thought that HREDA had been discussed a number of years ago, if all localities had an Economic Development Authority (EDA), why put into a regional
program (HREDA). Councilwoman Woodbury indicated Southside localities brought in companies all the time, but for some reason, Newport News had not be included. City Manager Rohlf replied other localities would agree, it was a general consensus that maybe HREDA was not having the impact that it could have for the various reasons mentioned. The concerns were that the Hampton Roads region was falling behind other regions that were approaching things regionally. The fragmented approach was a disadvantage. Vice Mayor Vick indicated that the City was already a part of GoVA and the Eastern Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority (RIFA). City Manager Rohlf replied that the conversation was very exciting and what was seen with the progress with HREDA in a short time frame.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned why the City was providing HRT with additional funds and HRT was not offering efficient service. She stated there had to be more conversations with HRT about the requested additional funding while the services they provided were not efficient. City Manager Rohlf replied those were ongoing conversations with HRT and surrounding City Managers. She indicated HRT would be coming back to City Council with recommendations to address some of the issues and concerns voiced by City Council. Councilwoman Cherry indicated, from her prospective, HRT services were not efficient, and City Council heard from residents who were unable to get to appointments on time because of the poor services offered by HRT; however, the City would provide more money for inefficient services. City Manager Rohlf replied the funding provided were for the operating costs for the routes. Councilwoman Cherry advised that the routes were not effective. Vice Mayor Vick shared that all routes were not inefficient, because the Ivy Avenue was good. Councilwoman Cherry indicated the downtown routes were not good.

City Manager Rohlf shared that there was conversations about fewer routes to get a bus within 15 minutes, questions about the amount feeder routes or lack thereof, would more people be served with the expectation that it could take an half an hour to an hour to get to the destination, were citizens getting to the right corridors to address workforce issues, these were all part of the conversation with HRT. Councilwoman Cherry raised concerns and stated there was no traction with HRT. City Manager Rohlf replied those concerns were a part of the conversation with the consultant who would specifically review Newport News routes, give their statement, make recommendations, and the City would have an opportunity to raise those issues with HRT. Councilwoman Cherry stated those issues and concerns were raised each year. She asked what HRT was doing to address those concerns. She indicated the funding continued to increase, and HRT continued to supply inefficient service.

Ms. Cipriano indicated the discussions for HRT’s budget began in October of each year. She stated Budget Department staff and Ms. Shelia McAllister, Director, Department of Planning and staff, met vigorously with HRT about the City’s successful and unsuccessful
routines, structures, and what was proposed for FY 2020 took effect in October 2019. There were some better routes performing within the City and the $161,000 was part of the overall budget because Newport News was 1 of 6 localities that was putting funds into HRT operating budget. She said there had been very intense discussions with HRT on their proposed budget for FY 2020. As indicated by City Manager Rohlf, the $161,000 would take care of what would happen in FY 2020, but the longer range plans for the transformation project was still on the way, but still several months away from the different route structure throughout the entire region. Councilwoman Woodbury advised that Newport News with not the only locality that was unhappy and that had been made known to HRT at every meeting. She said other jurisdictions had the very same concerns and for that there was a Supervisory Board formed called Management/Financial Advisory Committee (MFAC) which consisted of the budget departments from the other four jurisdictions. Councilwoman Woodbury shared that anytime HRT did away with an inefficient route, a study was done to see whether it would be a negative impact on poor or disabled people in the community, and there was a process to change or stop a route, in order to provide more efficient service.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that HRT capitalized on being the only public transportation service in this area. Councilwoman Woodbury agreed, HRT had a monopoly.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she served as an alternate on the Hampton Roads Transportation District Board of Directors. The disabled community who utilized handi-rides had many concerns, which were voiced at every meeting. The fare for handi-riders would increase from $2.00 - $5.00 depending on where they traveled, those individuals had to wait for hours for the bus and schedule the handi-ride weeks in advance to get a ride. The complaints are from both the general public and handi-riders. She invited Council to attend an HRT meeting when it was scheduled in Hampton and hear the concerns first hand.

City Manager Rohlf indicated she recognized City Council concerns and was having on-going conversations with HRT. She advised more information would be provided to City Council on the HRT budget request.

Councilwoman Scott advised of the concerns in the North District. She indicated HRT buses did not go into community's streets. If a citizen lived two miles on a side street, that person would have to walk to Jefferson Avenue or Warwick Boulevard to catch the bus, in the Denbigh area.

Ms. Cipriano advised that the Community Free Clinic did not submit an application for FY 2020. The Community Free Clinic was a valuable partner. She indicated the City would get an application form the clinic in the near future and wanted to be responsive at the same level
as the FY 2019. She further advised that HRCAP requested $19,000. Once the City received the CNI Grant that funding would be needed to move forward. Those funds was being held in Community Support Contingency.

Vice Mayor Vick indicated she understood that the Community Free Clinic was struggling to remain funded, but she had trouble understanding Southeastern Virginia Health Systems (SEVHS) continued to grow and thrive as they worked with Medicaid, sliding fee scales, etc. Mayor Price stated the Community Free Clinic saw individuals for free without insurance and the Doctors volunteered.

Ms. Cipriano indicated the FY 2020 Recommended Budget for new applicants were as follows:

- Community Builders Network
- Hospice House and Support Care of Williamsburg
- Lucky Eight Brotherhood and Mentoring Program
- Mariners’ Museum
- Mosaic Steel Orchestra
- Parents Against Bullying
- Port Warwick Foundation
- Quality of Life, Inc.
- THRIVE Peninsula
- VersAbility Resources
- Virginia War Museum Foundation

Councilwoman Scott questioned what decision was made on the NNPS FY 2020 Operating Budget. City Manager Rohlf replied no decision was made to date.

Mayor Price indicated the City Council needed to give City Manager Rohlf some direction on how to proceed (i.e. did City Council wish to stay with the original recommended proposal? Councilman Harris inquired about the original recommended proposal clarity).

City Manager Rohlf indicated she wanted to be clear on what City Council wanted. The NNPS requested $113.3 million. The superintendent, Dr. George Parker added a new category of Cash Capital for maintenance and technology. The City would fund the NNPS request of $113.3 million from two (2) funding sources. Also, the City started leveraging some of the surplus funds and matching those dollars to get to the $2.4 million. The City’s first proposal the NNPS would return the $2.4 million from FY 2019 Operating Budget to the City, and would use that to fully fund the FY 2020 NNPS request, but Dr. Parker was not interested in that proposal.
Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about the Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-100. “Unexpended school and educational funds. All sums of money derived from the Commonwealth which are unexpended in any year in any school division shall revert to the fund of the Commonwealth from which derived unless the Board of Education directs otherwise. All sums derived from local funds unexpended in any year shall remain a part of the funds of the governing body appropriating the funds for use the next year, but no local funds shall be subject to redivision outside of the locality in which they were raised.” The NNPS could reallocate the money for other areas within the budget. City Manager Rohlf replied it went to unspent dollars but did not include unencumbered, which was some of the back and forth talk in term of surplus versus unspent dollars. The NNPS was spending those dollars to a certain degree, but the City said use this as an opportunity to work together and do some additional leveraging. Rather than spending those funds on smaller scale items, maybe there would be an opportunity to work with City Council to receive matching dollars.

Councilwoman Woodbury suggested that City Council approach the State, advising that the Newport News City Council wanted to allocate by category, and at that point City Council could say what should be allowed for school teachers and personnel raises. City Council provided the funds for salary increases to NNPS teacher; however, it was up to the School Board to give the raises. She shared, upon review of the NNPS budget, there was a surplus, not just the $4 million, but in other areas of the budget.

Vice Mayor Vick indicated the School Board practice was to strategize to not communicate effectively, but badger and get to the media outlets. Even if the funding was allocated, people have their own interpretation, with the same outcome. She said during the FY 2020 Operating Budget, it appeared as though the strategy was to badger, be belligerent, bullying and disrespectful. It was concerning to think that those who displayed those types of behavior at the podium were the very same teachers who taught our children. She questioned whether those very same teachers would be able to effectively sit down with the governing body to discuss their cause and understand. For FY 2019 and FY 2020, the budget process had been very difficult, and she questioned moving forward, whether their interpretation would be the same.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that she would like to see an audit on the NNPS finances. That would be a good idea.

Councilman Harris questioned whether that would be the best option, because apparently the biggest issues was trust and miscommunication. He shared that he did not understand how City Council and the School Board were in the same place as the previous year. He indicated there had to be a better way to go through the budget process moving forward. Without good dialogue, the City Council and School Board would be at the same place in FY 2021.
The joint boards had to do better moving forward. Councilwoman Woodbury replied, if City Council did what the School Board wanted, none of the City employees would get a raise. Councilman Harris asked what would be an option that would be beneficial for everyone, to get through the year, to stop this cycle next fiscal year. Mayor Price advised that the option proposed by City Manager Rohlf was a good option and a win – win, but not sure that was what the NNPS wanted. He reminded of the suggestion to form a committee prior to approaching the FY 2021 budget, there be some communication between City Council and the School Board with the available sources matching the needs, talking about long-term needs, as the discussion included the older schools. There needed to be some long-range planning on how the City would fund the needs of the school division. He believed the City Manager’s first proposal was to have the $2.4 million from FY 2019 CIP Budget to be used to fully fund the FY 2020 NNPS request putting the fund into Cash Capital. He stated the NNPS had simulations on how they wanted to move forward, which was up to the School Board, but it was up to the City to determine how and where the funds would come from, and the options moving forward for FY 2020, to avoid having the same problems in FY 2021.

Councilwoman Scott indicated the City Council and the NNPS needed to start discussions early enough during the year, so not to be in the same position FY 2021. She stated she supported the City Manager’s recommendation to put $2.4 million into Cash Capital from the Capital Improvement Budget. City Manager Rohlf stated Cash Capital would be included in the budget, and the funds would be available to appropriate on July 1, 2020.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned, before the City received the NNPS budget, whether the City would be able to project out and tell the NNPS what was available for the operating budget. City Manager Rohlf replied the NNPS would present a budget what they believed their needs were – it was their obligation; unfortunately the revenues from the City and all of the other competing needs did not always match. She advised the City’s budget was presented on March 26, 2019, and as of March 15, 2019, the NNPS was still crunching numbers. City Manager Rohlf indicated she did not recommend the NNPS Budget in a vacuum it had to be considered with all of the needs of the City.

Vice Mayor Vick advised that it appeared as if people did not understand that all departments submitted budget requests annually. The budget requests were similar to a wish list and if the funds were not available, the budget would be decreased. Mayor Price replied that once people realized what was available to allocate, the priorities were than on that organization to establish how to allocate the funds. The City gave a lump sum, it was then up to the School Board to decide on how the funds would be allocated. He reiterated that some type of committee or organizational format of approaching this funding request as the City had other needs, but was looking at how other localities used formulas. Other localities used different formulas, but
Newport News would have to see what formula worked. The NNPS had to understand that some years would be good and some bad. He said historically the City made up the difference and NNPS did not see that, which was unfortunate.

Councilwoman Scott indicated when using a formula, on a bad year, the School Board would make the same budget request. The City would be back at square one when using the formula if there was a bad year. Mayor Price replied the formula would be tied to whatever revenue the City received. Councilwoman Scott shared the School Board members she spoke to were in favor of using a formula with a caveat.

City Manager Rohlf shared there were a number of different ways to work with formulas, but had not done enough research. She said the devil was in the details. A formula today would probably give the NNPS a lot less than their request. The NNPS had a concern with debt services which was more of an accounting issue. The NNPS was never required to match or have the debt service funds to be taken out of its budget. It was a legal obligation for schools to return the surplus but probably could not have a conversation going forward about formulas without the issue of a surplus and whether there was a better way to do that. Mayor Price stated other localities had a strong revision at the end of the year for how unspent funding going to do back to the City would be used. That would definitely have to be a part of the conversation, and the other part of the conversation he did not feel was appreciated, was that some of the funds that the City received could only be used for certain items and could not be lumped into a percentage.

City Manager Rohlf advised there were too many misconceptions to be addressed in the FY 2020 Operating Budget. She reiterated that her recommendation was to give the NNPS below line funding requested out of two (2) different funding sources while giving City Council the opportunity work through the issues moving forward.

Councilwoman Scott indicated she had hoped that out of all the conversations would come some understanding; however, it seemed that it was still some areas of the conversation that was blurred and hoped that somehow City Council and the School Board could come to some understanding.

City Manager Rohlf noted that under previous City Managers, when times got bad, the City had to cut back. There had been drastic budget cuts within the City. She applauded City staff for having the discipline to making tough decision when necessary.

Councilman Harris inquired about the make-up of the suggested committee. Mayor Price replied he would suggest having the City Manager, the Superintendent, Chair of the School Board, Chair of City Council, and Financial Representatives from both governing bodies, as well
as Community Leaders to start discussions on both short-term and long-term planning. The Committee would be tasked with studying options, come up with suggestions, return to City Council to review and have input from the City Manager and Financial Representatives to come up with a solution and not continue to have the same problems with the budget each year.

City Manager Rohlf addressed to Councilwoman Cherry’s point the City should be planning at that level and the school should know what to anticipate or expect and City Council be aware and know if a major school or city project what that impact would be, in order to make better informed decisions on what the City was willing to commit to. Mayor Price replied the City starting discussing the CIP May 2019. City Manager Rohlf indicated the City had engaged with NNPS in the past to participate in the CIP process. Unfortunately, the City had this conversation before with NNPS, but before the City goes through the CIP process, the NNPS had adopted its CIP and school staff presented their CIP documents, which left no room for discussion – NNPS needed to be more flexible and engaging the School Board members prior to development of the CIP would be helpful and the NNPS could see the needs of the City, giving them a new prospective.

Councilwoman Woodbury shared she met with School Board Members Ms. Shelly A. Simonds and Ms. Lisa R. Surles-Laws and indicated that the State cut school funding by $1 million and requested that the City make up the difference, but when the NNPS FY 2020 Operating budget was submitted, it has increased by $2.4 million. City Manager Rohlf replied if the State proposed fund would not awarded, it would not be a cut in funding because the school never had that funding for the start. Councilwoman Woodbury questioned whether the suggested committee could request a NNPS audit.

Vice Mayor Vick said she supported Councilman Harris about committing to set quarterly meetings with the School Board and rather than talking at City Council, talk to City Council. The two (2) governing bodies of the City should be able to discuss the budget and other matters without negativity. By consensus, City Council agreed to set quarterly meetings scheduled with the School Board.

Vice Mayor Vick mentioned there was still the issue of rebuilding Huntington Middle School and the people and community was still hanging.

City Manager Rohlf advised, based on City Council conversation, and looking at the larger plan, staff was looking at doing a plan internally of a master plan basically of a seven (7) block area through the City’s Planning Department. The Planning Department was doing an assessment and inventory of the facility, resources, and programs. Upon completion of the assessment, the City would meet with Dr. Parker about the design and compare to the conceptual design the school provided. Vice Mayor Vick replied there needed to be a time frame attached.
She indicated if $50 million was too much and questioned whether the project could be sourced out to a lower but qualified bidder.

City Manager Rohlf advised, at this point with the CIP, the City had be hanging out to see what was happening with CNI which was a huge commitment and wanted to ensure that the City would be in a position to move forward with the recommended funding to put into the CIP. City Manager Rohlf indicated the City was still in limbo while waiting for the decision; however, the City would continue to move forward and meet to discuss the CIP. She shared that she would like to schedule a full or half day retreat similar to the previous Financial Outlook Retreat to provide Council with a future forecast of the CIP, debt service, tax rate, and affordability.

Vice Mayor Vick questioned whether the City could determine whether a school could be built for less than $50 million. City Manager Rohlf replied that the schools managed their own capital projects with the exception of the SCOT relocation facility. Councilwoman Scott thought it was unfortunate that the two processes do not get together as the City provided funding with no input. She also mentioned that the City was not privy to how the school selected the company that provided the conceptual design, or how they went through the process to get funds with no input for 900 students.

Mayor Price advised that there was a difference between the conceptual architectural reviews. Vice Mayor Vick questioned whether the cost could be under $50 million. Mayor Price replied yes, he believed it could. He shared that the STEM Academy was designed for 900 students and built for $24 million. City Manager Rohlf replied it would be lower.

Mayor Price indicated that consensus was needed for the original proposal – still stand. Councilman Jenkins advised that he was against the original proposal. Mayor Price stated there was (majority) consensus to move forward.

Mayor Price questioned whether there was any discussion on a proposed committee or if that was the direction that Council and City Manager would like to go. If everyone agreed Council should move forward and get the committee in place as soon as possible to begin meeting. Vice Mayor Vick indicated she had concerns about the make-up of the committee if the City was not involved. Councilman Harris stated minutes of the meeting would be available and should be provided to Council. He further stated the meetings should be open to the public. Councilwoman Scott requested that Mayor Price find out how the committees of surrounding localities were made-up. Mayor Price advised that he would like to bring back a proposal of a committee for the Council to review and make the appropriate correction to the way Council believed the committee should be set-up (i.e. membership, number of committee members, diversity, etc.). Vice Mayor Vick
stated the committee should work in conjunction with the proposed City Council and School Board quarterly meetings.

City Attorney Owens advised that only two (2) members of any governing body could be on the committee without it becoming Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) issue. City Manager Rohlf indicated research would be done and would provide City Council with details and options.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised she would like some discussion on categorical funding. Mayor Price replied the committee would review an array of topics. Councilwoman Woodbury stated categorical funding was a way of protecting teacher salaries, raises and benefits.

Councilwoman Cherry noted if she heard correctly that the City would get a report from the other committee about Huntington Middle School and would receive comments and suggestions from the public. City Manager Rohlf replied yes, over the next few weeks, also Dr. Parker and the School Board would come back to City Council with a timeline and update.

Councilwoman Woodbury indicated that the City should have an idea of where the revenue was as Ms. Cipriano provided City Council with a quarterly update of the operating budget. City Manager Rohlf replied yes that Ms. Cipriano provided a quarterly report; but remember that the furniture and equipment would come out of the City’s surplus for the SCOT Center at a rate of $2 million. The City had committed to purchasing the furniture and equipment. Councilwoman Woodbury stated in addition to the $39.9 million to construct the SCOT Center.

Councilman Harris questioned whether the School Board could be invited to the Financial Retreat, because it was very informative. City Manager Rohlf replied that retreat was to inform City Council of the City’s financial forecast. It had been suggested to meet every six (6) months with the Economic Development Authority, who was working on behalf of the City on projects and issues.

Councilwoman Woodbury noted she was appreciative that the Police Department, Fire Department, Department of Human Services and other agencies had funds allocated and took those requested funds, reallocated or repurposed the funds to make their department run efficiently. She was disappointed that the NNPS could take the same approach with their funding. City Manager Rohlf replied, during the budget process, they work hard to repurpose dollars. She stated there were a lot of good things in the budget (i.e. community, public safety, etc.) that had gotten loss. Councilwoman Woodbury indicated the City wanted the best teachers, best school system, and great students but also had to have a great Police Department, Public Safety and other service to ensure that the City ran smooth. Sometimes people choose not to see the bigger picture.
II. Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance (HREDA) Master Agreement for Regional Economic Development

City Manager Rohlf advised there had been some discussion earlier about Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance (HREDA). There had been some concerns for the past several years and even the private sectors were questioning what were the benefits and impact as a region. Simultaneously there was a conversation as a region that we were unable to compete with other region. How can we enhance our role as a region? Each locality had its own Economic Development Authority (EDA) functions. A part of the agreement was to restructure the way we currently do business. HREDA had already begun working with all of the EDA Directors in the region and met on a regular basis to compare notes. That fell under that umbrella of HREDA. HREDA would be the voice of the region, it did not necessarily serve the duties, but would have some of the same economic development functions but would also be communicating and providing additional support. She shared over the past several years, the City Manager had been engaged in the conversation with the Planning District Commission, both the public and private sectors. Each locality would be required to submit a plan as part of performance measures. An annual report would be provided on the progress made, what services were provided for the dollars the locality had put into HREDA. The formal agreement outlined the things that would be done for each locality and regionally what the locality could do to support the effort.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance and whether this was a reorganization or another bureaucracy. City Manager Rohlf replied no, it was taking the currently organization, they added some people, repurposed, had a consultant (IBM Study) and gotten focused on the areas we should be targeting as a region. They had tried to identify areas to focus on. She indicated our market was not land, there would be the Cities of Portsmouth and Suffolk. HREDA had an Interim Director and had seen progress. She recommended support giving Newport News an opportunity to be included and be successful.

Vice Mayor Vick inquired about the cost. City Manager Rohlf replied $179,000.

Vice Mayor Vick shared, as we talked about our children and education, she observed there were no blacks or women when attending the meeting. There needed to be diversity. City Manager Rohlf replied she was on the Executive Committee and actively involved in the process. Councilwoman Woodbury questioned if this group was similar to one started in York County. City Manager Rohlf replied York County started their own regional group and had representatives attending the meetings but were not official members and being kept in the mix.
City Attorney Owens advised that the annual appropriation was on the Regular Meeting of April 23, 2019. In the future should the City choose not to be a part of HREDA, City Council should not appropriate the funds and Newport News would be off.

III. Comments / Ideas / Suggestions

City Attorney Owens indicated Councilwoman Scott had questions about parking in cul-de-sacs – parallel parking was legal. He advised, if the issue was with larger vehicles parked, there were other City ordinances that prohibited parking certain size vehicles for certain time periods or two (2) hours in resident area. The Police could issue a warning or citation to a tractor trailer truck in a residential area. Councilwoman Scott questioned the impact to changing the ordinance to allow vehicles to pull in, and questioned what would be the impact to First Responders. City Attorney Owens replied it could be more difficult to get to, in order to get their vehicles turned around in the cul-de-sac. Councilwoman Scott asked how the City could come to something definitive. City Attorney Owens replied, if there was enough space between driveways a vehicle could legally park parallel. Councilwoman Scott shared that the problem was that most people had two, three, or four cars per family and that was why they were pulling in and parking in front of their homes and everyone else’s home in the cul-de-sac, which was creating friction among neighbors. City Attorney Owens replied that the neighbors could call the Police and the Police could give a warning.

City Attorney Owens indicated the other issue was that people were parking in their yards on the lawn. He shared it was prohibited in two (2) historic districts for people to park on their lawn, but not prohibited in other residential districts. Councilwoman Scott replied that working on a vehicle on the lawn was different than parking on the lawn. City Attorney Owens stated they could leave the vehicle on the lawn for several days while working on it. City Attorney Owens said people complained and City Council chose not to move forward.

City Attorney Owens indicated there was an issue with State regulations on mold. There was nothing in the property maintenance code or building code about mold; however, there were some provisions in the State Landlord Tenant Act but it was a private right of action between the landlord and tenant, not something the City would be involved with.

City Attorney Owens indicated Councilwoman Cherry had a question about people donating to the Police Department. He shared while they had the Police Foundation, which was a 501 © 3 under IRS regulations, specifically Internal Revenue Code – Section 170 – People could make donations to the City or any political subdivision for a public purpose and it was tax deductible.
Councilwoman Woodbury inquired whether anyone received a letter from Insight Enterprises, Inc., Peninsula Center for Independent Living, requesting support for the “Julia Holloway Memorial Scholarship Fund.” She asked whether the City would consider a sponsorship for Mr. Ralph Shelman, Executive Director, from the discretionary fund for a Gala, June 4, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the Hampton Convention Center. By consensus of City Council, the City committed to a Silver Sponsorship of $500.

Councilman Harris advised that he received a request from Richneck Elementary School Archery Club, who qualified for the National Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky to be held May 8 – 10, 2019, and were requesting a donation. He requested $2,000 from the City Council contingency fund. By consensus of the City Council, a donation in the amount of $2,000 would be made from the contingency fund.

City Manager Rohlf reminded that on the April 23, 2019 City Council Regular Meeting agenda City Council would be asked to consider an ordinance regarding “food vendors,” permits and regulations related to food truck vendors. Councilwoman Scott questioned whether there was a cap on the number of food truck vendors. City Manager Rohlf replied no, there was no cap on the number of food truck vendors.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED 6:12 P.M.

Zima F. Middleton, MMC
Chief Deputy City Clerk

McKinley L. Price
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk