MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
APRIL 23, 2019
7:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT: None

A. Call to Order

Mayor Price called the meeting to order, welcomed all. 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 Apostle C. L. Spells, Harvestland Ministries International.

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Councilman Jenkins.

D. Presentations

1. Proclamation: Public Service Recognition Week, May 5-11, 2019

Newport News City Manager Cynthia Rohlf and Ms. Monica Plummer, Chair of the Employee Price Task Force (EPTF), accepted the Proclamation.

Mayor Price shared that Americans were served daily by public servants at the federal, state, city, county, and town levels. He indicated that the tradition of outstanding public service was advance daily by 5,392 City employees who worked diligently to improve the quality of life for Newport News residents. Public servants, including police officers, firefighters, Public Works employees, Waterworks employees, and others, risked their lives each day in service to the people of the City of Newport News. Public servants included administrators at all levels – administrative services personnel, safety inspectors, computer technicians, human services workers, and countless others, who day in and day out, provide diverse services to the
D. Presentations Continued

1. Proclamation: Public Service Recognition Week, May 5-11, 2019
   Continued

Residents of Newport News with efficiency and integrity. Mayor Price advised that many
employees volunteered in their communities, and spent free time participating in volunteer work
and civic service projects.

In recognition of the efforts brought forth by City of Newport News public
servants, the City’s leadership and EPTF, planned a series of activities to encourage, support, and
pay tribute to the employees for their work, and memorialize those that had gone before them.

Mayor Price, on behalf of his colleagues on the Newport News City
Council, proclaimed the week of May 5 – 11, 2019 as Public Service Recognition Week in the
City of Newport News and asked the citizens of this community to join in recognition of the
many contributions and accomplishments of government employees at all levels in the City of
Newport News, and throughout the Nation.

E. Public Hearings

1. Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Make Offers, Negotiate, or
   Condemn, If Necessary, to Acquire, By Purchase or Condemnation,
   Temporary and Permanent Easements for the Lynchburg Drive Stream
   Restoration Project, and to Execute Any and All Documents Necessary to
   Complete the Project

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE
OFFERS TO ACQUIRE, BY PURCHASE OR CONDEMNATION, PORTIONS OF CERTAIN
PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY HEREAFTER MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED,
FOR THE LYNCHBURG DRIVE CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, TO PROVIDE
FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE
AND THE CITY CLERK TO ATTEST ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECT THE
PURCHASE AUTHORIZED HEREIN. This ordinance authorized the City Manager to make
offers, negotiate, or condemn, if necessary, to acquire by purchase or condemnation, temporary
and permanent easements for the Lynchburg Dive Stream Restoration Project, and to execute any
and all documents necessary to complete the project. The Lynchburg Drive Stream Restoration
Project scope included restoration and stabilization of an existing open drainage channel
conveying public stormwater. The easements acquired were for the construction and
maintenance of the stream by the City. Funding for these acquisition was available through
previously appropriated City funds. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)
E. Public Hearings Continued

1. Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Make Offers, Negotiate, or Condemn, If Necessary, to Acquire, By Purchase or Condemnation, Temporary And Permanent Easements for the Lynchburg Drive Stream Restoration Project, and to Execute Any and All Documents Necessary to Complete the Project Continued

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

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

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

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

2. Ordinance Amending and Reordaining City Code Chapter 45, Zoning Ordinance; Article II., Definitions; Section 45-201, Definitions of Certain Words and Terms; By Adding the Definition of Food Truck Vendor

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 45, ZONING ORDINANCE, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE II., DEFINITIONS, SECTION 45-201, DEFINITION OF CERTAIN WORDS AND TERMS, BY ADDING THE DEFINITION OF FOOD TRUCK VENDOR. This ordinance amended and reordained the City Code, Chapter 45, Zoning Ordinance; Article II., Definitions; Section 45-201, Definitions of Certain Terms; by adding the definition of Food Truck Vendor. This amendment provided a definition of Food Truck Vendors in the zoning ordinance. On April 3, 2019, the City Planning Commission votes unanimously 9:0 to recommend adoption of the amendment. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

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

2. Ordinance Amending and Reordaining City Code Chapter 45, Zoning Ordinance; Article II., Definitions; Section 45-201, Definitions of Certain Words and Terms; By Adding the Definition of Food Truck Vendor Continued

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

Councilwoman Scott expressed appreciation to City Manager Rohlf, staff, and the Planning Commission, reevaluating the situation about the Food Truck Vendors. She believed this was a win for the City of Newport News, and indicated there had been numerous ebbs and flows with the food truck vendors, and hoped they could be fully integrated into the City to show diversity and the types of food that existed in Newport News.

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

3. Ordinance Amending and Reordaining City Code Chapter 45, Zoning Ordinance; Article IV., Summary of Uses By District; Section 45-402, Summary of Uses By District; By Amending Permitted Uses “J” Retail Services

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 45, ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE IV., SUMMARY OF USES BY DISTRICT, SECTION 45-402, SUMMARY OF USES BY DISTRICT, BY AMENDING PERMITTED USES “J” RETAIL SERVICES. This ordinance amended and reordained the City Code, Chapter 45, Zoning Ordinance; Article IV., Summary of Uses by District; Section 45-402, Summary of Uses by District; By Amending Permitted Uses “J” Retail Services. The purpose of this amendment was to establish the zoning districts in which food truck vendors were allowed. On April 3, 2019, the City Planning Commission voted unanimously 9:0 to recommend adoption of the amendment. 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: Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Harris
Nays: None

Councilwoman Scott moved adoption of the above ordinance; seconded by Councilman Harris.
E. Public Hearings Continued

3. Ordinance Amending and Reordaining City Code Chapter 45, Zoning Ordinance; Article IV., Summary of Uses By District; Section 45-402, Summary of Uses By District; By Amending Permitted Uses “J” Retail Services Continued

Vice Mayor Vick inquired whether there was a way to inform the public. She questioned how the public would know which areas food trucks would be allowed. City Manager Rohlf replied the City would create a public information campaign to alert the vendors, as well as property owners, who may be impacted. Vice Mayor Vick inquired whether the information would be on the City’s website. City Manager Rohlf responded that the information would be placed on the City’s website, as well as on the City’s newsletter, Newport News Now.

Councilwoman Scott suggested asking the Economic Development Authority, as Ms. Elizabeth McCoury, Redevelopment Project Manager, Department of Development, assisted businesses with different issues. Perhaps she could add something similar to her program.

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

4. Ordinance Amending and Reordaining City Code Chapter 45, Zoning Ordinance; Article V., General Regulations; By Adding Section 45-537, Food Truck Vendors on Private Property

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 45, ZONING ORDINANCE, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE V., GENERAL REGULATIONS, BY ADDING THERETO A NEW SECTION, NAMELY; SECTION 45-537, FOOD TRUCK VENDORS. This ordinance amended and realigned the City Code, Chapter 45, Zoning Ordinance; Article V., General Regulations; By Adding Section 45-537, Food Truck Vendors. This amendment provided regulations to ensure that the operation of food truck vendors on private property would be allowed, while mitigated possible negative impacts to the on-site uses and the surrounding area. On April 3, 2019, the City Planning Commission voted unanimously 9:0 to recommend adoption of the amendment. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Councilwoman Scott moved closure of the public hearing; seconded by Vice Mayor Vick.

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

4. Ordinance Amending and Reordaining City Code Chapter 45, Zoning Ordinance; Article V., General Regulations; By Adding Section 45-537, Food Truck Vendors on Private Property Continued

Councilwoman Scott moved closure of the public hearing; seconded by Vice Mayor Vick.

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

5. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute a Tower Attachment Lease By and Between the City of Newport News, Virginia, and Creative Educational Media Corporation, Incorporated

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 TOWER ATTACHMENT LEASE BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA AND CREATIVE EDUCATIONAL MEDIA CORPORATION, INC. DATED THE 23RD DAY OF APRIL, 2019. This resolution authorized and directed the City Manager to execute a Tower Attachment Lease by and between the City of Newport News, Virginia, and Creative Educational Media Corporation, Incorporated, for space on the Ground Air Transmitter (GAT) Site, and space on the ground for telecommunications equipment, located at 100 Tower Lane, Yorktown, Virginia. City Council action was requested to approve the execution of a Tower Attachment Lease between the City as Lessor, and Creative Educational Media Corporation, Incorporated (Oasis) as Lessee, at the GAT Site located at 100 Tower Lane, Yorktown, Virginia. Oasis requested to remain as a tenant on the GAT Tower for its communications equipment. The new term was for five (5) years, with an annual rental rate starting at $23,759.58. Rent would be increased annually by an amount equal to two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the rent for the prior lease year. The proposed terms had been negotiated in coordination with the City’s consultant for cell tower issues, and were reflective of market rates for communications equipment transactions. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

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

5. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute a Tower Attachment Lease By and Between the City of Newport News, Virginia, and Creative Educational Media Corporation, Incorporated Continued

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

For clarification purposes, Councilwoman Woodbury inquired this was what was on the tower currently, and inquired whether there would be an addition to the Tower. City Manager Rohlf replied, yes, the ground tower would remain on the site located at 100 Tower Lane, Yorktown.

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

6. Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute, Any and All Documents, Including Deeds, Necessary to Effectuate the Conveyance of City-owned Property Located at 2102 Madison Avenue and 715-21st Street to the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA)

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 NEWPORT NEWS REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY. This ordinance authorized and directed the City Manager to execute, any and all documents, including deeds, necessary to effectuate the conveyance of City-owned property located at 2102 Madison Avenue and 715-21st Street to the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA). Consistent with the Choice Neighborhood Initiative, the City planned to convey two (2) City-owned vacant lots to the NNRHA. Once conveyed, NNRHA agreed to transfer the properties to Habitat for Humanity Peninsula and Greater Williamsburg. The lots would be utilized as part of several future Habitat home locations within the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Vice Mayor Vick moved closure of the public hearing; seconded by Councilwoman Scott.

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

6. Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute, Any and All Documents, Including Deeds, Necessary to Effectuate the Conveyance of City-owned Property Located at 2102 Madison Avenue and 715-21st Street to the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (N NRHA) Continued

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

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

F. Consent Agenda

Councilwoman Woodbury moved adoption of the Consent Agenda, Items 1 through 4, all inclusive, as shown below; seconded by Vice Mayor Vick.

1. Minutes of the Work Session of April 9, 2019

(No registered speakers)

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

2. Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 9, 2019

(No registered speakers)

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

3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 9, 2019

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Harris
Nays: None
F. Consent Agenda Continued

4. Minutes of the Budget Public Hearing of April 11, 2019

(No registered speakers)

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

G. Other City Council Actions

1. Resolution Supporting the Department of Waterworks' Application to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) for the Lead Service Line Replacement Program Grant

   A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR A LEAD SERVICE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM GRANT. This resolution supported the Department of Waterworks' application to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) in funding the replacement of galvanized iron/lead water service lines from the water meter to the homeowner. VDH provided grant funds for homeowners with galvanized iron water service lines to apply for assistance in replacing the lines from the water meter to the home. The service line would be replaced by a licensed plumber under a plumbing permit in accordance with Grant requirements. Waterworks staff will replace any galvanized iron and/or lead goosenecks (short 2-foot pipe) from the public water main to the water meter. This work would be accomplished under existing Waterworks programs. Replacement of galvanized iron/lead lines was a health and safety issue that needed to be resolved. Some homeowners, in older neighborhoods, may have galvanized iron/lead water service lines to their homes. The Grant was 100% funded, with no City match required. The City Manager recommended approval.

   (No registered speakers)

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

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired whether the homeowner was required to apply for the grant.

City Manager Rohlf asked Mr. Louis Martinez, Director, Department of Waterworks, to address the program in an effort to inform the public.

Mr. Martinez advised that the grant application was made by the Department of Waterworks. If an individual homeowner qualified, the Waterworks Department
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. Resolution Supporting the Department of Waterworks’ Application to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) for the Lead Service Line Replacement Program Grant Continued

would complete the necessary paperwork, and would pay the contractor hired to remove the galvanized line. Councilwoman Woodbury questioned how the homeowner would know whether or not they had a galvanized line.

Mr. Martinez replied that Waterworks had identified between 2,600 and 3,000 lead goose necks. The lead goose neck was short, approximately two (2) feet in length, or flex pipe, connecting the line from the main to the curb stop, or meter. The line sometimes contain lead, which made it flexible. From the meter, to the home, would be a part of the grant application.

Councilwoman Woodbury questioned whether the homeowners were aware they had the flex pipe. Mr. Martinez replied that Waterworks would have a map and would identify the citizens, and knock on doors. If listed in Waterworks e-mail file, the citizen would be contacted via e-mail.

Vice Mayor Vick inquired whether the citizens identified having galvanized iron/lead water lines were located in the same area of the City. Mr. Martinez replied that most of the lead lines were located in the southern part of the Peninsula. He advised that lead and galvanized lines had been removed since the 1980s when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) first published that lead should be removed. Waterworks went through strong replacement and removal of those lines, and completed the major portion in 1993, but since, when large lines were removed, the lines were then replaced. Approximately 18,000 – 20,000 had been replaced. The total to be replaced was down to 3,000.

Councilwoman Woodbury extended thanks to Mr. Martinez and staff for having this done so thoroughly, as lead was very dangerous, particularly for children, potentially leading to many health problems.

Mr. Martinez advised that the Department of Health was funding the program, and if Waterworks qualified, they would get on it right away.

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

2. Resolution Authoring and Directing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents Necessary to Effectuate the Master Agreement By and Between the City of Newport News, Virginia and Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance (HREDA) for Regional Economic Development

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND THE CITY CLERK TO ATTEST, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, THAT CERTAIN MASTER AGREEMENT FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DATED THE 1ST DAY OF JULY, 2019, BY AND BETWEEN THE HAMPTON ROADS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE, THE CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, THE CITY OF HAMPTON, THE COUNTY OF ISLE OF WIGHT, THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, THE CITY OF NORFOLK, THE CITY OF POQUOSON, THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, THE CITY OF SUFFOLK, THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON, AND THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH OF APRIL, 2019. This resolution authorized and directed the City Manager to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the Master Agreement by and between the City of Newport News, Virginia and Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance (HREDA) for regional economic development. Member localities of HREDA had worked collaboratively along with private sector HREDA members to create the Master Agreement. A subcommittee of City Managers and County Administrators worked to develop consensus regarding the provisions of the Agreement. The Agreement was considered by all HREDA member localities for execution. The Agreement established a framework for a regional working relationship in economic development activities that were cooperative, aligned, and adequately resourced. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

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

H. Appropriations

None
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germane to the Business of City Council Continued

Mr. Antonio Thompson, P. O. Box 413, Newport News, quoted Bible scriptures from Matthew 10:7, I Corinthians 15:52, as well as 1 Thessalonians 4:16, alluding to United States President, Donald Trump, being the Trump of God. He advised that United Stated President, the Honorable Donald Trump, would be re-elected in 2020.

Mr. Thompson suggested that all citizens come together - Christians, Muslims, and Jews around the world. He extended congratulations to the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, on his victory.

Mr. Thompson recommended 100% salary increases for the men/women of the NNPD, and the Newport News Fire Department (NNFD), followed by the remaining City employees, as “super inflation” would come, from around the World, in the future to America, and no President or Prime Minister would be to blame. It would be the fault of the entire World. The price of everything would increase 100%. Crime would also increase.

Mr. Thompson extended thanks to Newport News citizens who exercised their right to bear arms in an effort to protect themselves, their families and their communities. Support of the Newport News Foundation would help create a Citizens’ Police Armed Forces. The more lawful citizens with firearms, working together, closer with the Newport News Police Department, the safer the City would become, and bring an end to crime. He suggested putting an end to all prisons and jails.

Mr. Thompson advised that his focus was on the topics Treasury Enrichment and Public Safety and Security. He encouraged citizens to support the Newport News Police Foundation at www.nnpolicefoundation.org, or (757) 234-1570. He commended Newport News Police Chief Steve Drew, doing a great job, doing the best he could to protect and serve the City of Newport News, with the help of the communities. Mr. Thompson extended thanks to Chief Drew for his continued service, sacrifice, and commitment to protect and serve the City.

Ms. Janice Johnson, 954-11th Street, Newport News, advised that she represented Virginia Organizing, Inc., a non-profit, statewide, non-partisan organization with 16 chapters in the State of Virginia, which challenged injustice by empowering people to address issues that affect the quality of their lives. She acknowledged the presence of several members and asked them to stand. She shared the decision of the Newport News Chapter of Virginia Organizing, Inc., to investigate the Hampton Roads Transit Authority (HRT). She stated their concerns were about the dollars that the City allocated to HRT, the lack of citizen input from HRT, the service provided, and the accountability of HRT, or lack thereof, to Newport News. She advised, in 1999, there was a voluntary merger between Tidewater Regional Transit and Pentran to provide reliable, efficient transportation, services, and facilities to the Hampton Roads community. To date, the City of Newport News paid $17.1 million for services with HRT, and was expected to pay more in FY 2020 for 3,000 less hours of service. The survey that was begun
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council
   Continued

by HRT in November 2018, was due to conclude in May 2019. When attempting to take the
survey on line in January 2019, it had already closed. Virginia Organizing, Inc. forwarded an e-
mail message to HRT inquiring about citizen input; and were told that public hearings would be
scheduled. No hearings had been scheduled to-date, with the survey due to end in May. When
questioning HRT about the number of riders, and the maximum ridership, etc., there was no
response. With Newport News being asked to provide HRT more money, Ms. Johnson indicated
that HRT was not being responsive to the citizens or the City of Newport News.

Mr. Jeff Minor, 757-36th Street, Newport News, commented about the services of
HRT. He indicated the services provided by HRT were not up to par with what riders were
paying as taxpayers. HRT needed to be held accountable in order to better serve the public. Mr.
Minor advised that he had missed appointments because buses showed up too late, too early, or
not at all. The bus he typically caught, was to come every 30 minutes, but often times, came
early. His appointments were generally at Riverside Hospital or the family practice on Jefferson
Avenue. If his connections met appropriately, he could be at his appointments in 20-30 minutes,
but if not, he missed his appointments. He shared that he knew individuals who had lost jobs due
to the inadequate HRT bus service. Mr. Minor advised that riders did not know whether the buses
were broken down, or otherwise. He suggested there be a manner to advise the public of a bus’s
location. Mr. Minor also believed that HRT’s operating hours should be expanded. There were
individuals who worked late evening or midnight shifts, but could not catch a bus home when
their shift ended because the buses had already stopped running for the day. Bus tickets show that
the ticket expired at 2:00 a.m., but there was no bus service at 2:00 a.m. Dependable
transportation was a necessity to get to and from work for individuals to support their family. Mr.
Minor further indicated that HRT buses should be more “senior-friendly.” There were adjusted
fares for older citizens, but many bus stops did not have shelter, and it was difficult to stand out in
the summer heat, or in the cold temperatures during the wintertime. He suggested that members
of City Council ride the HRT buses to go to work, get groceries, to doctor appointments, and just
experience life as a person that was dependent on the transit system.

Ms. Jacqueline McIntyre, 861-33rd Street, #3, Newport News, a member of
Virginia Organizing, Inc., commented about the inadequate services provided by HRT. She
advised that the citizens without vehicles had to deal with scheduling and misconnections of HRT
bus service. She also shared that HRT was discontinuing many bus lines. She reminded that
citizens had the power to change the transit system, but needed the help of City Council. She
shared that buses did not start until 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, referencing individuals who worked on
Sunday, with a start time of 8:00 a.m. The last bus ran at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, and would be of
no help for individuals who worked on evening shift on Sunday. This caused lost wages needed
to sustain a better economic way of life. Bus stops were too far and in between with some being
one mile away. She stated that many bus lines had been discontinued. Ms. McIntyre reminded
that senior citizens were tax-paying citizens and needed assistance on the situation with HRT.
She offered to pay a day’s bus fare for any member of City Council in order to understand the
plight of those individuals dependent on HRT.
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council Continued

Mayor Price shared that members of City Council discussed the situation about HRT at the earlier City Council Work Session of April 23, 2019. It was evident that City Council was displeased with the amount of money provided to HRT, compared to the services provided by HRT. He also shared that Councilwoman Woodbury served on the HRT Board of Directors and would plan to share the concerns with the HRT Board.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that she wanted the citizens’ concerns to be heard by the “Big Wigs.” She announced there would be a Board Meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2019, 1:00 p.m., at 3400 Victoria Boulevard, Hampton. She advised that each meeting began with a time period for public input. She urged citizens to attend and share their thoughts and concerns. She had a number of bus passes to distribute.

Ms. Jannie Bazemore, 1004 Hampton Avenue, Newport News, reminded that approximately three (3) months had passed since the Joint Meeting between the Newport News City Council and the School Board, where City officials requested time to submit a plan for the Huntington Middle School campus. She advised, that was three months that the progress made by the School Board and the school division, had been idle. She indicated that everything came to a halt. It was unfair to the students that the delay continued without any deadlines for submission of the City’s plans. Ms. Bazemore shared that $2.8 million was promised for plans for the Huntington Middle School campus. As explained in January 2019, those funds ($2.8 million) were not tied to the City’s plans for other areas in the vicinity of Huntington Middle School. Ms. Bazemore questioned the reason for the holdup. She further indicated the cost rose for every waiting minute. She urged members of City Council to proceed on the Huntington Middle School project, or remove themselves from the project. She advised that funds were needed now, not in five (5) years. The Huntington Middle School campus should be a complete project two – three (2-3) years, but there would be no qualms if done in less time. Ms. Bazemore concluded with her signature phrase, “Huntington (Middle School) would rise again.”

Ms. Pam Hall, Southeast Community, Newport News, reminded of Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado and Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where teens went on a shooting spree, and numerous students were killed. She expressed her opinion that education and the safety of children was paramount. She urged members of City Council to appropriate and vote to disperse funding for Huntington Middle School. She advised that City Council’s vision had yet to be publicly available, their vision should be adapted for the community center to complement the School Board’s proposal for Huntington Middle School. She reminded that the citizens and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that there would be a new middle school. She indicated it was time to curtail the rhetoric and begin implementation. Ms. Hall urged City Council to invest in the future of Newport News by investing in the children and the educators.

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), advised that the Newport News Education Association (NNEA), in conjunction with the
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germene to the Business of City Council
Continued

Virginia Education Association (VEA) took an in depth look at the City’s Operating Budget. She shared what was found, looking at priorities, perception, accountability, and responsibility. Regarding priorities, Ms. Wagner shared, the NNPS, and the children, according to the City’s budget documents, were not a priority, as the strategic priorities used to drive the City’s Operating Budget, did not include schools. Ms. Wagner stated, what was not prioritized, was not funded. She indicated that schools had a direct impact on the strategic priority of economic development, directly improving the high school graduation rate, and increasing the number of Industry Certifications earned in public schools; which indirectly affected this priority by increasing the number of college graduated in the community. When looking at the City’s stance on public education, it was observed that funding for schools had consistently decreased, down to the 24.2% in the FY 2020 City Manager’s Recommended Operating Budget, which did not show that schools were a priority. She advised the downward trend in the Required Local Effort dropped the budget to 94.8% instead of 114% in 2018, which was the opposite of the rhetoric from some members of City Council.

Mr. John Armstrong, 8 Buckroe Avenue, Hampton, continued with NNEA statement – looking at perceptions – beginning with the General Fund Expenditures. When comparing the 2019 budget to the proposed 2020 budget, there were six (6) categories that received less money than FY 2019, averaging a 1.1% decrease. He pointed out there were 13 categories proposed to receive more funding, with an average increase of 3.2%. With level funding, the schools did not fall into either category. Mr. Armstrong indicated that level funding should not be a consideration when the Stated added an addition 5% raise for Standards of Quality (SOQ) funded positions. It must be matched to get the $5.5 million State match. He reminded that the City did not provide additional matching funds; but the NNPS did, from what they were given, although the decision resulted in fewer services. Mr. Armstrong indicated the NNPS could not absorb a five percent (5%) pay increase without matching City funds. He suggested the City follow the words of City Manager Rohlf, “A competitive employee compensation program is extremely important to our operations and I will continue to monitor our salaries and benefits to ensure that we are remaining viable within the market and make adjustments as necessary and appropriate.” The NNPS was trying to do the same without help from the City.

Mr. Samuel L. Eure, Jr., a member of the NNEA, 302 Penrith Crossing, Yorktown, advised that competitive salaries were critical in the midst of a teacher shortage. He stated the Nation, and the State faced a critical shortage, particularly in the areas of CTE, math and technology, as well as Special Education. Surrounding states, Maryland and Tennessee were especially hit by the shortage, and had a large percentage of teachers who were inexperienced or provisional. Numerous school divisions had stepped up efforts in overall funding for education, and specifically made sure their teachers were being taken care of. The County of Matthews proposed a 13% salary increase. The City of Newport News was giving a two percent (2%) merit-based pay increase to its employees, which matched up with the more than two percent (2%) rise in revenue. Mr. Eure reminded that Dr. Parker’s presentation emphasized that 86.5% of his costs were Personnel and Benefits. Mr. Eure observed in looking at the General Fund Department
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germane to the Business of City Council

Continued

Summaries and comparing FY 2019 to FY 2020, City Manager Rolhl had a $238,641 increase, or a 16.8% increase. General Administration had a $435,533 increase, or an 8.5%, and Information Technology had a $660,105 increase, or a 3.2% increase. Mr. Eure urged City Council to give the NNPS what was reasonable and fair.

Ms. Shannon Puckett Adams, 17-C Belles Cove Drive, Poquoson, continued with NNEA statement – looking at accountability and responsibility. She indicated that teachers and other school employees were held to an accountability standard that could not be imagined. She stated that collectively, we all must do better for the children. She asked City Council to stop playing on the teachers’ dedication to the profession, and love for the children. She advised that educators were accountable. She shared that Mr. Sam Eure talked and listed to all school employees, e.g., custodians, para-educators, security personnel, and school counselors, all who had stories to tell about debt and having to work outside of school. Ms. Adams inquired whether members of City Council had spoken with school employees. She encouraged Councilman Harris to talk about his average day and how much responsibility was dumped on him and other school counselors, as well as whether he was meeting the needs of his students. Ms. Adams questioned whether government officials were being responsible. She urged City Council to fund education like society depending on it. She stated the citizens were speaking clearly, and inquired whether they were listening.

A copy of the remarks made by Ms. Wagner, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Eure, and Ms. Adams is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Adrian Whitcomb, 316-54th Street, Newport News, shared that he sometimes had to use the services of HRT, which was more economical, but advised citizens who caught a bus, should have plenty of time, citing it took one hour to get from the Newport News Shipyard to the Denbigh community.

Regarding the NNPS, Mr. Whitcomb suggested making the City the best City it could be, which must include the schools. He advised the NNPS must remain competitive with other school divisions throughout the State.

Regarding Parks, Mr. Whitcomb shared that he attended Councilwoman Scott’s North District Town Hall Meeting, held Monday, April 22, 2019, at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard). The focus was on traffic, which was a problem throughout the City, particularly if on a bicycle, or was a pedestrian. The streets were narrow in some community, and without sidewalks. He advised that he visited the Stoney Run Athletic Complex following the North District Town Hall Meeting.

Mr. Whitcomb stayed at the Stoney Run Athletic Complex watching a softball game until after 10:00 p.m., which showed him the need for more ball fields around the City.
II. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council Continued

Mr. Whitcomb advised that the old City Farm property was the best site to maintain the waterfront for the public for all citizens, not just a few. He encouraged members of City Council to travel to places that citizens traveled, to experience life as regular citizens, which was how they would learn what the City needed.

Mr. Roy Fuller, 81 Stanley Drive, Newport News, expressed support for bus drivers. He advocated for a salary increase for teachers and staff to allow them to get above water with their finances. Some bus drivers had two jobs because they could not afford housing or other amenities, and some quit their jobs. He asked for City Council support for the bus drivers to show they cared.

Ms. Mary Vause, 350 Williamsburg Court, Newport News, began by debunking the surplus fund claim which she heard repeatedly at City Council Work Sessions. She indicated that NNPS surplus funds were not a true surplus, but badly needed money for NNPS that was well spent on student technology and on building repair and maintenance for the City's aging school buildings that were on average of 50 years old. The proposal to fund the underfunded NNPS Operating Budget from the also underfunded NNPS CIP Budget, was unfair to the 28,000 public school children in Newport News who attended school buildings that were an average of 50 years old. The buildings needed the so-called surplus funds to get roofs repaired and parking lots re-surfaced. She shared concerns with funding the additional $2.4 million that NNPS students needed out of the City’s CIP budget as was proposed at the Joint School Board and City Council meeting on April 16, 2019 and at the earlier City Council Work Session of April 23, 2019. The CIP funding proposed by City Manager Rohlf was one-time funding, but the additional $2.4 million was for NNPS salary increases and for critically needed new recurring positions to benefit the students; e.g. school security officers, school counselors, social workers, ESL (English as a Second Language) teachers and staff for the rapidly growing ESL population. Recurrent funding was needed for the desperately needed recurrent positions. What will happened during the next budget cycle? The process would repeat in FY 2021 unless City Council took real action to better fund NNPS in the long-term. Ms. Vause advised that teachers would continue to advocate for better school funding for NNPS. She asked City Council members to imagine how they would want their children in public schools funded. She indicated investing in the children was best for the community and the City. She urged members of City Council to take real action and do the right thing for children in Newport News, not one-time funding, but a plan to better fund the NNPS, as it was a way to protect their Council seats in 2020 and 2022 because funding parking garages over public school children was not an acceptable position.

Mr. Dion Witherspoon, 926-19th Street, Newport News, expressed support for the Huntington High School Alumni Association, specifically regarding the issue of rebuilding Huntington Middle School. Having been born and raised in the City of Newport News, Mr. Witherspoon advised that he had the privilege of having family members (mother, father, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends) attend Huntington High School. He witnessed the rich tradition that was associated with the vital establishment in the community. He had participated in
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council

Continued

various functions held by the Huntington Alumni Association, giving him the opportunity to
experience the great pride and commitment that the alumni had in the history of the school and
the individuals connected with it. The rebuilding of Huntington Middle School was dear to the
Huntington High School Alumni Association, their families, and the community, and should be
brought to the forefront concerning matters of the City government and not held off or delayed
further. He encouraged City Council to provide the children of the Southeast Community a
suitable school environment to promote appropriate character, leadership, and education, while
gaining vital insight into the rich tradition associated with Huntington High School and the City
of Newport News.

Mr. James Lovett, 25 Riverlands Drive, Apt. B, Newport News, questioned how
long the citizens of Newport News in the Southeast Community would have to wait to see the
rebuilding of Huntington Middle School. He indicated the southeast area needed a STEM
Academy Middle School to be located at 3401 Orcutt Avenue. He understood everything else
that was needed in that area, but the main concentration should be on rebuilding Huntington
Middle School as soon as possible.

that she was proud of Mayor Price and his achievements in his service to the Southeast
Community. She stated the Southeast Community seemed to be last on the totem pole. Her heart
was filled for green space, parks and recreation, the teachers, and the School Board. Ms. Lovett
shared that she was a product of military life, and having lived in different states, and attending
different schools, both overseas and in the United States, and observed there was always a
friendship comraderie that combined other cities in an attempt to make their City the best. The
City Councils and the School Boards worked together and helped, planned, and built. She was
sure that City Council had a great plan and hoped staff would get behind them to assist. She
advised the teachers, schools, and children were important. She suggested they not listen to the
City Manager, but think for themselves.

J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments

Councilman Jenkins expressed support for the FY 2019-2020 Proposed NNPS
Operating Budget being included in the Operating Budget of Newport News 100%. He indicated
that he had been involved in the fight for three years, and did not want to see it go on any longer,
or to see that NNPS have one penny less. He further indicated that schools were important to the
community. Children received one chance to get a great education while in school. The teachers
and support staff needed help as they were paying for school supplies out of pocket and often
taking work home. Quality education improved the workforce. Focus on education attracted new
business to the City. New business improved the City’s tax base. Good schools improved the
City’s real estate values. Improved real estate values also improved the tax base. Councilman
Jenkins indicated a commitment to education in a positive manner, improved the City’s image.
He further indicated that education reduced the need for public assistance and reduced crime in
the City. Education allowed children to meet their fullest potential. He stated an improved tax base would allow for more parks, schools, and public services, which was needed in the City of Newport News.

Councilman Jenkins recalled the slogan for the United Negro College Fund, “A mind is a terrible thing to waste.” The advertisement elaborated by saying “people were born every day who could cure disease, make peace, create art, abolish injustice, and end hunger, but they would probably not get a chance to do these things without an education.” Councilman Jenkins indicated that he may be the only member of City Council that would vote against the budget, and shared another quote from the late Robert F. Kennedy, “Only those who dare to fail greatly, can ever achieve greatly.”

Mayor Price announced the 11th Annual Community Empowerment Fair was scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at Heritage High School (5800 Marshall Avenue). The event was free and open to the public. Presented by the 20 Pearls Foundation, Incorporated, Riverside Health System, Heritage High School, and Newport News Public Schools Family and Community Engagement Specialists, this fair would include over 90 exhibitors, various food trucks, face painting, games and more. There would also be vehicles to explore such as the NNPD Bearcat.

Mayor Price announced the Real Deal High School Classic, a track and field meet, sponsored by the Norfolk Real Deal Track Club, was scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., at Todd Stadium (12465 Warwick Boulevard), where over 1,400 male and female athletes, representing 45 high schools across the State of Virginia.

Mayor Price advised that the final Concert in the Port Warwick Jazz on the Square series would be held on Sunday, April 28, 2019, from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. The performance was by the Jennifer Gammill Quartet, in partnership with the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center and the Ella Fitzgerald Music Festival.

Mayor Price announced that the 30th Newport News Children’s Festival of Friends would be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., at Newport News Park (at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Ft. Eustis Boulevard). The festival featured over 100 hands-on activities and attractions to include make-and-take crafts.

Mayor Price extended a “shout out” to Newport News native, Mr. Frankie Faison, a character on the hit NBC television show, “The Village,” with the role of Superintendent. Mr. Faison was an Elementary and High School Classmate of Mayor Price born and raised in Newport News, but returns often to the City of Newport News to visit.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Scott thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation, to hear information or to share information. Even when disagreeing, Councilwoman Scott advised that she always respected their opinions, thoughts and ideas. She advised that she was not present at the April 9, 2019 City Council meetings as she was in court handling Peninsula Airport Commission (PAC) business, as Chair of the PAC. She did read the minutes, and heard what the citizens said and understood their hearts were in the right place regarding the schools and the community.

Councilwoman Scott thanked Mr. Everett Skipper, Director, Department of Engineering, for serving as guest speaker at the North District Town Hall Meeting, held Monday, April 22, 2019, 7:00 p.m., at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard).

Vice Mayor Vick addressed Ms. Janice Johnson, member of Virginia Organizing, Inc., advising that she admired Ms. Johnson’s advocacy. She expressed thanks to all of the members of Virginia Organizing for their attendance and participation. She indicated that she shared some of the same sentiments about HRT. She advised that she purchased a vehicle because of the slow bus service.

Vice Mayor Vick wished members of the City Clerk’s Office, “Happy Administrative Professionals Day.” She advised that the Clerks worked hard for members of City Council. She commended Ms. Zina Middleton, Chief Deputy City Clerk, for her work in the Clerk’s Office, and the manner in which she handled citizens.

Vice Mayor Vick announced the 31st Annual Clean the Bay Day, scheduled for Saturday, June 1, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., at hundreds of sites across Virginia. She encouraged citizen to join this Virginian tradition and help improve their natural environment. This was Virginia’s single largest day of litter removal and one of the largest volunteer events in the community. Sites in the Southeast Community included Peterson’s Yacht Basin and Huntington Park.

Councilwoman Woodbury thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation and sharing their thoughts and comments.

She displayed a gift tee-shirt, with the quote “A Grateful Heart is a Magnet for Miracles.” She thanked Mr. Bob McElheney, Director, Department of Vehicle Services, for the gift. Councilwoman Woodbury explained that Mr. McElheney and his daughter participated in the One City Marathon together, as the team, “Grateful Hearts,” and knew that was one of her favorite slogans.

Councilwoman Cherry thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation, and for sharing their thoughts and ideas. She indicated that their thoughts, ideas, and suggestions had not gone on deaf ears.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Cherry extended thanks to the community for their participation in the Annual Free Easter Basket-Give-Away, held on Saturday, April 20, 2019, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., at 617-27th Street. She advised that 175 Easter Baskets were distributed to children in the community.

Councilwoman Cherry announced that the NNPD would host a Prescription Drug Take Back Day, scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at each of the following sites (NNPD, South Precinct, located at 3303 Jefferson Avenue; NNPD, North Precinct, 368 Deshazor Drive, and Sentara at Port Warwick (Emergency Room Entrance, located at 1031 Loftis Boulevard). The NNPD joined with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and agencies across the country to collect dangerous, expired, unused, and unwanted prescription medications for destruction during National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

Councilwoman Cherry announced there would be a Community Chili Cook-off, on Saturday, April 27, 2019, at NNPD, South Precinct, located at 3303 Jefferson Avenue, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., where she and Mayor Price would participate. Interested citizens could call (757) 532-7993, or (757) 975-5000, for further details.

Councilwoman Cherry announced that the next South District Your Voice Matters Town Hall Meeting, which had been rescheduled for Thursday, May 2, 2019, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center, would need to be rescheduled again due to City Council’s Annual Boards, Commissions, and Committees Reception, scheduled for May 2, 2019. The meeting was rescheduled to Thursday, June 6, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Drive). The topic for discussion would be traffic calming for Huntington Heights. Guests would include the City’s Department of Engineering, representatives from the Newport News Shipyards, and the Navy. She reminded than a 90-day trial was held on measures for which the residents had concerns.

Councilman Harris thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation. He reiterated that City Council valued everyone’s opinion.

Councilman Harris advised that he attended the Newport News School Board STARS (Students Taking Action and Responsibility) Awards Ceremony for Middle and High School Students, held Tuesday, April 23, 2019, 11:00 a.m. at the Marriott at City Center. The School Board and the Superintendent recognized middle and high school students for their leadership and dedicated service to their school and community. It was enlightening to see all of the great work the students did beyond athletics to help the City of Newport News be the best.

Councilman Harris extended congratulations to Mr. Ivan Harris, Pastor, First Baptist Church Denbigh (3628 Campbell Road). Pastor Harris preached his last sermon on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019. He had been the Pastor for 31 years, before announcing his retirement. Councilman Harris advised there would be several services to celebrate his retirement. He reflected on the impact Pastor Harris had on his life as a young boy.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Regarding the budget, he advised that he had worked in the NNPS since 2005 as a Counselor, and since 2001 as an employee, and had shared his experiences on numerous occasions. He invited any teacher to meet with him. He met with Mr. Sam Eure, and Ms. Rhonda Wagner, and had great conversations. He advised that his door was always open. He expressed his support for the NNPS and would do all that he could to ensure the best for the children. He advised that the Newport News City Council would continue meeting with the Newport News School Board on both the Operating Budget and the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). He assured that progress was being made.

Councilman Harris shared one action taken earlier at the City Council Work Session of April 23, 2019, the creation of a committee to ensure the bodies would not be in the same predicament. He shared that there had been a breakdown in trust, and stated it was up to the City Council and the School Board to rebuild and re-establish that trust so the that the teachers and staff would know they were valued.

Regarding Ms. Renee Lovett’s comments, Mayor Price advised that he did have a plan, and City Council had a plan, and she should notice as she observed the different areas of the City, that it takes time for visions to come true. He personally wanted to see the Huntington Middle School campus be special. He advised that things were being done, but plans took time. He shared that some things could not be announced until they were complete. He assured Ms. Lovett that the City Council felt upset that the Council and the School were in an adversarial position, and no one enjoyed that position, and no one appreciated education more. Some Council members served on the School Board, their children attended NNPS and Mayor Price shared that he taught in the NNPS, and was aware of what teachers experienced. His wife is a former educator, having taught for over 30 years in the NNPS. City Council loved the City of Newport News and were committed to doing what was best. They also understood the adversity, and understood that the School Board was doing its job and present the best budget possible. He shared that the City had additional needs throughout the City. City Council was committed to ensure, in the future, the relationship between the School Board and the City Council improved, and that there would be earlier and continual communication. For the long-term needs of the NNPS, City Council and the School Board did not need to be in a position as adversaries, but were together and committed to making things happen. Mayor Price expressed his commitment to attempt to get to that point with the School Board. He stated that Huntington would be wonderful, but it would take some time. If the money was available, it would take two years to complete – taking time to design the facility, build the facility, staff the facility, and equip the facility. Mayor Price shared that the current members of the Newport News City Council were committed to doing the best for the entire City and would make everyone proud.

Councilwoman Cherry announced that the Children’s Choir of Newport News had begun. She announced that interested parents, with children, ages 6-12, were welcome to join the meeting on Saturday, May 4, 2019, at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue), 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Citizens were encouraged to call (757) 532-7993 for additional details.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Scott announced that Lieutenant Molly B. Bartley would retire from the NNPD on April 30, 2019. A Retirement Reception would be held on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., at the NNPD Headquarters, located at 9710 Jefferson Avenue. She advised that Lieutenant Bartley played an important role in the North District. Councilwoman Scott extended congratulations to Lieutenant Bartley on her retirement. Citizens were invited to attend the Reception to bid farewell to Lieutenant Bartley and to wish her well.

K. Adjourn

Mayor Price adjourned the meeting by addressing the citizens. He stated, “May what you say and do uplift the City of Newport News.”

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, 
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 8:22 P.M.

Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC
City Clerk

McKinley L. Price, DDS
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk