

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION  
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE 10<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE**

**May 8, 2018  
4:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Herbert H. Bateman, Jr.; Sandra N. Cherry, D. Min. (arrived 4:38 p.m.);  
Marcellus L. Harris III (arrived 4:50 p.m.); McKinley L. Price, DDS; Sharon P.  
Scott, MPA; Tina L. Vick; and Patricia P. Woodbury-----7

**ABSENT:** None-----0

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Cynthia Rohlf; Collins L. Owens; Mabel Washington Jenkins; Wanda  
Pierre; Darlene Bradberry; David Jenkins; Shelia McAllister; Britta Ayers; Angela Hopkins;  
Tricia Wilson; Karen Wilds; Lisa Cipriano; Keith Ferguson; Sh'lea Frazier; Constantinos  
Velissarios; Maria Abilar; Susan Goodwin; Florence Kingston; Carol Meredith; Marc Rogers;  
Derek Perry; Everett Skipper; Bryan Stilley; Chief Michael Grinstead; Louis Martinez; Dawn  
Barber; Alan Archer; David Freeman; Cleder Jones; Anita Walters; Dale Collins; LaToya  
Jefferson; Eoghan Miller; Jerri Wilson; Zina Middleton; Indiana Brown; Josh Reyes and Reema  
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Mayor Price called the meeting to order. He then introduced and welcomed  
newly elected Mr. David Jenkins, Councilman-Elect, Central District.

**I. Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) Briefing**

Ms. Cynthia L. Rohlf, City Manager, introduced Ms. Britta Ayers, Manager of  
Comprehensive Planning, Department of Planning, to provide the Choice Neighborhood  
Initiative (CNI) briefing (a copy of the presentation, "Marshall-Ridley: Choice Neighborhood  
Transformation Plan, May 8, 2018", is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Ms. Ayers stated she was pleased to provide information on the CNI, on behalf of  
the City of Newport News, Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority, residents of  
Ridley Place and surrounding neighborhood, and the many partners about the Marshall-Ridley  
Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan.

Ms. Ayers indicated she would provide a brief review of the Choice  
Neighborhoods Initiative and associated planning process. She would further share highlights  
from the Draft Transformation Plan as it related to Housing, People and Neighborhood  
strategies, and wrap up with next steps in the planning process.

Ms. Ayers reminded, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
(HUD) awarded three types of grants through CNI: Planning, Planning and Action, and  
Implementation. The City received the \$500,000 planning grant to develop the Transformation  
Plan and of that total, \$100,000 went toward early action activities, which were investments

decided upon by the neighborhood to enhance and accelerate transformation. The Transformation Plan was a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy based on the specific needs of the targeted site and neighborhood.

Ms. Ayers noted that the planning efforts centered around Ridley Place, a public housing complex constructed in 1952 and consisted of 259 units.

Ms. Ayers stated when implemented, the strategy would achieve the three core goals of housing, people, and neighborhood and transform the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood into one of opportunity. She explained the three core goals of CNI were housing, people and neighborhood:

- The People goal aimed to improve educational outcomes for youth and ensured that families in the targeted housing had opportunities for improved health, safety, and employment.
- The Housing goal aimed to replace distressed housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that was well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood.
- The Neighborhood goal aimed to create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods. To transform neighborhoods of poverty into viable, safe, well-functioning communities with access to high quality public schools, services, public assets, and transportation.

Ms. Ayers advised that the City of Newport News selected the Marshall-Ridley area of the city not only because it was a neighborhood in need, but because it was also a neighborhood with many assets to build upon.

- There were approximately 5,800 persons in the neighborhood living in just over 2,000 households in a one-square mile area.
- The neighborhood exhibited some of the deepest needs in Newport News, with a poverty rate of 54 percent (more than three times that of the city) and unemployment at 14 percent (more than twice that of the city).
- It was a neighborhood with a concentration of public and assisted housing developments, with more than half of the 2,000 households being deeply subsidized units. Almost 74 percent of the households were female led. The median income was \$17,061. To understand the impact of that figure compared it to the median income for the city at approximately \$51,000 and \$59,000 for the region.

Ms. Ayers noted, despite challenges the Choice Neighborhood was also one of opportunity. It was a neighborhood with many assets. First and foremost, people were more than ready to guide neighborhood revitalization that built on the history, culture and natural assets of the area. She advised other critical assets included location: the neighborhood was

adjacent to one of the region's largest job centers – Downtown Newport News, it was located at the waterfront, and it was visible and easily accessible from the interstate. Its many assets included established and successful employers such as:

- the Seafood Industrial Park
- vacant land ripe for development
- recent public investments including Jefferson Avenue streetscape and Brooks Crossing
- the presence of numerous non-profit and for the benefit of (FBOs)
- the Achievable Dream Academy and Marshall-Early Learning Center

Ms. Ayers reminded City Council to take a look back at the process that got the City to the Draft Transformation Plan. This was a planning process where the community served as the planning staff. They had been a part of, and in most cases, the leading force behind the six (6) phases of the process.

- Phase 1 – the City mobilized by organizing its team and developing a work plan that would allow the team to complete the process in the allotted 24 months. Mobilization included bringing together many partners which included Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP); Newport News Public Schools; Habitat for Humanity; United Way of the Virginia Peninsula; Boys and Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula; Peninsula Health District; Newport News Shipbuilding; Armada Hoffer; Christopher Newport University; Old Dominion University; and several local faith-based organizations.
- Phase 2 – the team rolled up its sleeves and got to know the neighborhood and one another. Over many months the team worked on understanding the true needs, not the perceived needs.
- Phase 3 – the team analyzed the data and began to dream and develop a vision and goals.
- Phase 4 – the team collaborated on strategies to realize the vision.
- Phase 5 – the team was now fine tuning the plan based on comments received by HUD April 2018. The team (the City) would present the final plan for adoption in June 2018.

Ms. Ayers indicated that CNI team and staff were moving in the final phase, nurturing and implementation a little sooner than originally planned.

Ms. Ayers shared some of the extensive efforts that had gone into the community engagement strategy:

- *From day one*, the team had worked hard to inform and engage the neighborhood.

- *Throughout the process*, the team had facilitated over 60 meetings with the committees and task forces. Six (6) joint task forces and community workshops were conducted. Multiple methods of outreach were used to include social media, a monthly newsletter, flyers, e-mail messages, a neighborhood leadership series, and a website.
- *As a result*, there were more than 1,200 participants throughout the process. Average attendance for meetings was 20 people, while many of the larger events ranged between 60 and 100 people.
- *Transitioning to implementation*, new and improved methods for communication and engagement were identified to ensure that engaged residents remained on board, new stakeholders joined the team, and both continued to guide neighborhood transformation.

Ms. Ayers advised that the housing plan was developed based on a needs assessment and a market study. The five goals for the housing plan were to:

- Provide diverse housing types for a diverse community
- Integrate various housing types in an indistinguishable manner
- Provide affordable housing citywide in an equitable way (don't put it all in one area)
- Increase the rate of homeownership in the neighborhood
- Foster community (new housing should be designed to bring people together)

Ms. Ayers indicated that the total housing program was 520 units, of which 417 new units would be built. The remaining units would be provided through vouchers. She stated, of the 417 units, half would be replacement units (affordable is less than 30% (As Maximum Income (AMI)), 23% would be market rate, and 27% would be designated workforce units (30 to 60% AMI). The housing plan would be implemented in four phases:

- Phase 1 – 82 mixed-income units across (the street from Brooks Crossing). Unit types would be detached/semi-attached and walk-up with ground floor commercial.
- Phase 2 – Ridley Place: 86 mixed-income units comprised of rentals and homeownership.
- Phase 3 – Ridley: Place would also provide an additional 135 units. Unit types would be row-house, detached/semi-detached, and walk-up.
- Phase 4 – Would provide an additional 110 units, mixed-income walk-ups with in Downtown would be comprised of ground-floor commercial. This phase aligns with the Downtown Visioning Strategy.

Ms. Ayers explained to redevelop Ridley Place relocation and return would happen as follows:

- All households would be relocated in three phases over several years.
- NNRHA staff would coordinate relocation to minimize household disruptions and ensure that residents still had access to the services and programs they need. Relocated households would be supported throughout the redevelopment phase.
- Residents would have the option to return once the new units were available. The NNRHA would cover the moving expenses.

Ms. Ayers noted, based on the needs assessment, there were a lot of challenges in the neighborhood. In order to be as effective as possible with the resources available, residents and community partners decided that the People Plan should focus on the biggest needs: health, education, and employment.

Ms. Ayers advised that the residents wanted to be healthier and they wanted quality childcare and educational opportunities for the kids, and opportunities to earn a decent living and provide for their families. Based on the needs, there were eight goals for the People Plan:

- Improve access to quality healthcare services
- Reduce food insecurity and encourage healthy living
- Increase availability of and strengthen early education programs
- Create continuum of enriched learning & support opportunities
- Strengthen school-to-career pathways
- Fill in the skills gap and bolster job readiness
- Boost employment opportunities
- Foster resiliency & self-sufficiency

Ms. Ayers indicated that the bottom line for the People Plan was to empower people. The People Plan was a little more complex than the other two components. Examples of what the plan would accomplish over the next 5 to 10 years included:

- To improve health and wellness by bringing more permanent resources to the neighborhood and make sure that people knew about the services that were already available.
- A strategy to reduce food insecurity was to establish community gardens as part of the redevelopment of Ridley Place.
- A strategy to encourage healthy living was to offer monthly workshops on healthy meal preparation, food budgeting, exercise, and more.
- A strategy to increase the number of early education programs in the neighborhood was to work with home daycare providers to obtain Virginia Quality accreditation.
- A strategy to provide jobs was to incentivize employers who established new full-time jobs for neighborhood residents.

Ms. Ayers noted the five (5) goals for the Neighborhood Plan:

- Goal 1: Connectivity
  - Improve connectivity of the community to the larger region by increasing the number and frequency of transit options
- Goal 2: Economic Development
  - Foster economic development along Jefferson Avenue to create a vibrant commercial corridor, supporting locally-owned and operated businesses
- Goal 3: Neighborhood Health
  - Build upon the neighborhood's waterfront location and porch-friendly character to make the community greener, more walkable, welcoming, energy efficient, and resilient
- Goal 4: Safety
  - Create an environment that was welcoming, peaceful, and safe so that residents and visitors felt at ease walking throughout the neighborhood
- Goal 5: Sense of Place
  - Embrace the community's culture and heritage to enhance and distinguish the neighborhood's character and establish a sense of place. The neighborhood would champion its past and existing assets to support local economic growth and increase the area's attractiveness

Ms. Ayers indicated that there were numerous strategies to achieve these goals. Ranging from improving transit options and increasing the number of new businesses on Jefferson Avenue to establishing neighborhood watch groups and holding quarterly clean-up events to reduce litter and improve neighborhood appearance. In order to jumpstart public and private investments in the neighborhood identified eight (8) Critical Community Improvements (CCIs) for initial focus during implementation were identified; however, the team recognized that it would be cost prohibitive to implement all eight CCIs at once, so residents and partners would focused on four (4) that were already underway.

- CCI #2 was to expand broadband services: The city was contracting for a broadband study to help identify the best solutions for the community. The study should be done by the end of Summer 2018.
- CCI #4 was to expand residential stabilization/weatherization programs. There were existing programs through the city and NNRHA.

- CCI #5 was to establish a co-working/makerspace/incubator space. Development and NNRHA had identified space at 2506 Jefferson Avenue and were working on cost estimates to renovate the interior.
- CCI #7 was to develop Bates Drive into a bicycle/pedestrian path. Several partners supported this project, being with the partners was the Newport News Green Foundation (NNGF). The NNGF received a grant from Dominion Energy to help begin the project. The City had already cleaned up the area and a consultant was working on the design and cost estimates.

Ms. Ayers stated prior to coming back to the City Council for action on June 12, 2018, the CNI team would host a community celebration for completing the Transformation Plan and beginning the transition into implementation. The event would occur on June 2, 2018 on King-Lincoln Park Day with a CNI layer to it. The adopted plan would be submitted to HUD on June 28, 2018.

Ms. Ayers reiterated that the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan would be before the City Council for approval at its June 12, 2018 Regular Meeting.

Ms. Ayers advised of the HUD site visit to Newport News on May 22, 2018, as one of the finalists for the Implementation Grant. She advised that HUD would come to town to find out more about the Transformation Plan, tour the Choice Neighborhood, and take the opportunity to ask questions. The site visit was closed to the media and general public. Attendance was by invitation only. The CNI team had been provided a draft agenda from which it could not deviate.

Ms. Ayers shared, during the morning session the team would meet the HUD team and provide an orientation about Newport News in general and Marshall-Ridley in particular. She noted, prior to lunch, the CNI team would take the HUD team on a tour of the neighborhood to view existing conditions and opportunity sites. During the afternoon session, the team would present the Neighborhood, Housing and People Plans, and focus on how the transformation strategies meet the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) rating factors. The day would end with a final pitch, which was an opportunity to wrap up the presentation highlighting the key factors that would ensure the plan achieves and sustains long-term success.

Councilwoman Scott inquired whether this project was totally funded by HUD and/or City participation. Ms. Ayers replied in order to qualify for the application process the City had to show in-kind services, CIP funds, financing for NNRHA, and the various partnerships, in the amount of \$200 million.

Councilwoman Scott questioned about how much of that impacted the City's budget and over how many years. Ms. Ayers replied the implementation plan for the \$30 million grant would be over a 5 to 7 year period and there was \$1 million in the CIP. Councilwoman

Scott asked about subsequent years. City Manager Rohlf replied that she did not have the answer about the cost for subsequent years.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the NNRHA relocation of the tenants at Ridley Circle and whether NNRHA would relocate and bring the tenants back once the project was completed. City Manager Rohlf replied yes, every tenant would have the option to move back, if they so chose. Councilwoman Scott questioned whether the tenants would come back as homeowners, not renters? Ms. Ayers replied not necessarily. There would be options for homeownership in partnership with the Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) first time home buyers program.

Councilwoman Scott questioned who would own the mixed income, detached/semi-detached, and walkup apartments/townhomes. Ms. Karen Wilds, Director, Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority, replied the apartments/units would be owned by an LLC and overseen by the NNRHA. Councilwoman Scott questioned whether tenants would have subsidized rent. Ms. Wilds stated some of the units would be subsidized, while others would be for workforce (market rate).

Councilwoman Scott advised that she was excited after hearing the presentation, about the project.

Vice Mayor Vick inquired about the homeownership units in the Choice Neighborhood Plan. Ms. Wilds replied that NNRHA would develop some homeowner units. Vice Mayor Vick questioned whether that would include Habitat for Humanity. Ms. Wilds replied yes, that Habitat for Humanity was a partner to build and sell homes to first time home buyers.

Vice Mayor Vick inquired about the availability of broadband. Ms. Ayers replied the internet and WIFI came down to hardware and software. The City was working with Newport News Public Schools to ensure that students would be able to do their homework and the community would be better connected, and looking at a public kiosk with charging ports, and had community information available to the public, as well as the ability to get emergency alerts or assistance from 911 or 311.

Councilwoman Scott questioned whether any of the townhomes/units were for sale. Ms. Ayers replied no, the townhomes would be affordable rentals and not for sale.

City Manager Rohlf thanked the CNI team, staff, the community, and all involved who had worked so hard and on a job well done.

## **II. Smart Scale VDOT Application Briefing**



City Manager Rohlf introduced Mr. Everett Skipper, Director, Department of Engineering, to present a briefing on the Smart Scale Grant Program (a copy of the presentation, "FY 2025 Smart Scale Transportation Funding Application, May 8, 2018", is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Vice Mayor Vick indicated the work at 16<sup>th</sup> Street down when traveling on Jefferson Avenue looked great.

Mr. Skipper noted that the Smart Scale Grant Programs were coordinated through the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) and did not require City Council action, which were the Revenue Sharing Transportation and Bike Safety Projects. He explained, in years past, the City could request as many projects as they wished but could now only request four (4) projects. He said the current Transportation Grant Projects:

- Safety
- Accessibility
- Congestion relief
- Resiliency

Recent Grant Award

- Safety & Accessibility
  - Warwick Boulevard at Oriana Road intersection \$ 825,000
  - Jefferson Avenue Sidewalk Shields Road to Sea Pine Lane \$1,010,000
  - Denbigh Boulevard Sidewalk Old Denbigh Boulevard to Woodside Lane \$ 516,000
  - Harpersville Road Sidewalk Bayberry Drive to Daphia Circle \$1,273,000
- Congestion
  - Oyster Point Access Improvements
    - Canon Boulevard Signal Capacity Improvements \$ 575,000
    - I-64 On-Ramps Oyster Point Road and J. Clyde Morris Boulevard Dual Entry \$1,926,000
- Resiliency
  - Oyster Point Road Re-paving Canon Boulevard to City Line \$ 654,000
  - Yorktown Road Re-paving I-64 to Warwick Boulevard \$ 263,000

Councilwoman Woodbury questioned if the City was awarded the grant, whether there were matching grants. Mr. Skipper replied the grant was 100% State and Federal dollars.

Mr. Skipper advised that VDOT would be accepting applications August 2018 for FY 2025:

- Smart Scale
- Congestion Mitigation (CMAQ)
- Regional Surface Transportation (RSTP)

Mr. Skipper indicated that VDOT would be accepting applications next year for:

- Revenue Sharing – FY 2021, 2022
- Transportation Alternatives – FY 2021, 2022
- Highway Safety – HSIP – FY 2025, 2026
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety – BPSP – FY 2025, 2026

### **Smart Scale Program**

- State Program
  - 100% Grant Funding
  - Focused on congestion mitigation
  - Projects must address a specific need identified in the Commonwealth's Transportation Plan (VTRANS)
  - Projects must be included in the regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
  - City Council resolution of support required
  - HRTPO resolution of support required
  - Newport News is allowed up to four applications per cycle
  - Funds are generally available six years after application

Mr. Skipper shared previous requests not recommended were able to apply for as many projects as believed could be managed, but there was now a limited of four applications. Prior widening applications that did not score well due to low congestion of levels and high construction costs were not recommended for submission the current cycle:

- Saunders/Harpersville Road from J. Clyde Morris Boulevard to the City Line
- Jefferson Avenue from Kings Ridge Drive to Industrial Park Drive
- Warwick Boulevard north of Nettles Drive

Mr. Skipper advised of the current application cycle:

- June 1, 2018 – Pre-Application deadline
- August 1, 2018 – Final Application deadline

Mr. Skipper noted the recommended applications were as follows:

- Ramp C - \$7,000,000

- Jefferson Avenue at Oyster Point Road Intersection Improvements - \$10,800,000
- Warwick Boulevard at Oyster Point Road Intersection Improvement - \$5,400,000
- J. Clyde Morris Boulevard I-64 to City Line - \$1,800,000

Mr. Skipper shared Ramp C details:

- Add an off-ramp from I-64 Westbound at Exit 255 (Jefferson Avenue)
- Connects to Chatham Drive at Boykin Lane
- Reduces congestion on Jefferson Avenue between I-64 and Bland Boulevard
- Total Project Cost \$7,000,000

Councilman Bateman inquired whether the exit would be an Airport exit. Mr. Skipper replied from Bland Boulevard to Jefferson Avenue could be an Airport exit.

Councilwoman Scott questioned whether there would be any changes on Boykin Lane; as she did not see how it would accommodate all of traffic. Mr. Skipper replied there would not be any significant change; the traffic increase would use Bland Boulevard and Chatham Drive.

Mr. Skipper indicated the recommended application for Jefferson Avenue at Oyster Point Road was as follows:

- Add a westbound through lane and an eastbound left turn lane to Oyster Point Road
- Add a pedestrian refuge islands for Oyster Point Road
- Physical improvements allow for more efficient signalization
- Overall delay for the intersection reduced by more than fifty seconds per vehicle
- Total Project Cost \$10,800,000

Mr. Skipper said the recommended application for Warwick Boulevard at Oyster Point Road included:

- Add a southbound left turn lane to Warwick Boulevard
- Add an eastbound through lane on Oyster Point Road
- Add a pedestrian refuge islands to Warwick Boulevard and Boxley Boulevard
- Physical improvements would allow for more efficient signalization
- Delays for southbound lefts turns from Warwick Boulevard to Oyster Point Road reduced by more than 80 seconds
- Delays for northbound Warwick Boulevard reduced by more than 30 seconds
- Total Project Cost \$5,400,000

Mr. Skipper stated property acquisition would be the only concern with the previously mentioned project.

Councilwoman Woodbury questioned whether the project being discussed was at the Bonefish Restaurant near Nettles Drive. Mr. Skipper replied yes.

Councilwoman Cherry stated the businesses would be losing parking spaces. Mr. Skipper replied yes, parking near the street.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned the number of parking spaces that Bonefish Restaurant and the shopping center would lose and the number needed under the ordinance. Mr. Skipper replied there was other parking located on the side of the building.

Councilman Bateman inquired about the other tenants/businesses in that strip and whether those businesses would also lose parking spaces. Mr. Skipper replied yes. Councilman Bateman questioned what would happen with the taking of the property and diminishing the value of the commercial real estate. Mr. Skipper replied whenever property acquisition was required, a third party appraiser would give market price.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned what could be done other than taking the property, and how that would be negotiated? She also questioned how those businesses and/or future business at the location would be accommodated? Mr. Skipper replied they would fall under the same ordinance.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned rather than taking the land, what else could the City considered doing to help the traffic move smoothly. Mr. Skipper replied yes, but the results would remain the same. He stated this project would be very helpful and pedestrian friendly.

Councilwoman Scott stated the stores across from Bonefish Restaurant were “stop and go” shops, and that traffic was heavy during peak hours on Oyster Point Road. She inquired whether angular parking would provide additional parking spaces or using the parking on the side of the building. City Manager Rohlf stated there was a Day Care Center on the side of the building, a little further back and some of those parking spaces belonged to that business.

Vice Mayor Vick advised that there were a lot of established businesses in that area and maybe something less disruptive could be done.

Councilwoman Woodbury stated that there was certainly a need for this project, and she supported it, because traffic at peak hours could be backed up for approximately one mile. She questioned the wooded property between the shopping center and Nettles Drive and whether that property could be used for additional parking? Mr. Skipper replied that would be looked into.

Mr. Skipper indicated he would like to leave this project on the plan and look at other options to make this a project to please all involved. City Manager Rohlf replied that the City needed to submit the most competitive application possible.

Councilwoman Scott questioned whether there would be a neighborhood meeting to discuss this issue prior to submission of the application. Mr. Skipper replied that a meeting had not been planned.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she would like to see this plan work and she believed a lot of people would benefit. She said she traveled that route from Denbigh heading south, 5 out of 7 days a week and she had to wait four light cycles to make a left turn onto Oyster Point Road and she believed a lot of people would benefit. Also, have to consider the environmental impact of having those cars stagnate that would now be moving. She stated she could see the positive in this project and hoped to make it work.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned whether a property owner should be notified first if a project would impact him or his business by taking land, because the City had the legal right to do that through eminent domain. She advised that the City should have a conversation with the property owner prior to moving forward to hear their concerns. The process seemed to be backwards. The City received funding for a project and informed the property owner after the fact, that the City would be taking its land. Mr. Skipper replied that the City had to do what was best to keep the traffic moving, and unfortunately, some projects would affect property owners. There were many steps in the process, to include identifying the project and the submittal of the application to determine the project was approved.

Councilwoman Cherry noted that this project was scheduled for FY 2025, would the City try other methods to alleviate the congested traffic between now and FY 2025. Mr. Skipper replied yes, timing of traffic lights.

Councilman Harris questions the traffic impact on Adkinson Road open for people trying to transition from Warwick Boulevard to Jefferson Avenue because it get to that point.

Mr. Skipper shared the last recommended application was for J. Clyde Morris Corridor Improvements:

- Add a northbound through lane between Louise Drive and Traverse Road and north of Harpersville Road creating three northbound lanes between I-64 off-ramp and the City Line
- The combination of the I-64 off-ramp, close spacing of traffic signals, and high afternoon peak traffic causes congestion and delay
- The capacity provided by the third northbound lane allows more efficient movement through the three traffic signals at Louise Drive, Traverse Road, and Harpersville Road

- Delay for traffic between I-64 and Harpersville Road reduced from more than seven minutes to less than four minutes
- Total Project Cost \$1,800,000

Councilwoman Cherry questioned when coming off the I-64 ramp that would become a third lane. What property would be acquired from Point Plaza, Waffle House, and Food Lion Shopping Center. Mr. Skipper replied the property nearest to the street would be acquired.

### **Highway Safety Program**

#### **Warwick Boulevard at Oriana Road**

- High number of crashes with comparatively low volume on Oriana Road
- Modify the median to eliminate conflicts
- Left and right turns off of Warwick Boulevard allowed
- Oriana traffic right only turn right onto Warwick Boulevard
- Fewer allowed movements allow for better signal efficiency
- Total project cost \$825,000

### **Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Program**

#### *Harpersville Road Sidewalk*

- Install approximately 2,000 linear feet of sidewalk from Bayberry Drive to Daphia Circle along Harpersville Road and Saunders Road
- Continue existing project installing sidewalk from J. Clyde Morris Boulevard to Bayberry Drive
- Total Project Cost \$1,273,000

#### *Jefferson Avenue Sidewalk (Shields Road to Sea Pine Lane)*

- Install 2,200 feet of new sidewalk on each side of Jefferson Avenue for a total of 4,400 feet
- Include crosswalks and pedestrian signals at Woodcreek Drive
- The City received a Safety Program grant this year to install sidewalk from Industrial Park Drive to Shield Road
- Total Project Cost \$1,010,000

#### *Denbigh Boulevard Sidewalk (Old Denbigh Boulevard to Woodside Lane)*

- Install new 1,400 feet of sidewalk on the south side of Denbigh Boulevard
- Include crosswalk and pedestrian signals at Old Denbigh Boulevard and Woodside Lane
- Total Project Cost \$516,000

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the Jefferson Avenue sidewalk (Shields Lane to Sea Pine Lane). There had been a lot of conversation in the North District about being able to

walk on Jefferson Avenue. Mr. Skipper replied that was a different funding source and that project was funded and was working on.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned whether the Harpersville Road sidewalk project was funded. Mr. Skipper replied that the Harpersville Road sidewalk project was already funded.

Councilman Bateman questioned the pedestrian walkway along Warwick Boulevard over the lake that would go from Avenue of the Arts toward Cedar Lane. He inquired how long that project would take from start to finish. He stated the City would work with the Mariners' Museum. Mr. Skipper replied the bridge construct across Lake Maury which was half way completed.

Mayor Price advised that Council consensus was needed in order to move forward.

Vice Mayor Vick questioned VDOT's rules on how citizens should be informed about future projects, making it a positive experience and being transparent. City Manager Rohlf replied she understood; however, because of the application process, the City was not guaranteed to receive funding for every project submitted in preliminary application.

Councilwoman Scott inquired whether there was an Oyster Point Association. City Manager Rohlf replied no.

Councilwoman Cherry noted that she would like to receive copies of work sessions presentation prior to the meeting in order to be prepared. It was unfair to ask for a consensus on the same day that the information was presented.

### **III. Third Quarter Financial Briefing**

City Manager Rohlf introduced Ms. Lisa Cipriano, Director, Department of Budget and Evaluation, to provide remarks on the FY 2018 General Fund Forecast.

Ms. Cipriano stated the FY 2018 Third Quarter Financial report covered January 1, 2018 – March 31, 2018. Discussion would be based on the General Fund Budget of \$486 million. She noted that half of the annual Major Taxes collected in the Second Quarter, beginning in November 2017 and only delinquents and late payments were included in third quarter. The revenue projections for major taxes were based on prior years collection patterns through the beginning of May. See FY 2018 General Fund Forecast, Based on Third Quarter Results (attached and made a part of these minutes).

Ms. Cipriano noted the Planned, Forecasted Fund Balance Reserve Avoidance:

- \$4.7 million in use of General Fund Reserves were:
- \$585,000 in Use of bond funds for capital project support
- Combined = \$5.3 million revenue not to be collected
  - For good fiscal management practices, would not use reserves for fiscal year 2018
  - For all Quarterly Projections, this revenue source would show negative, as not being collected

Ms. Cipriano indicated that all of the Major Revenue groups were tracking dollar for dollar as the City was in FY 2017:

- **Major Revenues**

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Projection</u>
○ Real Estate Taxes	\$188.2 million	(\$1.2 million)
○ Personal Property	\$ 50.0 million	\$200,000
○ Machinery & Tools	\$ 22.6 million	\$330,000
○ Sales Tax	\$ 24.7 million	\$300,000
○ Meals Tax	\$ 25.9 million	\$200,000
○ Lodging Tax	\$ 3.8 million	(\$100,000)

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Projection</u>
○ BPOL Taxes	\$17.3 million	(\$376,000)
○ Tax on Deeds	\$ 1.6 million	(\$400,000)
○ Building Permits	\$ 995,000	(\$ 90,000)
○ One-Time Revenues	\$ 0.0 million	\$1 million

- Projecting (1.3%) shortfall or (\$6.3 million)
- Majority was \$5.3 million of General Fund Reserves or 84% of gap

Ms. Cipriano indicated that the City would control all Major Expenditures, which would help to achieve a balanced budget and hopefully show a surplus.

- **Major Expenditures**

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Projection</u>
○ Salaries & Benefits	\$222.1 million	\$2.0 million
○ Contractual Services	\$ 20.3 million	\$2.2 million
○ Fuel	\$ 1.6 million	\$238,000



○ Utilities	\$ 6.5 million	(\$487,000)
○ Materials/Supplies	\$ 21.6 million	\$742,000
○ Vehicle Replacement	\$ 2.5 million	\$1.1 million
○ Community Support	\$ 11.1 million	(\$217,000)
○ Cash Capital	\$ 8.5 million	\$4.5 million

- Projected overall savings of \$11.0 million

Ms. Cipriano stated in summary:

- Third Quarter Projection
  - No planned use of the General Fund Reserves of \$4.7 million
  - Continued Expenditures control to end of the Fiscal Year
  - Anticipate most other Revenues would be collected as estimated, with some minor fluctuations

#### **IV. Comments / Ideas / Suggestions**

City Clerk Jenkins reminded City Council of the VIP Preview Event Discover Jefferson Lab – Open House and Technology Showcase on Thursday, May 17, 2018 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and the Newport News Police Department Annual Awards & Promotions Ceremony at the Marriott at City Center (740 Town Center Drive) from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Cherry reiterated that she would prefer to receive agenda item back-up documentation prior to the meeting, in order to review the information and be able to have better dialogue.

Councilman Bateman inquired about the Mariners' Museum Challenge Grant which was started in 2017 when the City contributed \$100,000 and he hoped that the City would consider doing the same FY 2019. City Manager Rohlf replied she would have staff look into this matter.

Councilman Bateman asked for consideration and support from City Council for a resolution urging Congress and the Virginia General Assembly to enact legislation authorizing Extreme Risk Protection Order to help prevent gun violence when a person had mental health issues. (Passing law that would restrict the sale of firearms for individuals deemed to have mental health problems). He stated this would be the type of legislation to take firearm out of the hands of someone with a mental illness. He noted this was not a Second Amendment inclusion rather the City of Newport News that had issues with gun violence, to take a stand to encourage this debate. The Extreme Risk Protection Order was brought before legislator but did not pass; however, he believed it was worth having Congress and the Virginia General Assembly taking another look. He asked City Council for their consideration and he felt very strongly

about issue. Councilwoman Woodbury questioned whether this law was already enacted. Councilman Bateman replied no, not in Virginia. City Attorney Owens replied the background would be more rigorous; however, the law had not passed in Virginia.

Councilman Bateman asked City Council to consider placing public art where people could see it when they entered Newport News for I-64 ramps or Route 17, such as some type of viewscape that would make a visible and welcoming statement about what the City had to offer. He suggested looking at this in the future and involving the Green Foundation and Public Art Foundation.

Councilwoman Scott shared it had come to her attention that there were not many free activities at the Denbigh Community Center, in part, because the budget did not allow it. She advised that she was very disappointed. There was a Teen Center that was used two (2) hours a day, because the equipment belonged to Youth Programs. She thought that all of this was City money and would like to see some expanded use of the Denbigh Community Center at no cost to the young people. City Manager Rohlf replied that she and Mr. Poplawski had discussed this matter. Mr. Poplawski would provide a briefing at a future City Council Work Session.

Councilwoman Scott advised when she advocated for the community center, it was to be for community use and would like it to be more inclusive.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the volunteer pool and background checks were needed. She questioned whether that was being done. City Manager Rohlf replied she would look into the matter.

Councilman Harris inquired about the Bail Bondsman's (Mr. Michael Crichlow) concerns and whether a Work Session presentation could be scheduled. City Manager Rohlf replied that she and Ms. Cipriano would discuss this concern and working to get City Council more information.

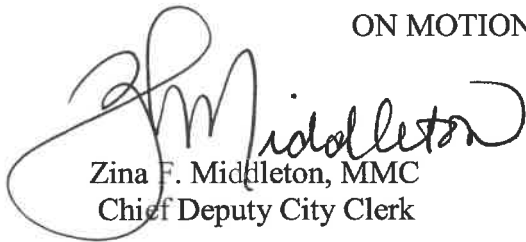
Councilman Harris noted that there were concerns from Athletic Directors about lighting being removed from some of the high school athletic fields. City Manager Rohlf replied that maybe the lighting was being upgraded, but was not aware of the removal of lighting from the fields.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about a category in which funding could be placed for salaries, raises, and benefits. City Attorney Owens shared that Section 22.1-115 stated ***System of accounting; statements of funds available; classification of expenditures. The State Board, in conjunction with the Auditor of Public Accounts, shall establish and require of each school division a modern system of accounting for all school funds, state and local, and the treasurer or other fiscal agent of each school division shall render each month to the school board a statement of the funds in his hands available for school purposes. The Board shall prescribe the following major classifications for expenditures of school funds: (i) instruction, (ii)***

*administration, attendance and health, (iii) pupil transportation, (iv) operation and maintenance, (v) school food services and other non-instructional operations, (vi) facilities, (vii) debt and fund transfers, (viii) technology, and (ix) contingency reserves.* He stated that funding could not go in the salaries category under current State Law for salaries or benefits.

Councilwoman Woodbury suggested that this be included in FY 2020 Legislative Package to amend. She hoped never to use it but it should be in place, if needed. If the NNPS did not address the issue, the City had to be prepared with other options. Councilman Bateman replied the new Superintendent should be given a chance.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS  
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 6:04 P.M.



Zina F. Middleton, MMC  
Chief Deputy City Clerk

McKinley L. Price  
Mayor  
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk