MINUTES OF WORK SESSION
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE 10TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
May 14, 2019
3:45 p.m.

PRESENT: McKinley L. Price, DDS; Sharon P. Scott, MPA; Tina L. Vick; Dr. Patricia P. Woodbury; Saundra N. Cherry, D. Min. (arrived at 4:00 p.m.); Marcellus L. Harris III; and David H. Jenkins

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Cynthia D. Rohlf; Collins L. Owens; Mabel Washington Jenkins; Joye Thompkins; Darlene Bradberry; Lisa Cipriano; Cory Cloud; Constantinos Velissarios; Keith Ferguson; Maria Abilar; Shelia McAllister; Flora Chiros; Tricia Wilson; Susan Goodwin; Virginia Lovell; Florence Kingston; Derek Perry; Mallory Bulter; Kathy Howell; Victoria Revell; MaRhonda Echols; Lisa Wornom-Zahralddin; Everett Skipper; Venerria Thomas; Sonia Alcantara-Antoine; Louis Martinez; Jeffrey Johnson; Steve Drew; Michael Grinstead; Patrick Murphy; Alan Archer; David Freeman; Cleder Jones; Kim Lee; Eoghan Miller; Mary Vause; Zina Middleton; and Josh Reyes

City Manager Rohlf congratulated City Council, City staff, Advisory Committee, and the citizens on the $30 million CNI Grant award. She advised that there would be some requirements of City Council as the process moved forward. Thanks to City Council and all those involved for being so supportive throughout the CNI Grant process, especially the community.

I. Summer Training and Enrichment Program (STEP) Update

City Manager Rohlf reminded City Council that the City was in the 5th year of the STEP program and had discussions over the last year to take stock of where the program was, making sure the City got the greatest impact and what direction was needed. She introduced Mr. Alan Archer, Assistant City Manager, to share information on the 2019 Summer Training and Enrichment Program (STEP) (a copy of the presentation, “STEP 2019 Collaboration for Skill Development, May 14, 2019,” is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Mr. Archer introduced Ms. MaRhonda Echols, Youth and Gang Manager and Ms. Lisa Wornom-Zahralddin, Project Manager, Office of the City Manager, who had been very instrumental in rethinking STEP and making the transition. They were available to assist with any questions or concerns.
Mr. Archer advised that STEP was one component of the City’s Violence Prevention Initiative to increase positive outcomes for youth and young adults between the ages of 16 – 24 through exposure to the world of work. He indicated the participants would work up to 30 hours per week, while earning $8.00 - $9.00 per hour depending on their completion of high school or GED. STEP covered all wages, and there were no direct costs for employers to serve as a host worksite, other than in-kind supervision while participants were working.

Mr. Archer noted that the program had grown from 160 participants in 2014 to 470 participants in 2018. Approximately 1,900 young people had participated in STEP over the past five (5) years, working roughly 300 thousand hours and earning more than $2 million in wages.

Mr. Archer indicated the success was due in large part to the employers who had supported STEP. Employers had chosen to help youth and young adults believe in all they could be and create life-changing experiences that would help participants for years to come.

Mr. Archer shared that the 2019 STEP program was designed around a new model of service delivery with the goal to transition STEP from a ten-week “summer program” to a systematic year-round initiative. The City would serve as the fiscal agent and monitor the work of three strategic partners to deliver the program over a twelve-month period. The partnerships included: Hampton Roads Community Action Program, Newport News Public Schools, and the New Horizons Regional Education Center. The City expect to serve 200 high school or in-school students and 75 out-of-school participants who met eligibility requirements to include residents in Marshall Courts, Ridley Circle, and the Courthouse Green/Beechmont Neighborhood. These areas had a high concentration of disconnected youth in their teens and early twenties who were in danger of being cut-off from the people, institutions and experiences that would help them live rewarding lives as adults. An annual evaluation would provide feedback for City Council and the City Administration about program effectiveness.

Mr. Archer advised that the Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) would serve as the 2019 STEP Program Administrator over both In-School Youth and Out-of-School Youth program delivery.

- Paylocity would be used for mobile time and attendance for Payroll – mobile app, desktop, and paper-based
- Worksite visits would be coordinated to assist employers with on-the-job training needs with participants
- Participants would receive soft-skill training during orientation and prior to worksite placement
Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about Chief Steve Drew, Newport News Police Department (NNPD) and Ms. Venerria Thomas, Director, Department of Human Services (DHS) who were set to administrator the STEP program. City Manager Rohlf replied the NNPD and DHS would take the lead in the Building Better Futures Initiative (BBFI); however, STEP was one component of BBFI the City wanted to move forward. She advised that the consultants would be available to make a presentation at a June 2019 City Council Work Session to finalize the BBFI.

Mr. Archer advised that the City continued to work on smoothing the payroll process. To this end, HRCAP would contract with Paylocity to administer the payroll. Through the Paylocity App, all STEP participants could:

- Log in using Touch ID on their mobile device (if enabled) for easy access to payroll data;
- Punch in and out from their mobile device without the physical need for a time clock; and
- View paycheck information, check time sheets, and receive push notifications.

Mr. Archer indicated the Work Training Experience were for young people between the ages of 16 – 18. STEP would run from June 25 – August 1, 2019. The program components were as follows:

- Paid workforce experience
- Provided employment training
- Provided career exploration
- Provide college exposure
- Provided academic support

Mr. Archer advised that the Newport News Public Schools would serve as the primary service provider for approximately 200 In-School Youth Program participants enrolled in high school between the ages of 16 – 18. He said each high school would champion a cohort of STEP participants to receive monitoring and support throughout their participation in the program during the 2019-2020 school year.

- A 6-Week program was available to 200 NNPS students who met eligibility criteria for STEP
  - During the summer, Job Coaches would assist participants with soft-skills training, professional portfolios, and worksite placement and support services
Eligible participants could continue for a maximum of 520 additional hours with the support and coordination of New Horizons Regional Education Center

- Summer and Year-Round
- Monthly afterschool sessions
- Saturday sessions offered every other month September – May
- Year-round engagement opportunities included for In-School Youth enrolled in STEP:
  - School Counselors
  - Graduation Coaches
  - Career Exploration and Work Experiences
  - Mentoring and Field Trips
  - Academic Tutoring and Credit Recovery
  - Team-building Activities
  - Youth Development and Community Service Activities

Councilman Harris questioned how that would look for School Counselors. Would a Counselor be provided through the program, a new position, or how would that work? Ms. Echols replied that each school had a Program Advisor and would work with Dr. Claudia Hines, Supervisor, Professional School Counseling and her team. Dr. Hines would set-up interviews and the selected candidate in the building would become the Program Advisor for their building/school and would receive a supplement.

Mr. Archer shared that additionally, participants would receive Career Pathways training, Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses, industry certification opportunities, team building activities and bi-monthly enrichment experiences. He advised the desired outcomes for all participants included increased attendance, improved academic performance, better decision making, increased self-esteem and motivation, career pathway training, exposure to college and enrichment activities, and stronger soft skills and workforce qualifications.

Mr. Archer advised that HRCAP would serve as the primary service provider for approximately 75 out-of-school participants between the ages of 18 – 24. HRCAP would utilize a cohort-training program that provided industry focused employment training and certificates to 15 participants at least five (5) times per year. The desired outcome was for all participants to obtain unsubsidized full-time employment with benefits.

- A 7-Week program was available to 75 participants who met eligibility criteria for STEP:
  - 3-Week Work-readiness preparation/in-classroom experience
• **Week 1** – Job Readiness Skill Building
  - (Workplace Excellence Series, Mock Interviews)

• **Week 2** – Credentials and Certifications
  - (NorthStar Basic Computer Skills Certificate, OSHA, ACT, etc.)

• **Week 3** – Budgeting and Job Preparedness
  - (Benefits coordination, Equipment and supports for employment)

• **4-Week** – Job Placement Experience at worksites where Job coaches provide ongoing supports for participants

• Eligible participants could continue for a maximum of 520 additional hours with the support and coordination of New Horizons Regional Education Center

Vice Mayor Vick indicated that she wanted to ensure that the targeted areas would be served, as it came from the Anti-Gang and Youth Initiative. How would the Program Advisor know if there were low-income youth, where would the Advisor get the appropriate information? Ms. Echols replied that the school system had a data base and had some of the necessary criteria’s (i.e. free and/or reduce lunch eligibility, who were parents, where students lived, their neighborhoods). She further advised that the information had be sent to partners (Police Department, Juvenile Services, Court Service, and Human Services) who could also make referrals, as well as the Outreach Team. Once the application period closed on May 31, 2019, there would be a team reviewing those applications to ensure the applicants met the eligible criteria to be selected to be a part of the STEP program. Vice Mayor Vick reiterated she wanted to ensure that the targeted areas were served.

Councilman Harris questioned whether the City would pay all of the fees associated with being enrolled in the New Horizons program. Ms. Wornom-Zahralddin replied no, the City would not, if they are WIOA eligible, which a majority should be. She stated training, case management, and coordination would be provided by WIOA. City Manager Rohlf advised that if the user fee became an issue, the City would step in to assist, the funding was already available and the whole idea was in place to take away those barriers not to set-up additional barriers.

Mr. Archer advised of the participating Education Centers:

• **New Horizons**, owned and operated by the six (6) Peninsula School Divisions, prepared youth for academic and post-secondary educational opportunities and occupational skills training
  - New Horizons Regional Education Center was the bridge that tied all of the STEP activities together while extending work experiences for those
who meet eligibility criteria under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

- Educational opportunities would be offered through the **Youth Workforce Center** and the **Career & Technical Education Center**

- The **Youth Workforce Center** was the Youth Services one-stop partner for the Greater Peninsula Workforce Development Board (WIOA)

- **The Youth Workforce Center would offer:**
  - In-School Program for at-risk youths ages 16 – 21
  - Out-of-School Program for youths ages 17 – 24
  - Work Experience
  - Support Services

- **The Career & Technical Education Center would offer:**
  - 25 Specialized programs
  - Hands-on real world curriculum
  - Industry-specific credential exams
  - Work-based learning experiences
  - Post-secondary education — dual enrollment with TNCC
  - Employment — Academy for Advanced Technical Careers

Mr. Archer advised of the STEP Eligibility Criteria as follows:

**Ages 16 – 18**

- Currently enrolled in an NNPS high school as of June 1, 2019
- Eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.)
- At risk of dropping out of school (based on poor attendance/truancy or deficient academic record)
- An English Language Learner
- Single parent household
- Students that were parents
- Current or past alternative school placement
- Referrals from Newport News Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Human Services for students with a criminal record
- Have residence in Marshall Courts, Ridley Circle, Courthouse Green/Beechmont Neighborhoods, or maintain residence in a high poverty census tract

**Ages 18 – 24**

- A school dropout
• An individual subject to the juvenile or adult justice system
• Homeless or runaway
• In Foster Care or had aged out of Foster Care
• Pregnant or parenting
• An Individual with a disability to include learning disability
• Required assistance to secure or hold employment
• Basic skills deficient
• An English Learner
• Have residence in Marshall Courts, Ridley Circle, Courthouse Green/Beechmont Neighborhoods, or maintain residence in a high poverty census tract

Councilwoman Cherry requested clarity on the STEP program, she understood there would be 275 participants. Mr. Archer replied yes, there would 200 In-School and 75 Out-of-School participants. Councilwoman Cherry inquired about the 200 In-School participants that the NNPS would work with through Career Pathways, but she thought that the NNPS already offered Career Pathways, which would be a duplication of services. City Manager Rohlf replied it was more than just to identify what the participant was interested in skillset, it was wrap around services to make that young person more successful.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned whether the NNPS had agreed to allow someone in the schools to become a Program Advisor. City Manager Rohlf replied that the NNPS had been at the table as a partner and the City was paying for the services of the overall program. Ms. Echols replied the Advisor was already a school employee and would receive a $1,500 - $1,700 stipend for the additional responsibilities.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned how Paylocity worked and who paid the youth. Mr. Archer replied that HRCAP and NNPS would pay and submit monthly invoices for payment to support the stipends.

Councilwoman Cherry inquired about accountability for the program – the amount of money going out, for what service, and what type of documentation would be provided, to ensure proper follow through with a brand new program – to evaluate from the start to the end. Mr. Archer replied the program evaluation criteria were built into the MOU with HRCAP and NNPS, the City asked for monthly reports, from NNPS, to include the number of job placements, number of employment portfolios developed, tracking the number of certificates and credentials received by participants, and the number of new sites developed, the number of career coaching sessions, weekly reports on participant data and any challenges and solutions.
Councilwoman Cherry questioned how background checks would be performed on past and new worksites or whoever would be directly supervising the youth. Ms. Echols replied, through the agreement, HRCAP would have the background check performed and that information would be kept on file. She shared unfortunately, for legal reasons, the City could not obtain the results of the background checks from HRCAP. Councilwoman Cherry indicated it was of concern that the City was paying, but could not have access to the background. She wanted to confirm that a background check had been completed on anyone who would be in direct contact with the youth. Councilwoman Woodbury agreed with Councilwoman Cherry because the City would be liable. Ms. Echols indicated it was a security and liability matter for HRCAP and part of the MOU indicated that a background would be done. Councilwoman Cherry suggested whatever needed to be done, for the City to have access to the background check, please ensure that could done.

Councilwoman Scott indicated, in addition to background checks, also needed more control on how and who was supervising the youth, from the time each youth checked-in until they checked-out and when leaving the worksite. City Manager Rohlf replied that she agreed, more control was needed for the safety of the young person.

Vice Mayor Vick inquired about how to match each of the 275 participants with each business. City Manager Rohlf replied the City had been a work site and had taken on a number of youth.

Mr. Archer shared that the City sponsored a Breakfast Meeting at the Holiday Inn City Center on May 3, 2019, to brief worksite partners about the 2019 STEP program. He indicated that 50 businesses completed Commitment Cards to participate as a worksite. There were some new businesses. There would be some businesses around the industry cluster, working with the out of school participants to get them full-time employment.

City Manager Rohlf shared that she believed the City had a model that was going to work with the new transition. The ultimate goal was to prepare young people for the future. Vice Mayor Vick indicated the City would pay HRCAP and NNPS to manage the program with 275 participants, but when the City ran the program there were 500 participants. She questioned why the decrease in participants? City Manager Rohlf replied to have a more manageable and strategic program and getting back to the roots of what City Council acted on originally.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about the Outreach Team, what would they do and how many were available. Ms. Echols replied there were seven (7) Outreach Workers. City Manager Rohlf indicated the Outreach Workers would fall under the BBFI and would be bought back at a June 2019 City Council Work Session. She advised that Chief Drew was new to the old structure of STEP, and while working through the new model it gave Chief Drew an opportunity
to see what worked and what did not work, to suggest or recommend the appropriate changes in the new model of STEP.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned to whom the Outreach Workers reported. City Manager Rohlf replied that the structure had not been changed to date. Ms. Echols indicated the Outreach Workers were still making connections in the community with youth, in the school system, trying to get youth employed and connected to other services. The job description of the Outreach Workers had not changed. Councilwoman Cherry inquired how the City knew what the Outreach Workers were doing and whether there was an evaluation component to show what they were doing. Ms. Echols replied there was not an evaluation component connected. City Manager Rohlf noted that was the reason the Outreach Workers were being reviewed in the new model. Councilwoman Cherry advised that Council needed more information on what the Outreach Workers were doing. Councilwoman Woodbury stated the Outreach Workers were getting a salary and there had to be some accountability. City Manager Rohlf replied she would bring information back to City Council with regard to the Outreach Worker activities.

II. Invest Newport News Opportunity Zones Website

City Manager Rohlf introduced Ms. Mallory Butler, Senior Economic Analyst, Department of Development, to share information on the Opportunity Zones program (a copy of the presentation, “Great Things are Happening – Opportunity Zones, May 14, 2019,” is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Ms. Butler noted the following about Opportunity Zones:

- A new revitalization tool.
- Designed to drive long-term capital investment to low-income and distressed areas by offering investors tax benefits.

Ms. Butler shared how the Opportunity Zones were designated:

- Feds determined initial eligibility based on Census data.
- Governors nominated 25% of eligible Census tracts.
- Governor Northam sought recommendations from localities with emphasis on proportionality; ex., 25% from each community.
- Over 8,700 Census tracts nationwide, included 212 in Virginia and 7 in Newport News, designated.
• Each of Newport News’ Zones capitalize on established strategic plans, economic drivers, public investment and offer the greatest opportunity for future private investment.

Ms. Butler noted the basics of the program were as follows:

• Investors receive tax benefits by investing in Opportunity Zones through a “Qualified Opportunity Fund” (QOF).
• The QOF invests in:
  o Stock in a qualified Opportunity Zone business/corporation;
  o Partnership interest in a qualified Opportunity Zone business; and/or
  o Property in a qualified Opportunity Zone business.

Ms. Butler advised of tax advantages for investors as follows:

• **Defer** capital gains tax on the sale of an asset if sales proceeds were invested in a QOF.
• **Reduce** amount of capital gains tax paid on the deferred amount invested within the QOF if the assets were held for five (5) or more years.
• **Avoid** capital gains tax on any appreciation arising from investment in the QOF if investment was held for at least ten (10) years.

Ms. Butler indicated, with the new program, the guidance and regulations were as follows:

• U.S. Treasury preparing regulations and holding public hearings.
  o First round was held February 14, 2019
  o Second round scheduled for July 9, 2019

Ms. Butler advised that more information could be found on the Marketing of Newport News’ Opportunity Zones at the following beta website which would go live by May 17, 2019.

• [www.InvestNewportNewsOppZone.com](http://www.InvestNewportNewsOppZone.com)

Ms. Butler provided a brief overview of the website. She introduced Ms. Kathy Howell, President and Creative Director, and Ms. Victoria Revell, Account Manager, Howell Creative Group, worked with the City’s GIS Department and did extensive research and came up
with the website www.InvestNewportNewsOppZone.com which was tied to the Economic Development Authority (EDA) website, the look, graphics and format was kept in-line with the EDA website.

Vice Mayor Vick indicated it was a great program for revitalization that people would be able to get returns on investment, especially in areas that were hard to serve. City Manager Rohlf advised that she had a brief discussion with the Regional Director about Opportunity Zones and some of the doors that the program would open in underserved communities.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned whether the census tracts were the same used by the 2020 Decennial Census which was presented at the March 26, 2019 City Council Work Session. City Manager Rohlf replied she believed that some of the census tracts came from the 2020 Decennial Census. Vice Mayor Vick inquired whether the census tract were income based. Ms. Butler replied yes, the Federal government reviewed census tracts across the country and used income levels and unemployment data for eligibility.

Ms. Butler indicated the information for each census tract was important and was found on the website. The information would be easy to locate on the website for the investment and development community with everything at one site – investors could learn anything necessary about the land/property in layers on-site. She stated investors could also find information on the Enterprise Zone and HUB Zone. Later, summer 2019 – there would be a number of investor seminars/workshops (i.e. investor, development, real estate community) with a panel of experts within the Opportunity Zone arena, tax attorneys, CPA’s to provide the participants with the nuts and bolts of the seven (7) tracts.

Councilwoman Cherry shared that she wanted to ensure that potential investors from the Southeast community were included, not just to big businesses, but to seek investors, who were not afraid to invest in small businesses in the Southeast community. Ms. Butler replied there would be a broad range of investors included.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about the difference between the “Opportunity Zones” and the “Enterprise Zones”. Ms. Butler replied that the Opportunity Zones was a Federal program for investors to defer, reduce or eliminate capital gains; and the Enterprise Zones was a State designation that was only in Virginia with two (2) geography Enterprise Zones with some overlapping, with State and local incentives, based on capital investment in real estate, machinery, and equipment as well as an increase in job generation and employment opportunities.

Ms. Butler indicated, in summary, the Opportunity Zones were another tool for private investment and revitalization.
III. Third Quarter Fiscal Year 2019 Report

City Manager Rohlf indicated the budgetary projections, based on actual performance for the first nine-months of the fiscal year and a projection of financial activities for the remaining three months. She introduced Ms. Lisa Cipriano, Director, Department of Budget and Evaluation, to provide the presentation (a copy of the presentation, “FY 2019 General Fund Forecast – Based on Third Quarter Results, May 14, 2019,” is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Ms. Cipriano noted the third quarter review as of March 31, 2019 was as follows:

Budget - $487.5 million

- Half of the annual Major Taxes were collected in the 2nd Quarter, beginning in November 2018. Only delinquents and late payments in 3rd Quarter
- Revenue projections for major taxes based on prior years collection patterns through the beginning of May 2019
- Lingering effect of Federal Government Shutdown – Impact on local revenue

Ms. Cipriano indicated that revenue collections were determined predominantly by adjusting the consumer sensitive taxes of personal property, sales, meals, amusement, and lodging, refining the analysis of the revenue patterns that had occurred after the federal shutdown, and prior to the collections of the second half of the major taxes. Other revenue streams showed performances as expected, with collection patterns generally as initially budgeted for the fiscal year.

Major Revenues

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<td>Personal Property</td>
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<td>Machinery &amp; Tools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodging Tax</td>
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*Current RE Taxes only
Major Revenues

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- Projecting (0.2%) shortfall or ($471,000)

Major Expenditures

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<td>Utilities</td>
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<td>Contractual Services</td>
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- Projected (0.1%) savings or +$517,000

Councilwoman Woodbury questioned the utilities projection. Ms. Cipriano replied the projected shortfall of the utilities projection, was due to fluctuations in the City Jail usage, which was driven by the inmate population, with the water being the primary highest driver, larger number of inmates – higher water usage and the building electricity was on 24/7.

Ms. Cipriano advised this was a very tight budget projections and would be closely monitored with six (6) weeks to get through FY 2019.

Third Quarter Projection Surplus – $46,000
- Conservative forecast, watch as major revenues are collected
- Expenditure control through the end of fiscal year
- Most other Revenues will be collected as estimated, some minor fluctuations
- Will monitor Expenditure as Revenue forecast is more secure to close gap

IV. Line of Duty Act (LODA)

City Manager Rohlf introduced Ms. Susan Goodwin, Director, Department of Finance, to share information on the Line of Duty Act (LODA) and proposed amendment (a copy
Ms. Goodwin advised that the Line of Duty Act (LODA) was established in Title 9.1 of the Code of Virginia, enacted in 1972, for the follow purposes:

- Provided benefits for certain public safety employees (and their families) who were disabled or killed in the line of duty
- All localities were required to provide LODA benefits to covered personnel
- Benefits included:
  - Continued health insurance coverage through state LODA Health Benefits Plans
  - One-time death benefit to beneficiary of deceased officers
- Virginia Retirement System (VRS) determines line of duty eligibility
- Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) administers health benefits

Ms. Goodwin shared 1,179 employees were in positions eligible for LODA benefits: Police Officers, Firefighters and medics, Sheriff and Sheriff Deputies. She advised that 24 members were receiving benefits and there were no new applications pending.

Ms. Goodwin provided the LODA Funding History as follows:

- When established, LODA benefits were funded by the State
- In 2010, the State began requiring localities to pay LODA costs
  - $327,516 in benefit costs in FY 2018
- In 2013, $2.6 million of the City’s General Fund balance was reserved for LODA based on an actuarial analysis
- In 2016, the reserved was moved out of the City’s General Fund in a separate LODA Fund
- Annual General Fund contributions were made toward LODA benefits on a pay-as-you-go basis

Ms. Goodwin advised that the City reported the LODA Fund as a Trust Fund in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) as follows:

- Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standards required the City to establish the Fund as a formal irrevocable trust
• Amendment to Chapter 31 would establish the proposed trust
  o Similar to Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) trust
  o Funds may only be used for the exclusive benefit of City LODA recipients
  o Administered by Newport News Employees' Retirement Fund (NNERF) Retirement Board
  o Investment of funds overseen by the Investment Committee
• City would continue to fund annual benefit costs on a pay-as-you-go basis

Ms. Goodwin advised that the Line of Duty Act (LODA) proposed amendments would be on the May 14, 2019 Regular City Council meeting agenda for consideration.

Mayor Price questioned whether the projected $2.6 million was for lifetime benefits or would it have to be supplemented. Ms. Goodwin replied the $2.6 million reserve was available to off-set the liability. The liability was at $8 million, with the $2.6 million to off-set the liability and to fund any one-time death benefits. The one-time death benefits was $100,000 if someone was killed in the line of duty.

Councilwoman Scott questioned how frequently the City used the LODA Fund. Ms. Goodwin replied since 1972 there had been 24 LODA usages and one person added in FY 2018. Unfortunately, there was no way to determine the exact usage, it could increase or decrease.

V. ShotSpotter Briefing

City Manager Rohlf indicated she wanted to brief City Council on a new surveillance technology that detected gunfire called ShotSpotter, which was part of the larger enforcement efforts to address crime. Funding had been included in the FY 2020 budget. The City would begin with a three-year program, evaluate and move forward based on the results. She introduced Chief Steve Drew, Newport News Police Department to provide details of the new technology.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned the efficiency of the ShotSpotter technology. Chief Drew replied it was very efficient and had many benefits, as he had met with Cities that were using ShotSpotter. He advised that ShotSpotter was an acoustic surveillance technology that detected, located, and alerted gunshots. This technology would be deployed in the Southeast community in a 3.2 mile coverage area and would detect gunshots fired within a 25 feet radius in real time. ShotSpotter could detect how many guns were fired, the caliber, the difference between an automatic weapon and a semi-automatic weapon being fired. Data analysts would be transmitted where it would verified, triangulated and would report all critical details to the Newport
News Police Department within approximately 45 seconds. He said devices were being deployed now and once the devices were up, there would be a testing and training period. He advised that ShotSpotter was a great investment and crime was down in the Southeast community. More information and details would be available in the near future.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned if she heard gunshots and called 911, would ShotSpotter be able to detect that those shots were two (2) blocks away? Chief Drew replied yes, along with details such as the type of firearm, number of rounds fired, time frame shots were fired and other investigative tools would be provided.

Councilwoman Cherry inquired about how ShotSpotter would be able to detect the difference between Fourth of July or New Year’s Eve fireworks or gunfire. Chief Drew replied that ShotSpotter could distinguish between fireworks and gun shots.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about the timeframe for ShotSpotter to be in place. Mr. Freeman replied the provider was in the process of pulling permits, but unfortunately, could not give a timeframe. Chief Drew advised that the Police Department would begin training.

Councilwoman Woodbury questioned whether calling 911 would set-things in motion. Chief Drew replied no, the gunfire detected by the sensor would automatically send the information to the Police Department in real time.

Chief Drew thanked City Manager Rohlf and Mayor Price for their forward thinking and moving the City ahead with the ShotSpotter technology.

Councilwoman Woodbury questioned whether this technology would be available to the Central District and Councilwoman Scott inquired whether the technology would be available in the North District. Chief Drew replied that ShotSpotter would be deployed in the Southeast based on the last three – five years crime status and lighting issues, and would be reviewed after a six-month to one-year period to determine the effectiveness of the product.

Councilwoman Scott inquired whether grants under Homeland Security and other federal programs would be sought after. Mayor Price replied there were businesses the City was recruiting to assist with funding, and one business owner had stepped-up with a major contribution.
VI. Comments / Ideas / Suggestions

Councilwoman Cherry inquired about water retention on the Chesapeake Avenue Bike Trail. City Manager Rohlf replied the City was working with the contractor to address the issue(s) and would have the Engineering Department report to City Council.

Councilwoman Cherry thanked the Engineering Department for the ditch/drainage overflow work performed on the Buxton Avenue Project. She advised that the residents in that area were thankful for the repairs as the water used to flow into their yards. They are relieved that was no longer a concern.

Councilman Jenkins advised that he was pleased to hear about ShotSpotter, which was a program discussed about one year ago. He was very excited about the implementation of the technology.

Councilwoman Scott advised that a few years ago she brought back an idea from the National League of Cities about cameras on the NNPS buses, similar to the Photo Red program. She knew the information was shared with the School Board, but no action was taken at that time. She understood that the School Board was now more receptive to the idea. City Manager Rohlf replied she believed that the City had to assist. Councilwoman Scott requested that the City reached out to the School Board to move the program forward. The Photo Red program should be put in place, she heard there were a lot drivers who passed by the school buses with the arms out, which put the children at risk. She would hate for something to happen to a child before the initiative was in place. The idea presented a few years ago was at no cost to the City. City Manager Rohlf replied the information on Photo Red program was presented to the School Board but they did not take action at that time. The City would certainly present the information to the School Board again.

Councilwoman Woodbury requested an update on the possibility of holding City Council meetings at other locations throughout the City, as constituents were continuing to make that request. City Manager Rohlf replied that information would be provided to City Council at the May 28, 2019 City Council Work Session.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about the requested update on the Airport. City Manager Rohlf replied the requested information was provided in an email to City Council. Councilwoman Woodbury questioned whether the City would take action. City Manager Rohlf replied her recommendation was not to do anything further and continue to review the situation. Her recommendation would be not to take any action. Councilwoman Scott advised that there was a big interest in planes coming to the airport but there were no hangers available. She believed,
over time, it would be beneficial. Councilwoman Woodbury indicated she was in agreement with 50% reduction, but 75% was excessive. City Manager Rohlf replied the airport was getting interest and hopefully a spin-off would bring in revenue and spur economic development. Councilwoman Scott invited City Council to attend a Peninsula Airport Commission (PAC) held monthly, on the fourth Thursday, at 8:00 a.m. to obtain more details or ask questions.

Vice Mayor Vick requested that the Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce (VPCC) provided an update at a City Council Work Session. City Manager Rohlf replied she would request a presentation from the VPCC at a future City Council Work Session. Councilwoman Scott indicated VPCC promoted businesses through informational session.

Councilman Harris thanked City Council for the donation in the amount of $2,000 made to Richneck Elementary School Archery Club, who qualified for the National Tournament, held in Louisville, Kentucky, May 8 – 10, 2019.

Councilman Harris thanked Mr. David Freeman, Assistant to the City Manager, for his assistance working with Mr. Antoine Bethea, Safety, NFL New York Giants, on constructing a full size basketball courts in the North District. City Manager Rohlf replied additional information would be provided to City Council once the project was finalized.

Vice Mayor Vick thanked City Council for allowing her the opportunity to serve and represent the City of Newport News on the Virginia First Cities Board. She shared that Newport News would be holding an Annual Meeting on May 17, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Jefferson Lab (12000 Jefferson Avenue), and invited City Council. Governor Ralph Northam would be the guest speaker. She advised the $900,000 grant was a part of the Community Wealth Building, which was an award from Virginia First Cities.

Vice Mayor Vick thanked Mr. Alan Archer, Ms. MaRhonda Echols, Ms. Lisa Wornom-Zahralddin and all of the staff involved with the STEP program. She stated that STEP was near and dear to her heart. The program allowed youth to build a work ethic for themselves who may not have otherwise had an opportunity to do so. She indicated that she knew the program worked as she heard comments from the youth, parents, and grandparents who were thankful. STEP had an impact in the community, built better citizens and planted the seed and let the youth know they could be successful. She appreciated the City staying the course and continuing the STEP program.

Vice Mayor Vick thanked Mr. David Freeman for assisting in a matter involving Dominion Virginia Power. A number of elderly community members had some concerns with
lighting issues. Mr. Freeman worked with Dominion Virginia Power and resolved the issues quickly. She again stated his assistance was greatly appreciated.

Vice Mayor Vick reiterated that joint quarterly meetings with the NNPS should start early to build a better relationship. She inquired whether that request had been made to the School Board. Mayor Price replied that he recommended a committee, which was being worked on to be presented to City Council, but did not have a problem moving forward with the joint quarterly meetings. Vice Mayor Vick suggested moving forward early with joint quarterly meetings to establish better communication. Councilwoman Scott agreed. City Manager Rohlf indicated that she had spoken to Dr. Parker about discussions around the CIP, in order to have early conversations before the City and NNPS CIP was developed.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired whether the NNPS would get the requested amount of $113.3 million to fully fund the NNPS FY 2020 Operating Budget. City Manager Rohlf replied yes, the NNPS would be fully funded at $113.3 million.

Councilwoman Scott advised she received a request from Ms. Karen Ciotta, Kindergarten Teacher, Greenwood Elementary School, who explained the teachers from Epes, Greenwood, and McIntosh Elementary Schools had created “Books on Bikes Newport News”, a teacher literacy outreach program that brought books to kids when school libraries were closed throughout the summer, and were requesting a donation. Teachers ride adult tricycles loaded with books and popsicles into student neighborhoods to read with children ages 1 – 15 years of age and distributed free books to build home libraries. This was all done on a 100% voluntary basis. There would be a kick-off event on June 12, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., at Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard) where families could learn more about the program. Family literacy activities and free books would be included. She requested $5,000 from the City Council contingency fund. By consensus of the City Council, a donation in the amount of $5,000 would be made from the contingency fund.

Councilwoman Cherry advised she received a request from Ms. Angela Gilliam, Administrator/Curriculum Developer, Mr. Michael LeMelle, Director/Lead Instructor, and Ms. Raven LeMelle, Instructor/Programming Consultant with Point, Aim and Shoot Studios who were excited about the continued growth of the youth in the media arts program. As part of the learning objectives, while exposing the students to opportunities and expanding their photographic abilities, Point, Aim and Shoot Studios secured 55 entry passes to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC, for Monday, June 17, 2019. A donation was requested and three quotes provided for local motor transportation companies. City Council was awaiting additional information.
VII. Closed Meeting

(5:32 p.m. – 5:55 p.m.)

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED 6:00 P.M.

Zina F. Middleton, MMC
Chief Deputy City Clerk

McKinley L. Price
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk