MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
MAY 14, 2019
7:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT: None

A. Call to Order

Mayor Price called the meeting to order, and extended a welcome to all in attendance. 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 the availability of 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 Reverend Terry Edwards, St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Price.

D. Presentations

1. Older Americans Month – May 2019

Ms. Angelia Edwards, Program Coordinator, Newport News Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Active Lifestyles Citizens Advisory Committee; Ms. Bobbi Hutchko, Program Supervisor, Newport News Parks Recreation and Tourism; Ms. Meghan Reed, Superintendent of Recreation Programs; and Mr. William Massey, Director, Peninsula Agency on Aging, accepted the Resolution.

Mayor Price advised that the City of Newport News included a growing number of older Americans who enriched and strengthened the community by connecting with and supporting older adults, their families, and caregivers, and acknowledging their many valuable contributions to society. The City recognized the importance of bringing all generations
D. Presentations Continued

1. Older Americans Month – May 2019 Continued

together, and engaging in activities that promote the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of all.

Mayor Price indicated that the City of Newport News could enhance the lives of Older Americans in the community by promoting home and community based services that supported independent living, and provided opportunities for older adults to work, volunteer, lead, and mentor.

On behalf of his colleagues on City Council, Mayor Price proclaimed the month of May 2019 as Older Americans Month as a tribute to mature adults, professionals, family members, and citizens who cared for older adults. He urged all citizens to work collaboratively to strengthen the services provided to older adults, and encouraged participation in special activities provided by the Peninsula Agency on Aging, Newport News Parks, Recreation & Tourism’s Active Lifestyles Program, Department of Human Services, and other service agencies in the community.

2. Proclamation: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week – May 19 - 25, 2019

Chief Jeffrey S. Johnson, Newport News Fire Department; Acting Deputy Fire Chief, Robert E. Lee, CO, EFO, Newport News Fire Department; as well as Captain Doug Crowson, Captain Eric Gaskins, Captain Raymond Brumfield, and Captain James Masten, Newport News Fire Department, accepted the Resolution.

Mayor Price advised that Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was a vital public service. He indicted the members of the City of Newport News Fire Department EMS teams were ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Access to quality emergency care improved the survival and recovery rate of those who experienced sudden illness or injury. EMS consisted of first responders, emergency medical technicians, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency room nurses and physicians, trained members of the public and other out-of-hospital medical care providers.

Mayor Price shared that members of the Newport News Fire Department EMS teams responded to approximately 30,000 calls for medical services annually, and engaged in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance lifesaving skills. The EMS Week 2019 theme, “Beyond the Call,” underscored the commitment and dedication of EMS providers who served their communities.

On behalf of his colleagues on City Council, Mayor Price proclaimed May 19 - 25, 2019 as Emergency Medical Services Week. He reminded that it was appropriate to recog-
D. Presentations Continued


Recognize the value and accomplishments of EMS providers and encouraged the community to observe the week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

E. Public Hearings

1. Public Comments on the Effective Real Property Tax Rate Related to the Recommended Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget

Mayor Price advised that this item allowed an opportunity for City Council to receive public comments on the effective real property tax rate as it related to the Recommended Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget. The public hearing was required by State Code when a locality estimated an increase in property tax levies greater than one percent for the coming fiscal year. The current tax rate was $1.22 per $100 of assessed value. The lowered tax rate necessary to offset increased assessments would be $1.1879 per $100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed tax rate was $0.0321 per $100. The difference was 2.7% and was known as the effective tax rate increase. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

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

F. Consent Agenda

Councillwoman Woodbury moved adoption of the Consent Agenda, Items 1 through 4, all inclusive, as shown below; seconded by Councilman Harris.

1. Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of the Newport News City Council and the Newport News School Board for April 16, 2019

(No registered speakers)

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

2. Minutes of the Work Session of April 23, 2019

(No registered speakers)

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

3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 23, 2019

(No registered speakers)

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

4. Resolution of Recognition: Pastor Ivan T. Harris, 31st Anniversary and Retirement

A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR PASTOR IVAN T. HARRIS. This resolution recognized the 31st Pastoral Anniversary and Retirement of the Pastor Ivan T. Harris, Pastor of First Baptist Church Denbigh. Pastor Ivan Harris began his service at First Baptist Church Denbigh in 1988 and assumed the role of full-time Pastor in 1991. Pastor Harris was the longest serving Pastor of First Baptist Church Denbigh, a church with over 155 years of history. It was the oldest organized African-American church in the City of Newport News.

Pastor Harris received his Bachelor of Science degree from Hampton University, and his Bachelor of Theology and Doctor of Divinity degrees from United Christian College in Goldsboro, North Carolina. Pastor Harris completed additional studies in the Master’s program of Trinity Seminary in Newburgh, Indiana and received a certificate in leadership from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Pastor Harris served in, and continued to serve on many conferences, conventions, committees, and boards, to include the Hampton University Minister’s Conference. Pastor Harris received numerous awards for his community service, including the Hampton University Presidential Citizenship Award in 2002. In 2003, the Mayor of the City of Newport News, Joe S. Frank, proclaimed April 4, 2003 as “Ivan T. Harris Day.”

Pastor Harris’ ministry took him on three (3) tours of Israel and to the Republic of Benin in Africa, where he facilitated First Baptist Church Denbigh’s efforts in the adopted village; the building of a well, a Christian school, a medical clinic, and a 300-seat church facility. Through Reverend Harris’ leadership, the First Baptist Church Denbigh Outreach Center
F. Consent Agenda Continued

4. Resolution of Recognition: Pastor Ivan T. Harris, 31st Anniversary and Retirement Continued

was dedicated in 2006. The Outreach Center provided transitional housing for women, a clothing closet, and a food pantry.

This Resolution of Recognition congratulated Reverend Dr. Ivan T. Harris on his 31st Pastoral Anniversary, and his retirement as Pastor of the First Baptist Church Denbigh, as well as his dedicated service to the First Baptist Church Denbigh and the community, and extended its best wishes for continued success. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

G. Other City Council Actions

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget

City Manager Rohlf advised that the following were City Code related ordinances to enact the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget.

1. Ordinance Amending City Code, Chapter 40, Taxation; Article II., Real Estate Taxes; Division 1., Generally; Section 40-12, Levied; Amount

AN ORDINANCE TO REORDAIN CHAPTER 40, TAXATION, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE II., REAL ESTATE TAXES, DIVISION 1., GENERALLY, SECTION 40-12, LEVIED; AMOUNT. This ordinance was for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2019, and ending December 31, 2019; and for each calendar year thereafter, unless changed, set the levied tax on all lands, lots of improvements thereon, and all other taxable real estate of public service corporations, at the rate of $1.22 on every $100.00 of the assessed value thereof.

This ordinance was also for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2020; and for each calendar year thereafter, unless changed, set the levied tax on all lands, lots of improvements thereon, and all other taxable real estate of public service corporations, at the rate of $1.22 on every $100.00 of the assessed value thereof.

This ordinance was required by State Code when a locality estimated an increase in property tax levies greater than one percent for the upcoming fiscal year.
G. Other City Council Actions

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Continued

   1. Ordinance Amending City Code, Chapter 40, Taxation; Article II., Real Estate Taxes; Division 1., Generally; Section 40-12, Levied; Amount Continued

   The current tax rate was $1.22 per $100 of assessed value of real property. The lowered tax rate necessary to offset the increased assessments would be $1.1879 per $100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed tax rate was $0.0321 per $100. The difference was 2.7% and would be known as the effective tax rate increase. The City Manager recommended approval.

   (No registered speakers)

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

   Vote on Roll Call:
   Ayes: Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Jenkins
   Nays: Harris

   (A copy of the ordinance is attached for convenience of reference and made a part of these minutes). The City Manager recommended approval.

2. Ordinance Amending City Code, Chapter 37.1, Stormwater Management, Article II., Service Charge, Section 37.1-14. Service Charge

   AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 37.1, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE II., SERVICE CHARGE, SECTION 37.1-14, SERVICE CHARGE, BILLING, PAYMENT, INTEREST, FEE AND LIEN. This ordinance amended the City Code, Chapter 37.1, Stormwater Management, Article II., Service Charge, Section 37.1-14. Service Charge. The service charge due to the City from property owners for stormwater management was based on the ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit) rate of one hundred forty-two and twenty cents per ERU ($142.20, an increase from $139.20) per year. When applicable, the service charge would be prorated at eleven dollars and eighty-five cents per ERU ($11.85, an increase from $11.60 to $11.85) per month. The City Manager recommended approval.

   (No registered speakers)

   Councilwoman Woodbury moved adoption of the above ordinance; seconded by Vice Mayor Vick.
G. Other City Council Actions

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Continued

2. Ordinance Amending City Code, Chapter 37.1, Stormwater Management, Article II., Service Charge, Section 37.1-14. Service Charge Continued

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Jenkins
Nays: Harris

(A copy of the ordinance is attached for convenience of reference and made a part of these minutes). The City Manager recommended approval.

3. Ordinance Amending City Code, Chapter 33, Sewers and Sewage Disposal; Article II., Connections to Public Sewer; Section 33-19, Charges

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 33, SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE II., CONNECTIONS TO PUBLIC SEWER, SECTION 33-19, CHARGES. This ordinance changed the sewer connection charge for all users of the City’s sewerage system as shown below:

For single-family units when the lot or parcel of land was not assessed, the charge shall be three thousand four hundred fifty-nine dollars ($3,459, an increase from $3,383.00) plus a fee of one thousand three hundred eighty-two dollars ($1,382.00, an increase from $1,352.00) for the installation of a lateral. If a lateral had been previously installed to serve the property, no installation fee shall be paid at the time of connection.

For other than single-family units when the lot or parcel of land was not assessed, the charge shall be computed by multiplying the actual frontage of the lot or parcel of land by fifty-nine dollars ($59.00, an increase from $58.00) and adding the applicable charge specified in (b)(4) of Section 33-19.

For other than single-family, when a lot or parcel of land had been assessed, and was subdivided to create additional lots or parcels for development of other than single-family units, the charge for each lot or parcel not already connected to the sewer system shall be computed by multiplying the actual frontage of the lot or parcel of land by nine dollars and thirty-seven cent ($9.37, an increase from $9.25) and adding thereto the applicable charge specified in (b)(4) of this section.
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget Continued

3. Ordinance Amending City Code, Chapter 33, Sewers and Sewage Disposal; Article II., Connections to Public Sewer; Section 33-19, Charges Continued

Flat rate charges shall be based on the following:

For a single-family unit when the lot or parcel of land was assessed, a charge according to the following shall be paid:

Three hundred forty-four dollars ($344.00, an increase from $336.00) if paid in a single payment within the first twelve (12) months after the sewer involved was certified for connection.

Six hundred ninety-one dollars ($691.00, an increase from $676.00) if not paid as provided above.

Flat rate charges shall be based on the following (continued):

For property other than single-family, a charge based on the following shall be paid:

For each multifamily unit: Four hundred eighty-four dollars ($484.00, an increase from $473.00) per family unit.

For sewers serving commercial units: Six hundred ninety-one dollars ($691.00, increased from $676.00) for the first lateral exiting the structure plus four hundred eighty-four dollars ($484.00, increased from $473.00) for an additional lateral.

For sewers serving parcels zoned Light Industrial District (M1) or Heavy Industrial District (M2): Six hundred ninety-one dollars ($691.00, increased from $676.00).

For sewers serving parcels mobile home parks: Four hundred eighty-four dollars ($484.00, increased from $473.00) per mobile home site.

For sewers serving hotels and/or similar establishments: Four hundred eight-four dollars ($484.00, increased from $473.00) per unit.

(A copy of the ordinance is attached for convenience of reference and made a part of these minutes). The City Manager recommended approval.
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget Continued

3. Ordinance Amending City Code, Chapter 33, Sewers and Sewage Disposal; Article II., Connections to Public Sewer; Section 33-19, Charges Continued

(No registered speakers)

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

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Jenkins
Nays: Harris

(A copy of the ordinance is attached for convenience of reference and made a part of these minutes). The City Manager recommended approval.

4. Ordinance Providing for the Adoption of a Classification and Pay Plan for the Employees of the City of Newport News

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF A CLASSIFICATION AND PAY PLAN FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS. This ordinance approved the FY 2020 Classification and Pay Plan, which the City was required to adjust annually, consistent with the other budget actions. This established a salary increase for the City workforce, based on merit, and adjusted the salary ranges for the various positions in the Pay and Classification Plan.

(No registered speakers)

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

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

(A copy of the ordinance is attached for convenience of reference and made a part of these minutes). The City Manager recommended approval.
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Continued

5. Ordinance Adopting the Budget and Appropriating Funds to Operate the City of Newport News for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO OPERATE THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2019, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2020 INCLUSIVE. This ordinance adopted the Budget and appropriated funds to operate the City of Newport News for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2020. The City Manager recommended approval.

Mr. Matthew DeGrave, 10 Dimmock Avenue, Newport News, commented on the Newport News Public School funding level. He had attended a previous meeting and recalled a member of the Newport News Education Association (NNEA) seeking a permanent increase in funding of approximately $2.7 million. Mr. DeGrave advised that he stood behind the NNEA and requested funding at permanent levels of approximately $2.7 million annually. It was his belief that children were the future. After-school programs were needed, as were places for children to go when parents were working. He indicated an increase in funding would allow some of the programs to continue, new programs to occur, and the hiring of more teachers, which would mean smaller classroom sizes, with more one-on-one time for students.

Ms. Shermaine Sutton, 5401 Roanoke Avenue, Newport News, read a letter from Dr. Willard Maxwell, President of the Newport News Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Pastor, of New Beecroft Grove Baptist Church, and a former educator, regarding funding for the NNPS. He stated access to quality education for all citizens was a right, not a privilege, and public schools were tasked with the challenge of educating the children of those least connected to the wealth and opportunities of society. He advised that he had followed the deliberations of City Council and the School Board regarding school funding. He had not heard consistent language, or seen actions, that had convinced him that current practices would lead to a better future condition for the students and families who relied on NNPS. The City had recommended level funding for NNPS for the past two years. The City had experienced economic growth in revenue, the NNPS had not shared in that growth. Dr. Maxwell reverenced the four recommendations provided by the School Board to City Council, and expressed full support for the recommendation. He further encouraged City Council establish a plan, in writing, for moving forward. He advised that the NAACP was opposed to decisions that would diminish funding for the NNPS (a copy of Dr. Maxwell’s letter is attached, in full, and made a part of these minutes).
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Continued

5. Ordinance Adopting the Budget and Appropriating Funds to Operate the City of Newport News for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020 Continued

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), shared the following facts: (1) the National Education Association (the union) had published data on teacher salaries. Over the past decade, average educator pay had declined when controlled for inflation; (2) Virginia ranked 32nd in the country for average teacher pay, which was $8,483 below the national average; (3) Virginia was the 11th richest state in the country; (4) one out of five teachers must take another job to make ends meet; (5) seventy-one percent (71%) of people think teachers were not paid enough; (6) Sixteen percent (16%) less funding went to districts with the highest poverty; (7) The “Red-for-Ed” movement spreading across the country was a response to the budget cuts resulting in overcrowded classrooms, student inequity, and severely underpaid educators and staff; (8) Public School employees were fighting back and demanding that lawmakers address better pay and school funding; and (9) Educators were raising voices for students, schools, and themselves. The VEA organized a rally of over 4,000 in Richmond as a result in January 2019. As President of the NNEA, Ms. Wagner advised that they condemn City Council’s vote.

Mr. August Bullock, 906 Center Avenue, Newport News, advised that he was a product of the NNPS, and began his career as an educator in Newport News in 1974. He indicated that it was an honor to address students and to observe the difference made in a student’s life while teaching. He referred to role model, Ms. Christa McAuliffe, an American Teacher and Astronaut from New Hampshire and one of seven crew members killed in the space shuttle Challenger disaster in 1986. Ms. McAuliffe’s theme was, “I teach, I touch the future.” The opportunity was available, with the budget, to touch the future. He questioned what would the children remember? Ms. McAuliffe was remembered as an effective educator, with a theme that always challenged people to continue to do what was right for children. Research in reference to student achievement and underfunding, spoke to the fact that funded schools tended to be better schools, which was addressed in a study by the Learning Policy Institute. With the rising operating costs and adjusting for inflation and types of changes, level funding was a cut for the NNPS. He urged City Council to review the NNPS Operating Budget, their rationale, reason, and their needs; but most important, think about what was best for children. Mr. Bullock stated, when policymakers make cuts, the cuts were insulated from the children, which meant teachers went deeper into their pockets so that the children would not be without. Teachers and staff made things better for children. He asked City Council to show support in every way possible.

Mr. Samuel L. Eure, Jr., 302 Penrith Crossing, Newport News, advised that the “Red-for-Ed” campaign from the NEA was a movement based on the unmet needs of the
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Continued

5. Ordinance Adopting the Budget and Appropriating Funds to Operate the City of Newport News for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020 Continued

Public education system. The governmental system had underfunded public education at every level for so long that it has adversely affected the entire system, to include the following examples: (1) the significant drop in high school students expressing an interest in becoming teachers. The impact of that drop was a significant drop-off in the number of college students entering teacher preparation programs in college; and (2) the turnover of teachers was fifty percent (50%) in the first five years of teaching. Nationwide, and in the Commonwealth, the turnover rate was extremely costly. He questioned the cause of the large turnover. Mr. Eure indicated that most teachers entered their profession highly motivated to make a difference in the lives of their students. Teachers moved out of the profession due to an overemphasis on testing, the consistent multi-level attacks on teachers, their unions, and the public education system. Performance had brought about the de-funding of the neediest schools in favor of charter schools, the use of vouchers to siphon off public school money. The students cheapest to educate were recruited through what was as billed as a better educational alternative. The students that were most costly were left to educate in the public education system; i.e. the English Language Learners, students with special needs, and a large number of the economically disadvantaged. Each in the aforementioned categories had a higher associated cost in education. Mr. Eure advised if those student were disaggregated, he questioned the true cost of per pupil expenditure of the remaining regular average students. Those students who could afford it the least, were the ones underfunded most. The reason there was at-risk additional funding from the State as based on clearly established needs, and those needs had not diminished. In the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the federal government passed down an educational mandate, without the associated money needed to properly implement the program. The federal government had fallen short of meeting its obligations for the children of this country. The current trend was that it would continue for two years. The states and localities must fill in the gap to meet student’s needs. Because of the nationwide gap between those with similar education backgrounds and teachers, Virginia was the third worst in the country, and Newport News had a hand in that. He urged the full funding of the NNPS Operating Budget.

Ms. Jannie Bazemore, 1004 Hampton Avenue, Newport News, hoped, in adopting the City Manager’s Recommended FY 2020 Operating Budget, that City Council had decided to fully fund the NNPS budget request. She indicated the request was not excessive, but was necessary to retain a first-class school system in the City of Newport News. If the NNPS Operating Budget was not fully funded, Ms. Bazemore urged City Council to vote “no” on adoption.
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Continued

5. Ordinance Adopting the Budget and Appropriating Funds to Operate the City of Newport News for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020 Continued

Mr. John McMillan, 42 Ridgewood Parkway, Newport News, advised, as a former School Board member, he had some idea of the effort that both the School Board and the City Council had to expend to arrive at budgets that meet the needs of all of its citizens. He thanked members of City Council for that effort and the difficult decisions made. He indicated that everything that needed to be said, had already been said. He expressed support for the NNPS fully funded FY 2020 Operating Budget.

Mr. McMillan advised that he watched trends to see how things progressed. He shared the following examples: (1) The City’s revenue was up by $70.4 million over the past 10 years. The City’s contribution to the NNPS was up $6.2 million over the same period, meaning that in a 10-year period, 8.8% of economic growth went to the NNPS; (2) since 2016, the City’s revenue was up $21.7 million. The City’s contribution to the NNPS was up $0.7 million, or 3.2%. This trend showed that for the first eight years, the NNPS shared in the economic growth at an 11% rate; but in the past two years, NNPS the increase was 3%; and (3) For the 10-year period 2005 - 2014, the average was 27.1%, yet for the past three years, the average dropped to 25.3%, and in 2018, it would be 24.3%. Mr. McMillan pointed out that each 1% change equaled $4.9 million in the 2018 Operating Budget.

Mr. McMillan shared the comparison of NNPS raises at 10.5% and City raises at 15.25%. Since April 2017, the same issues occurred, with different figures, he pointed out that the same remarks were presented. He believed that everyone wanted what was best for the City and the NNPS. He believed that it could be achieved with the City Council and the School Board working together (a copy of Mr. McMillan’s remarks are attached and made a part of these minutes).

Delegate David Yancey, 423 Pin Oak Road, Newport News, shared that he represented Newport News in the 94th District, House of Delegates, and served on the Education Committee. He reminded that the Virginia General Assembly passed an important budget with regard to teacher pay raises, which was critical, not only for Newport News, but throughout Virginia. Many teachers stressed to him the importance of this matter when they came to Richmond to lobby for higher teacher pay. He added pay raises were an investment for the teachers, and for the NNPS, in an effort to provide a quality education. He promised to continue to work diligently with all members, in both chambers, to make certain that Newport News received the money needed in the NNPS budget from the State of Virginia to provide for teacher pay raises, and to get the NNPS the money needed to continue with the capital investments needed for new schools so that the City of Newport News could continue to be the great commu-
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Continued

5. Ordinance Adopting the Budget and Appropriating Funds to Operate the City of Newport News for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020 Continued

nity loved by many (a copy of Delegate Yancey’s letter is attached, in full, and made a part of these minutes).

Vice Mayor Vick extended thanks to Delegate Yancey for the funding as she recalled that State funding had continued to decrease for education since her election to City Council in 2008.

Ms. Mary Vause, 350 Williamsburg Court, Newport News, commented on the following subjects mentioned at the earlier City Council Work Session of May 14, 2019: (1) categorical funding, suggested by Councilwoman Dr. Patricia Woodbury. Ms. Vause indicated that categorical funding would be terrible for the already underfunded school system because NNPS would be forced to give money back at the end of each fiscal year, which was spent on student technology, maintenance and repair for the school buildings that were an average of 50 years old. She further indicated that it did not make sense to suggest that the underfunded school system give money back to the City at the end of the year rather than spending it on the desperately needed one-time expenses. Ms. Vause stated, if the Mayor’s committee to consider school funding long-term would seriously consider categorical funding as a legitimate option, the committee was going in the wrong direction. She recalled, over the past three budget cycles, NNPS teachers, staff, parents, and community members, came before City Council to advocate for better school funding, with the solution being more school funding, not less; (2) Ms. Vause was disappointed to hear the City Manager claim that her proposed FY 2020 Operating Budget fully funded NNPS, which was not true. She indicated that $2.4 million in Cash Capital was one-time funding that would only fund one year of the NNPS FY 2020 Operating Budget. Ms. Vause questioned what would occur in Year #2 when NNPS still needs to pay for the recurring two percent (2%) salary increase, and the recurring cost of desperately needed new positions, such as School Counselors, School Security Officers, and ESL (English as a Second Language) teachers and staff for the rapidly growing ESL population? Would City Council members act surprised because they believed the City Manager’s claim that $2.4 million in one-time Cash Capital funding could somehow fund two percent (2%) raises and new salary positions for the NNPS long-term year after year? She advised the $2.4 million in Cash Capital was not full funding, but a temporary band-aid that allowed the City Manager to save face and to avoid the issue of the underfunded schools, and the children not receiving the funding they needed and deserved. Ms. Vause inquired whether City Council would make a real change and push back on the City Manager’s annual budgets that stagnated City funding for the NNPS since 2013, and level funding recommended in 2019 – a zero percent (0%) increase for NNPS. Ms. Vause indicated it was time to question some of the information received from those who claimed that NNPS did not deserve more funding until the students passed their SOLs (Standards-of-Learning) tests. As
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Continued

5. Ordinance Adopting the Budget and Appropriating Funds to Operate the City of Newport News for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020 Continued

a NNPS teacher, Ms. Vause indicated that students struggling to pass their SOLs deserved more funding, not less. She urged City Council to vote against the City Manager’s Recommended FY 2020 Operating Budget that did not fully fund the NNPS.

Mr. John Shifflett, 101 Meadowbrook, Williamsburg, shared that he was a member of the Newport News Education Foundation and a former product of the NNPS. He extended thanks to Councilman Dave Jenkins for his comments and perspective with regard to supporting public education from the perspective of understanding what was actually occurring in his words and deeds, and thanked him for his leadership. Mr. Shifflett encouraged City Manager Rohlf and members of the City Council to consider the views Councilman Jenkins expressed, and consider a better way forward to adequately address the financial needs of the NNPS – operations, maintenance, and strategic improvement needed to be addressed. He encouraged City Council to be courageous, take the necessary time, obtain the right information, and aggressively pursue a way to a brighter future, and not keep the status quo. This ordinance was about investing in the City’s future and its prosperity through the youth and future workforce members.

Ms. Renee Sykes Lovett, 25 Riverlands Drive, Apt. B, Newport News, extended congratulations on the City being a recipient of a $30 million Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant award for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI), presented by the Honorable Ben Carson, Secretary, United Stated Department of Housing and Urban Development, at a ceremony on Monday, May 13, 2019, in the City Council Chambers. Ms. Lovett expressed excitement and anticipation for great improvements in the Ridley Place/Marshall Courts community as a result. She looked forward to a new Huntington Middle School, a new housing area or mixed-use project. She was expecting great things to come in the CNI due to the $30 million grant award.

Ms. Jayne DiVincenzo, 303 Park Place, Newport News, expressed appreciation to members of City Council for the time and energy put into budget discussions related to the NNPS Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget, and was especially appreciative to Councilman Jenkins for his wisdom and new perspective. She indicated that everyone wanted the same goal – a thriving City that attracted workers, employers, and young families that caused them to live in Newport News after retirement. The City had a number of strengths – a long history, diversity, geography, several large employers and numerous caring, friendly people. Ms. DiVincenzo advised that everyone needed to change their view of their assets and what was valued. As a Financial Advisor, she was aware, where we spent, showed what was most important. She wanted to live in a City where people clamored to be. She indicated everyone
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Continued

5. Ordinance Adopting the Budget and Appropriating Funds to Operate the City of Newport News for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020 Continued

should be visionaries and not critics. She further indicated that everyone wins when the most valuable resources were strong, supported, and prized. She encouraged City Council to make Newport News the envy of everyone in the State of Virginia, with top-notch resources for the schools, teachers lining up to work in Newport News, a well paid staff who were appreciated and respected, students transferring in from other areas, and employers hoping to land a graduate from one of the many innovative programs. She found numerous studies that showed that local spending on schools had a huge impact on outcomes in the cities; i.e. reducing poverty, increasing wages and salaries long-term. When school budgets were cut and left level, schools lost out, but the City lost the most. Decisions were being made that would impact the future three, four, and five years into the future. Ms. DiVincenzo advised that her greatest concern was what was considered a good, economic period, while cutting school funding, and inquired what would be done in the next recession.

Ms. Zawadi Stith, 7 Hull Street, Newport News, shared that she was a Warwick High School graduate, and student at Virginia Commonwealth University. She felt it important for City Council to hear, from a student’s standpoint, the urgency to fully fund the NNPS Budget request. She was saddened to hear that the City Manager and the City Council were cutting funding for teachers, school faculty, improvements and school programs. Studies showed that a direct correlation between expenditures by cities on education and a decline in poverty. An increase in wages and earnings of the students who were in schools with growing versus shrinking budgets. Ms. Stith inquired why the City would keep putting the NNPS on the chopping block. She asked whether the students, the future of the City, the teachers and the school employees not a cornerstone to the City, the City’s reputation, and its values? She further asked why City Council would want to be known for doing the least possible for the NNPS versus the most possible. Ms. Stith advised that Warwick High School was crumbling, and needed more counselors, staff, and to reward hardworking teachers that made sacrifices to benefit their students. Ms. Stith urged City Council to reconsider their decision and make school funding, repairs, and teacher pay a priority, and create a long-term plan for success.

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

Councilwoman Scott, addressing the Superintendent of the NNPS, Dr. George Parker, the School Board, the citizens, teachers, and everyone impacted, indicated that she heard their comments and understood their concerns, and indicated there was something that could be done better. She advised that she planned to vote for the City Manager’s Recommended Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget. The City Manager and her staff had planned and worked on
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Continued

5. Ordinance Adopting the Budget and Appropriating Funds to Operate the City of Newport News for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020 Continued

the budget, with a great deal of thought prior to making her recommendation. Councilwoman Scott was disturbed by some of the misinformation. Teacher salaries were not being cut. She advised that she looked forward to working with Dr. Parker and the School Board, as well as staff, to ensure something different was done for the FY 2021 Budget cycle. She respected the City Manager’s recommendation and expressed support for City Manager Rohlf’s Recommended FY 2020 Operating Budget.

Councilman Harris explained his reason for voting against the previous ordinances (G1.1, G1.2, and G1.3). He indicated this was his third budget, and it seemed as though the process was getting worse. He appreciated Mayor Price’s recommendation for the establishment of a committee in an effort to alleviate the budget pains. He recalled the misinformation going back and forth from the FY 2019 Operating Budget, and it seemed as though the cycle was being repeated. Until a process was in place, he chose to vote against the Operating Budget. He advised that it was not worthy of the applause heard throughout the Chambers, because he felt both the School Board and the City Council members needed to do a better job together. There should be no divisiveness during each budget cycle. City leaders should be able to put their priorities in order and move forward in a respectful and civil manner until the process was streamlined, based on Mayor Price’s recommendation for the establishment of a committee.

Vice Mayor Vick corrected a point of misinformation. She clarified that that City Council was not cutting NNPS funding. She agreed that it was disturbing when the two governing bodies (City Council and the School Board) were unable to communicate in an effective manner. Vice Mayor Vick indicated that Dr. Parker seemed like a different person than the individual she met with in September 2018, with a vision for the relationship between the City Council and the School Board. Vice Mayor Vick reiterated the point that City Council did not give NNPS employees raises, which was up to the School Board and the Superintendent. She indicated there were millions of dollars available from the State, as mentioned by Delegate David Yancey, to help increase school budgets. She expressed her support for the City Manager’s Recommended FY 2020 Operating Budget.

Councilwoman Woodbury recalled the request from the NNPS was $113.3 million, and were provided funding in the amount of $113.3 million. She explained the reason for suggesting categorical funding was so the teachers and staff would receive raises they deserved, which was a decision to be made by the Superintendent of the NNPS and the School Board, and not City Council. Councilwoman Woodbury advised that she wanted to see decent
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Continued

5. Ordinance Adopting the Budget and Appropriating Funds to Operate the City of Newport News for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020 Continued

raises for the teachers. She agreed that the schools were old, but every parent wanted their child to attend Hilton Elementary School, which was the oldest school in the NNPS system. She wanted to see the City as the Education City, and did not want realtors suggesting the children be sent to York County schools, and still did not want to hear that. She advised the two bodies had to come together as reasonable people and discard the rhetoric that was not true. She reiteratred, the NNPS were funded at the same amount they requested, $113.3 million. Oftentimes, money needed to come from different pots. She indicated there were 5,000 less children in the NNPS than when she served on the School Board. She further indicated the budget was much higher. She reiterated that NNPS did indeed receive additional State funding. She asked everyone to take a deep breath because the divisiveness and the accusatory language achieved nothing and was a bad example for the children.

Councilwoman Cherry read her comments, “As an Educator and realizing all of the work that goes into preparing our children to become college, careers, and citizen ready, I say thank you to each one of you. Thank you to the School Administration. Thank you to the Building Administrators. Thank you to the Bus Drivers. Thank you to the Custodial Staff. Thank you to the Parent-Teacher Specialists. Thank you to the Library Staff. Thank you to the Graduation Coaches. Thank you to the Professional School Counselors. Thank you to the Crossing Guards. Thank you to the Teacher Assistants. Thank you to the Nutrition Staff. Thank you to the School Security Staff. Thank you to the Athletic Coaches. Thank you to all support staff that I have not named. . . Thank you to all of you. I want our schools to be the best that they can be – all accredited – representative of a stellar public school system. Because of this, I would like to encourage the teachers, and other support staff, to lobby from a position of advocacy, rather than being an adversary. I encourage you to engage your State Legislators, who sit on the House Education Committee, to move in the position direction to bring K-12 funding above pre-recession levels. Because I believe that our children are valuable, education is paramount, and the City needs substantial revenue to serve all residents in the City. It will be important, from this point forward, we as the City, should also send a message to our State Legislators that more has to be given to the localities in order to fund the school’s needs, so that not only teachers, but all school personnel, can be provided salaries they deserve. There is much work that still has to be done to bring satisfactory funding to the schools; however, in reviewing the Operating Budget for the entire City, it is at this point that I support the City Manager’s Recommended FY 2020 Operating Budget so that the city can exercise fiscal responsibility to meet all of the needs of all of the citizens of the City. I look forward to working with the School to see decent raises.
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Continued

5. Ordinance Adopting the Budget and Appropriating Funds to Operate the City of Newport News for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020 Continued

*Mayor Price warned attendees that signs were not allowed in the Council Chambers, and they would be removed if not taken down.*

Mayor Price advised that this had been a roller coaster week for him. To see teachers acting in a disruptive manner, and to see elation in the City Council Chambers on May 13, 2019, for something done on a national level for the City of Newport News; and 24 hours later, to return back to the City Council Chambers under different circumstances hurt his heart. (The City of Newport News was awarded a $30 million Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant award for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative, presented by the Honorable Ben Carson, Secretary, United Stated Department of Housing and Urban Development, at a ceremony on Monday, May 13, 2019, in the City Council Chambers). Mayor Price indicated that he loved the City of Newport News, and people on the City Council loved the City of Newport News, and had dedicated their lives to making it better. He further advised that a better process must be established. He indicated he would not go through a divisive budget process again. He pledged that he would do what he could and that a better process would be established. There must be communication between the School Board and the City Council, and an understanding of one another’s needs and resources to make the community whole. He stated “throwing one another under the bus” and pointing fingers, would not continue, and he made a pledge to assist in improving the relationship between the School Board and the City Council. He further advised that Newport News City Council was required to do what was right for the whole City. He expressed his support for the City Manager’s Recommended FY 2020 Operating Budget.

Mayor Price, a member of the Newport News City Council, filed a declaration in accord with Section 2.2-3115H of the Virginia Code. He declared, pursuant to subdivision A.3 of §2.2-3112.B and §2.2-3115.H of the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act, that for discussion at the City Council Work Session Agenda of April 9, 2019 and April 23, 2019, for Public Hearings on April 9, 2019 and April 11, 2019, and for action at the City Council Agenda of May 14, 2019 (i) the City Manager recommended to the Newport News City Council adoption of a City Operating Budget for FY 2020 (the transaction); (ii) the said Operating Budget includes, in small part, funds for organizations, including the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), and such Operating Budget includes charitable contributions to various organizations; (iii) that he represented Newport News on the Board of Directors of HRCAP, for which he received no or minimal remuneration, well below the Conflict of Interest Act threshold;
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Continued

5. Ordinance Adopting the Budget and Appropriating Funds to Operate the City of Newport News for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020 Continued

(iv) that he was able to participate in the transactions fairly, objectively, and in the public interest (a signed written declaration was filed with the City Clerk prior to the City Council meetings at which time the transaction was considered – April 9, 2019; and is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Councilman Marcellus L. Harris, III, a member of the Newport News City Council, filed a declaration in accord with Section 2.2-3115H of the Virginia Code. He declared, pursuant to subdivision A.3 of §2.2-3112.B and §2.2-3115.H of the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act, that for discussion at the City Council Work Session Agenda of April 9, 2019 and April 23, 2019, for Public Hearings on April 9, 2019 and April 11, 2019, and for action at the City Council Agenda of May 14, 2019 (i) the City Manager recommended to the Newport News City Council adoption of a City Operating Budget for FY 2020 (the transaction); (ii) the said Operating Budget includes, in small part, funds to pay the salaries of persons employed by the Newport News School Board, which was a group of three or more persons the members of which were affected by the transaction; (iii) that he was employed as a Counselor for the Newport News School Board; (iv) that he was on the Board of Directors of Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP), which was a charitable organization providing services to Newport News residents, for which he received no remuneration, and which would be a recipient of monies designated to it in the City Operating Budget for FY 2020; (v) that his wife was on the Board of Directors for the Peninsula Agency on Aging, which was a charitable organization and for which she received no remuneration, and which would be a recipient of monies designated to it in the City Operating Budget for FY 2020; and (vi) that he was able to participate in the transactions fairly, objectively, and in the public interest (a signed written declaration was filed with the City Clerk prior to the City Council meetings at which time the transaction was considered – April 9, 2019; and is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Councilman David H. Jenkins, a member of the Newport News City Council, filed a declaration in accord with Section 2.2-3115H of the Virginia Code. He declared, pursuant to subdivision A.3 of §2.2-3112.B and §2.2-3115.H of the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act, that for discussion at the City Council Work Session Agenda of April 9, 2019 and April 23, 2019, for Public Hearings on April 9, 2019 and April 11, 2019, and for action at the City Council Agenda of May 14, 2019 (i) the City Manager recommended to the Newport News City Council adoption of a City Operating Budget for FY 2020 (the transaction); (ii) the said Operating Budget includes, in part, funds for organizations, including the Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) and Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), and such Operating Budget includes charitable contributions to various organizations, including the Peninsula Agency on Aging; (iii) that he represented Newport News on the Board of Directors of
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager's Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Continued

5. Ordinance Adopting the Budget and Appropriating Funds to Operate the City of Newport News for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020 Continued

HRCAP, for which he received no or minimal remuneration, well below the Conflict of Interest Act threshold; (iv) that he was an alternate representing Newport News on the Board of Directors of HRPDC, for which he received no or minimal remuneration; (v) that he served on the Advisory Council for the Peninsula Agency on Aging, for which he received no remuneration; and (vi) that he was able to participate in the transactions fairly, objectively, and in the public interest (a signed written declaration was filed with the City Clerk prior to the City Council meetings at which time the transaction was considered – April 9, 2019; and is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Councilwoman Scott, a member of the Newport News City Council, filed a declaration in accord with Section 2.2-3115H of the Virginia Code. She declared, pursuant to subdivision A.3 of §2.2-3112.B and §2.2-3115.H of the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act, that for discussion at the City Council Work Session Agenda of April 9, 2019 and April 23, 2019, for Public Hearings on April 9, 2019 and April 11, 2019, and for action at the City Council Agenda of May 14, 2019 (i) the City Manager recommended to the Newport News City Council adoption of a City Operating Budget for FY 2020 (the transaction); (ii) the said Operating Budget includes, in small part, funds for charitable organization, including the Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads, also known as Hampton Roads Transit (HRT), and such Operating Budget includes charitable contributions to various organizations; (iii) that she was an alternate representing Newport News on the Board of Directors of HRT, for which she received no remuneration; and (iv) that she was able to participate in the transactions fairly, objectively, and in the public interest (a signed written declaration was filed with the City Clerk prior to the City Council meetings at which time the transaction was considered – April 9, 2019; and is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Councilwoman Woodbury, a member of the Newport News City Council, filed a declaration in accord with Section 2.2-3115H of the Virginia Code. She declared, pursuant to subdivision A.3 of §2.2-3112.B and §2.2-3115.H of the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act, that for discussion at the City Council Work Session Agenda of April 9, 2019 and April 23, 2019, for Public Hearings on April 9, 2019 and April 11, 2019, and for action at the City Council Agenda of May 14, 2019 (i) the City Manager recommended to the Newport News City Council adoption of a City Operating Budget for FY 2020 (the transaction) (ii) the said Operating Budget includes, in small part, funds for organizations, including the Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads, also known as Hampton Roads Transit (HRT), and such Operating Budget includes charitable contributions to various organizations; (iii) that she represented Newport News on the Board of Directors of HRT, for which she received no remuneration; and (iv) that she was able to participate in the transactions fairly, objectively, and
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. City Code Related Ordinances to Enact the City Manager’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Continued

5. Ordinance Adopting the Budget and Appropriating Funds to Operate the City of Newport News for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020 Continued

in the public interest (a signed written declaration was filed with the City Clerk prior to the City Council meetings at which time the transaction was considered – April 9, 2019; and is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Councilwoman Cherry, a member of the Newport News City Council, filed a declaration in accord with Section 2.2-3115H of the Virginia Code. She declared, pursuant to subdivision A.3 of §2.2-3112.B and §2.2-3115.H of the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act, that for discussion at the City Council Work Session Agenda of April 9, 2019 and April 23, 2019, for Public Hearings on April 9, 2019 and April 11, 2019, and for action at the City Council Agenda of May 14, 2019 (i) the City Manager recommended to the Newport News City Council adoption of a City Operating Budget for FY 2020 (the transaction); (ii) the said Operating Budget includes, in small part, funds for charitable organizations; (iii) that she was on the Board of Directors of Community Free Clinic, for which she had received no remuneration; and (iv) that she was able to participate in the transactions fairly, objectively, and in the public interest (a signed written declaration was filed with the City Clerk prior to the City Council meetings at which time the transaction was considered – April 9, 2019; and is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry
Nays: Harris, Jenkins

(A copy of the ordinance is attached for convenience of reference and made a part of these minutes). The City Manager recommended approval.

2. Ordinance to Amend and Reordain City Code Chapter 31, Pensions and Retirement, By Adding Thereto Another Article, Namely: Article IV., Line of Duty Act

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 31, PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, BY ADDING THERETO A NEW ARTICLE, NAMELY: ARTICLE IV., LINE OF DUTY ACT. This ordinance amended and reordained the City Code, Chapter 31, Pensions and Retirement, by adding a new Article, namely: Article IV., Line of Duty Act. The Line of Duty Act (LODA) provided health and death benefits to certain public safety employees who were killed or injured in the name of duty. LODA benefits were mandated by the State and funded by the localities. In 2016, the City established a LODA fund to pay benefit expenses. The City’s
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

2. Ordinance to Amend and Reordain City Code Chapter 31, Pensions and Retirement, By Adding Thereto Another Article, Namely: Article IV., Line of Duty Act Continued

external auditors recommended the LODA fund be formally established as an irrevocable trust. The proposed amendment to Chapter 31 established the LODA fund as a trust fund administered by the Board of Trustees of the Newport News Employees’ Retirement Fund. The City Manager recommended approval.

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

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

H. Appropriations

None

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

Mr. Antonio Thompson, P. O. Box 413, Newport News, quoted Bible scriptures from Matthew 10:7, 1 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 States 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.

In honor of National Police, May 12-18, 2019, Mr. Thompson extended his thanks to Chief Steve Drew, and members of the Newport News Police Department (NNPD) for their service and sacrifice.

In honor of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week – May 19 - 25, 2019, he extended thanks to Chief Jeffrey Johnson and members of the Newport News Fire Department (NNFD) for their service.

Mr. Thompson urged City Council’s support for a 100% salary increase for the men/women of the NNPD, and the NNFD, followed by the remaining City employees.
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council
   Continued

Mr. Thompson recommended the closing of Detention Centers and Jails.

Mr. Thompson extended congratulations to the City of Newport News on being awarded a $30 million Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant award for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative, presented by the Honorable Ben Carson, Secretary, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, at a ceremony on Monday, May 13, 2019, in the City Council Chambers. Mr. Thompson extended thanks to United States President Donald Trump and HUD Secretary Dr. Ben Carson.

Ms. Joan Wood-Moore, 141 Libby Street, Hampton, commented about funding for the NNPS, particularly about funding for the construction of Huntington Middle School. She also hoped for a better system for working together between the City Council and the School Board when it came to funding for the education of students. Relying on her Planning background, Ms. Wood-Moore advised that one of the calling cards for any city is the quality of life that was provided for its residents. In that quality of life was the education of the students, the quality of the schools, and whether they were adequately staffed, and whether the schools were staffed with qualified personnel. She indicated a well-educated City was a calling card for employers and businesses. Individuals seeking employment first want to know what the educational system was like in a particular city. She advised if the NNPS were not funded, the City of Newport News could not be a calling card for businesses, recreation, and other services in an effort to attract people to come and live. It was not only about a beautiful waterfront, or the museums, which were the secondary reason to move to a City. The educational system was fundamental to individuals making decisions to come to the City. Ms. Wood-Moore suggested members of City Council and the School Board come up with a joint plan for adequately funding the NNPS.

Ms. Lakisha Ireland, 530-52nd Street, Newport News, shared that she was a parent to two students who attended NNPS, and was a big advocate for each student in the NNPS system. Ms. Ireland thanked Mayor Price and Council members who were able to show tact under fire as elected officials were to carry themselves in a certain manner of decorum, and she expressed appreciation to them.

Ms. Ireland commented on the Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of April 16, 2019, between the Newport News City Council and the School Board. She highlighted a number of pages as follows: (1) On Page 7, Mayor Price stated it was his belief that the future needs of NNPS would not be using the current budget method, and suggested the formation of a committee to look at the future needs of the City and the manner in which it was funded; (2) The minutes repeated the phrase, “there was no long-term solution,” which was mentioned four times – page 7, page 8; and on page 9, Councilwoman Scott hated that we keep harping on the same conversation over and over. Ms. Ireland stated, if no long-term solution was established, we would continue to harp on the situation over and over. She typically watched the Council Meetings from home, but would try to come more often. Ms. Ireland indicated that she and her friends who vote, would
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council

continued to advocate for what was needed over and over; (3) On Page 10, School Board Member Douglas Brown mentioned there needed to be an opportunity for a long-term solution; and (4) on Page 11, Councilwoman Woodbury suggested that some of the teachers were beating up on Council members. Ms. Ireland disagreed, she considered it passion as opposed to a beating, and sometimes the passion may not come across in the right way. Ms. Ireland shared that she loved education and she loved the City of Newport News. She asked that City Council not take the teacher’s passion as a beating and suggested they come up with a long-term solution (a copy of Ms. Ireland’s notes are attached and made a part of these minutes).

Ms. Jannie Bazemore, 1004 Hampton Avenue, Newport News, extended congratulations to all who were involved in the City of Newport News obtaining the $30 million Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant award for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative, presented by the Honorable Ben Carson, Secretary, United Stated Department of Housing and Urban Development, at a ceremony on Monday, May 13, 2019. She knew that a great deal of hard work went into the CNI grant application.

Ms. Bazemore advised that she was aware that things took time, but there was a timeline of over 10 years regarding Huntington Middle School. City Council should stop prolonging the matter. She asked why citizens must wait before beginning to work on rebuilding Huntington Middle School when the NNPS had plans to move forward with. As was mentioned, in June 2020, Huntington Middle School would exist only on paper unless something was done. She indicated that it was unacceptable that Huntington Middle School would exist only on paper when the Huntington High School Alumni Association had fought for over 10 years. The City needed to move on getting Huntington Middle School re-opened immediately. In the words of former First Lady Michelle Obama, “Let’s Move.” Ms. Bazemore urged City Council not to fail the children. The children in the Southeast Community should not have to go to school above Mercury Boulevard on a daily basis to attend Middle School. She encouraged that the necessary funding be provided for Huntington Middle School to be rebuilt. Ms. Bazemore concluded with her signature phrase, “Huntington (Middle School) would rise again.”

Mr. Adrian Whitcomb, 316-54th Street, Newport News, extended congratulations to the City’s Department of Planning and all who were involved in the City of Newport News obtaining the $30 million Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant award for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative, presented by the Honorable Ben Carson, Secretary, United Stated Department of Housing and Urban Development, at a ceremony on Monday, May 13, 2019. Mr. Whitcomb hoped that the City would practice forward thinking in all areas.

Mr. Whitcomb advised that he grew up in the City of Newport News and knew what it was like to be in the City over a long period of time. He recalled a time when NNPS were considered the best on the Peninsula.
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council
Continued

Mr. Whitcomb recalled a time when there was more access to the waterfront. He suggested the leaders of the City should decide what they wanted in Newport News. He suggested that members of City Council start discussions for the FY 2021 Budget cycle early.

Mr. Whitcomb recalled attending a ceremony celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Newport News Park in 2016. He was inspired over the next 50 days to take a walk in as many different parks as possible. He suggested that City Council spend time in the parks, in the schools, and in other places where they had heard discussion about the needs of the City, including HRT buses, in an effort to learn what the City was like. He further suggested that think about the people and go to places the citizens visited - meeting them on their level.

J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that State offices would be closed on Friday, July 5, 2019. The Fourth of July was on a Thursday, Councilwoman Woodbury made a motion to grant additional time off for the Forth of July holiday, to include one (1) full day on Friday, July 5, 2019, as a paid holiday for City employees in addition to the regular holiday (July 4th) set forth in the City Code; seconded by Councilwoman Cherry.

Mayor Price stated, historically, City Council allowed the City Manager to make such recommendations, with consultation with City Council. He recommended that City Council revert back to that practice, so not to appear as a political move. Cynthia Rohlf was the Manager, and hires and fires employees. He felt it was a management decision that should be recommended to City Council.

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

Councilwoman Cherry thanked Mayor Price for bringing that to City Council’s attention.

Councilman Harris also thanked Mayor Price for bringing that to City Council’s attention.

Vice Mayor Vick advised that she voted in favor or the additional day off, but with all due respect to City Manager Rohlf, her vote was for the employees, and not out of disrespect to the City Manager in her role.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that she had spoken with the City Manager about her intention of granting an additional day off for employees, prior to making the motion.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Mayor Price extended thanks to everyone involved in the CNI grant application process. The City of Newport News was awarded a $30 million Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant award for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative, presented by the Honorable Ben Carson, Secretary, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, at a ceremony on Monday, May 13, 2019, in the City Council Chambers. The City of Newport News was one of three cities in the country that received $30 million to embark on a transformational plan for an area which had been neglected for years (Marshall Courts-Ridley Circle community). Mayor Price extended special thanks to City Manager Rohlf, who encouraged him and would not let him get down when the City was not awarded the $30 million grant funding in 2018. She advised, positively, the City would receive the grant funding and would continue their efforts. He commended members of City Council, who also remained positive. HUD Secretary Ben Carson mentioned that failure sometimes made one stronger. Mayor Price further advised that all Newport News citizens should also be proud of City Manager Rohlf, the Council, the staff, and the citizens who lived in the Marshall-Ridley Community, who pushed for the grant funding. The $30 million grant award was a major milestone for the entire City and he looked forward to the coming years as the plans were developed to transform the Marshall-Ridley community.

Councilwoman Scott applauded the staff and all who were involved in the City receiving $30 million Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant award for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative, presented by the Honorable Ben Carson, Secretary, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, at a ceremony on Monday, May 13, 2019, in the City Council Chambers. She was especially proud of the staff who was tasked with filling in the gap and the shortcomings of the proposal that was rejected the first time that had the Mayor in tears. Councilwoman Scott shared the CNI grant award was a paradigm change for the entire City and she looked forward to the possibilities as the impact would be felt across the City of Newport News. She thanked City Manager Rohlf for keeping the process going and her contributions to the process.

In recognition of Older Americans Month, Councilwoman Scott advised she was an older American. She further asked citizens to check on their elderly and senior neighbors who may not want to ask for assistance. The City had in excess of 30% of citizens over the age of 65.

Councilwoman Scott announced that there would be no May North District Town Hall Meeting, but would reconvene on June 24, 2019.

Vice Mayor Vick commended the City Manager, the staff, and especially Ms. Karen Wilds, Director, Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Association (NNRHA), for their hard work on the City receiving $30 million Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant award for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative, presented by the Honorable Ben Carson, Secretary, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, at a ceremony on Monday, May 13, 2019, in the City Council Chambers. The NNRHA was the lead agency in assisting to secure the grant award. Vice Mayor Vick advised that she was born and raised in
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued
downtown Newport News, and the grant award meant a great deal to her, as there was a time when people did not want to come to the 23607 area. Before she was elected to City Council in 2008, the climate on the City Council included turning a blind eye to the Southeast community due to a lack of investment in the area. Vice Mayor Vick advised that she felt good about the entire Council with the work and dedication to an area on which many turned their back due to the make-up of the income and the economics of the Southeast Community. This would be a huge step in the right direction for the citizens and the youth who knew, due to the $30 million investment, they were valued. She commended the staff of all departments for their hard work, which was a huge team effort. Vice Mayor Vick extended thanks to Chief Steve Drew, NNPD, for eloquently leading the United States Department of HUD Secretary, the Honorable Ben Carson, into the City of Newport News. She thanked God for the opportunity for new housing, small businesses, and those who would not normally be able to gain economic equity in America.

Vice Mayor Vick reminded citizens about 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 citizens 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 (1325-16th Street) and Huntington Park (Riverpark Road).

Councilwoman Woodbury commended the City Manager, the staff, and all involved in securing the $30 million Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant award for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative, presented by the Honorable Ben Carson, Secretary, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, at a ceremony on Monday, May 13, 2019, in the City Council Chambers. She reiterated the word used by Secretary Carson, “persistence,” of which City Manager Rohlf was a perfect example.

Councilwoman Woodbury shared that she was privileged to speak to a Men’s Bible Group at First Baptist Church on Saturday, May 11, 2019. She received numerous questions about the City. They requested some of the City Council Meetings be held in other parts of the City. City Manager Rohlf was looking into the possibility. Councilwoman Woodbury hoped it would come to fruition as she valued what citizens had to say. She wanted City Council to be transparent, and a City that worked together for the good of all.

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 were appreciated.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that she was out of town for a documentary taping on Newport News, which she hoped would be aired in the Fall of 2019.

Councilwoman Cherry apologized that she missed the $30 million Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant award presentation for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative, by the Honorable Ben Carson, Secretary, United States Department of Housing and Urban Develop-
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

ment, at a ceremony on Monday, May 13, 2019, in the City Council Chambers. She offered congratulations to City Manager Rohlf, the Planning staff, and all of the Departments who helped the City successfully receive the $30 million grant. The funding was very much needed. It was her belief that the City would witness a transformation in the Southeast Community. She offered the following words of encouragement to City Manager Rohlf, "the race is not given to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but to the one that endured to the end." Councilwoman Cherry extended thanks to City Manager Rohlf for never giving up and for having the endurance for the City.

Councilwoman Cherry extended condolences to the families of Ms. Brenda Griffith, Ms. Betsy Robinson, and Ms. Brenda Morst. The deaths were sudden, and promised to keep the families in her prayers.

Councilwoman Cherry recognized the NNPD, announcing the Police Memorial Service, scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2019, 7:00 p.m., at the Mariners’ Museum (100 Museum Drive). She thanked all of the First Responders, especially the Police Department, for their service. She paid tribute to the legacy of those who lost their lives in the line of duty. She encouraged the community to attend the ceremony and show their support.

Councilwoman Cherry extended compliments and gave kudos to Mr. Michael Poplawski, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, for the great Newport News Children’s Festival of Friends, held on Saturday, May 4, 2019, at Newport News Park.

Councilwoman Cherry extended thanks to Mr. Poplawski and staff for the great National Tourism Week Luncheon, held May 8, 2019, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., at the Virginia War Museum (9285 Warwick Boulevard). She shared that both of the aforementioned events were representative of the lively activities provided for the residents of Newport News.

Councilwoman Cherry announced that the next South District Your Voice Matters Town Hall Meeting, was scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2019, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., at the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue). Professional School Counselors would be present to give presentations. She encouraged them to tell their story, as they were the backbone for the children and youth in the school system. All citizens were invited to attend.

Councilman Harris extended congratulations to Pastor Peter Evans, Pastor, Colossian Baptist Church (856 Old Fort Eustis Boulevard). Pastor Evans celebrated his 20th Pastoral Anniversary, on Sunday, May 12, 2019.

Councilman Harris extended congratulations to Reverend Dr. Ivan Harris, Pastor, First Baptist Church Denbigh (3628 Campbell Road). Pastor Harris was officially retired, after serving as Pastor for 31 years. Councilman Harris shared that both Pastor Evans and Pastor Harris had been stalwarts in the community.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilman Harris extended a cordial welcome and congratulations to Pastor William J. Spencer, who was installed as Pastor at First Baptist Church Morrison. First Baptist Church Morrison was the church that Councilman Harris' father pastored for 45 years.

Councilman Harris echoed the sentiments of his colleagues, he extended congratulations to City Manager Rohlf and the City staff for their hard work on the City receiving $30 million Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant award for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative, presented by the Honorable Ben Carson, Secretary, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, at a ceremony on Monday, May 13, 2019, in the City Council Chambers. He shared that he attended a conference in Pittsburgh three years ago, and has the opportunity to witness firsthand how a Choice Neighborhood Initiative grant could impact a community. He envisioned what such a grant could do in the City of Newport News. He commended thanks and appreciation to the community soldiers - members of the Marshall-Ridley transformation team who assisted in the process and persevering. He recalled after Newport News had been turned down for the first grant, his colleagues used the term, “when,” and not “if,” making reference to Newport News receiving the grant award. Witnessing the excitement from the Award Presentation was a joyous occasion.

Referencing Vice Mayor Vick's comments about the 23607 zip code, he shared the accomplishments of a Heritage High School graduate, from the 23607 area, who also attended Ferguson High School prior to its closure, who was commissioned as a Circuit Court Judge in Fairfax, Virginia – the Honorable Dontae L. Bugg. Judge Bugg was the first African American male commissioned as a Circuit Court Judge in Fairfax, Virginia, in 25 years. Councilman Harris was joined by Vice Mayor Vick, and numerous Newport News residents, for the celebration. Councilman Harris mentioned that Judge Bugg’s mother, Ms. Monica Plummer, a City of Newport News employee, and Chair of the Employee Price Task Force, was at the April 23, 2019 Regular Meeting of City Council to receive the proclamation for Public Service Recognition Week – May 5-11, 2019.

Councilwoman Harris announced, the Third Annual Media Network Mixer, to be held on Wednesday, May 29, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., at District 41 Sports Bar, located at 605 Pilot House Drive (location was changed from Shockwave Strength and Performance, at 315 Chatham Drive). The event would bring entrepreneurs, non-profit organizations, and small businesses together to network, and see how to better collaborate with one another. Staff from the Department of Development had been present in the past to make presentations to assist small businesses.

Councilman Jenkins recalled that he approached City Council two years prior to seek money for NNPS. He was told the money was in the budget, which it was not. He advised being told there was money in the budget for NNPS in 2018, but it was not. He advised, at its May 14, 2019 Regular Meeting of City Council, City Council had an opportunity to put money in the budget for NNPS to ensure they had all of the funding needed as requested, but City Council did not. He shared the following quote by Thucydides over 2400 years prior “Right, as the world goes, is only a question between equals in power, the strong do what they can, and
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

the weak endure what they must.” He further advised, throughout the budget cycle, the City Council had never seen the School Board as an equal governing body, and therefore had never sought the fair solution to school funding the City. They had, used the process as a means to malign and vilify other elected officials in the City that the citizens elected to be the voice on education. When the school had asked for fair funding to educate the children, the City Council sought to use an excuse to extend their power over the school budget and education policy – a power denied by the structure of the local government. When the NNPS asked for funding, rather than providing that funding the City asked that the NNPS return money to the City. Right is only a question between equals in power. As long as the City Council refused to acknowledge and respect the School Board’s independent authority to manage the schools, rightness and fairness would not be achieved. It would not be a goal, and the City would suffer. Councilman Jenkins thanked the parents, teachers, citizens, the City leaders and organizations who spoke out for education. He urged them to see this as a setback and a delay, not a defeat (a copy of Councilman Jenkins remarks are attached in full and made a part of these minutes).

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 8:43 P.M.

Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC
City Clerk

McKinley L. Price, DDS
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk