MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
JUNE 11, 2019
7:00 P.M.

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

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 Anne Kirchmier, St. Andrew'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 Boy Scouts of America, Troop 27, Grace United Methodist Church. Scouts included: John Paul Sommer, Luke Wojtas, Jake Marmon, Nathan Hodges, Ethan Clinkenbeard, Lucas Covey, Levi Robbins, Jackson Robbins, and Riley Beltz. The scouts were accompanied by Scout Master Thomas Lovell, and Assistant Scout Masters John Wojtas, and Rodney Beltz.

D. Presentations

None

E. Public Hearings

1. Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Deed of Easement for a Utility Easement on a Portion of City-owned Property Located at 1451-48th Street (Copeland Park)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND THE CITY CLERK TO ATTEST, ON BEHALF OF THE
E. Public Hearings Continued

1. Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Deed of Easement for a Utility Easement on a Portion of City-owned Property Located at 1451-48th Street (Copeland Park) Continued

CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, THAT CERTAIN DEED OF EASEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, AND VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY, D/B/A DOMINION ENERGY VIRGINIA, DATED THE 11TH DAY OF JUNE, 2019, FOR AN EASEMENT ACROSS CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1451-48TH STREET, NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA. This ordinance authorized the City Manager to execute a Deed of Easement for a utility easement on a portion of City-owned property located at 1451-48th Street (Copeland Park) to relocate overhead service lines. At its May 28, 2019 Regular Meeting, City Council received one bid in response to a request to receive bids for granting a utility easement over City-owned property located at 1451-48th Street in Copeland Park. The easement was needed to relocate overhead service lines in the 48th Street right-of-way, to underground lines that would cross the property associated with Copeland Park facilities. The successful bidder was Dominion Energy Virginia, with a bid of $4,683.00. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

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

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

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

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

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 45, ZONING ORDINANCE, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE II., DEFINITIONS, SECTION 45-201, DEFINITION OF CERTAIN WORDS AND TERMS, BY ADDING THE DEFINITION OF SHORT-TERM RENTAL. This ordinance amended and reordained the City Code, Chapter 45, Zoning Ordinance; Article II., Definitions; Section 45-201, Definitions of Certain Words and Terms; by adding the definition of Short-Term Rental. This
E. Public Hearings Continued

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

amendment provided a definition of Short-Term Rental in the zoning ordinance. On May 1, 2019, the City Planning Commission voted unanimously 9:0 to recommend adoption of the amendment. The City Manager recommended approval.

Mr. Doug Marmon, 67 Queens Court, Newport News, advised that he and his neighbors had an issue over the weekend of June 8, 2019 with an Airbnb rental (short-term rental property) located at 5 Valentine Court. The property was set up as a party rental, with a maximum occupancy of 50, from 3:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. Mr. Marmon requested that the definition of a short-term rental be specifically identified in the ordinances being considered by City Council. Anytime the party rental was brought into a residential area, the rental should be restricted to a certain occupancy, and the duration of the stay should be a standard time for someone on vacation, and not just an overnight stay in a residential area.

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

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

Councilwoman Scott advise that the matter should be referred back to the Planning Commission rather than City Council taking action. She advised there were so many moving parts to the ordinance. She believed City Council had an opportunity to do a better job. She advised that she had met with members of the Hospitality Association, and numerous citizens. She was appreciative of what the City was attempting, but thought it should be done properly the first time, rather than continuing to revisit matters as done in the past. Remanding it back to the Planning Commission would help to establish a more refined ordinance to present to the public.

Councilwoman Scott moved to refer the matter back to the Planning Commission, adoption of the ordinance as shown above; seconded by Councilwoman Cherry.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that she also met with members of the Hospitality Association, who had a good proposal for short-term rentals which had not been considered, such as liability issues, permits, and the length of stay in the short term rentals. She believed it was important that City Council send the matter back to the Planning Commission, with the suggestions offered by the Hospitality Association, in order for the matter to provide protection for the community, and for the residents. The issue of Airbnb rentals (short-term rent-
E. Public Hearings Continued

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

Although City Council could not vote against all Airbnb rentals, there could be guidelines established, e.g. there should be taxes paid to the City, and liability insurance should be required.

Vice Mayor Vick commented, even though short term rentals occurred across America, and Airbnb rental property did exist in the City of Newport News. She wanted to ensure that City Council reviewed all aspects, to include taking into account what localities similar to Newport News were doing with regard to Airbnb rental property, to include some safety measures to keep the citizens safe.

Councilwoman Scott added that she and City Manager Rohlf discussed the matter in further detail. They realized there were several elements that were not included in the ordinance which should be addressed.

Councilwoman Cherry agreed with her colleagues. She indicated that City Council did not have enough information to make a decision about the issue of short-term rentals. As an information person, it was her desire to have as much information possible prior to making a decision on the matter.

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

Mayor Price sought advice about the remaining ordinances dealing with short-term rental property. City Attorney Owens advised that citizens should be given an opportunity to speak. The public hearings should be closed, because there would likely be a new ordinance provided by the Planning Commission, and an advertisement for new public hearings before the Planning Commission and the City Council.

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

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 45, ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE IV., SUMMARY OF USES BY DISTRICT, SECTION 45-402, SUMMARY OF USES BY DISTRICT, BY AMENDING PERMITTED USES “B” RESIDENTIAL. This ordinance amended and reordained the City Code, Chapter 45, Zoning Ordinance; Article IV., Summary of Uses by District; Section 45-402, Summary of Uses by Dis-
E. Public Hearings Continued

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

District; by amending Permitted Uses “B” Residential. The purpose of this amendment was to establish the zoning districts in which short-term rentals would be allowed. On May 1, 2019, the City Planning Commission voted unanimously 9:0 to recommend adoption of the amendment. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

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

Councilwoman Scott moved to refer the matter back to the Planning Commission, adoption of the ordinance as shown above; seconded by Councilwoman Woodbury.

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

4. Ordinance Amending and Reordaining City Code Chapter 45, Zoning Ordinance; Article V., General Regulations; By Adding Thereto a New Section, Namely; Section 45-517.1, Short Term Rentals

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 45, ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE V., GENERAL REGULATIONS, BY ADDING THERETO A NEW SECTION, NAMELY: SECTION 45-517.1, SHORT TERM RENTALS. This ordinance amended and reordained the City Code, Chapter 45, Zoning Ordinance; Article V., General Regulations; by Adding Thereto a new Section, Namely: Section 45-517.1, Short Term Rentals. This amendment established criteria that must be met to balance allowing short-term rentals, while maintaining the overall character of residential neighborhoods. On May 1, 2019, the City Planning Commission voted unanimously 9:0 to recommend adoption of the amendment. The City Manager recommended approval.

Mayor Price reminded citizens, if they had spoken on this topic at the Public Hearing of the May 28, 2019 Regular Meeting of City Council, they were not allowed to speak again, as this was a continuation of that Public Hearing.
E. Public Hearings Continued

4. Ordinance Amending and Reordaining City Code Chapter 45, Zoning Ordinance; Article V., General Regulations; By Adding Thereto a New Section, Namely; Section 45-517.1, Short Term Rentals Continued

Mr. David Jones, General Manager of the Holiday Inn & Suites, and member of the Newport News Hospitality Association (NNHA), commented on proposed additional regulations on short-term rentals from the NNHA. Mr. Jones shared the following additional proposed regulations: (1) have platform accountability; (2) penalties for non-compliance; (3) apply safety measures (outdoor cameras); (4) must adhere to State lodging regulations; (5) platform must remove non-compliant listings; (6) must be ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) compliant; (7) a cap on the number of nights/days the property could be rented. The NNHA proposed 90 nights/days per year; (8) include permit fee to administer programs to enforce/be the watchdog for the City (NNHA suggested the company, Host Compliance); and (9) limited to single-family residence, no multi-family rental.

Mr. Jones added the following tourism statistics for Newport News: (1) $223 million was generated in Hampton Roads from tourism, from March 2018 to March 2019; (2) $23 million tax revenue was from restaurants; (3) $13 million in tax revenue from hotels; and (4) one in nine people were in the hospitality industry, meaning there was a grave concern that jobs would be lost if regulations were not added.

Mr. Jones shared a major concern was the possibility of human trafficking. He added the following statistics: (1) the Cities of Newport News, Hampton, Chesapeake, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach had 98 new cases from October 2016 - December 2017. The Hampton Roads area was ranked #5 in the State; (2) Virginia was ranked #15 in the Nation; (3) In the first quarter of 2017, 83 cases were reported in Virginia; (4) In March 2018, experts claimed that the Hampton Roads area was a hub for human trafficking; and (5) It only takes one incident to make National news. Mr. Jones urged members of City Council to remit the ordinance back to the Planning Commission for further discussion and exploration (a copy of Mr. Jones remarks are attached and made a part of these minutes).

Vice Mayor Vick referenced Mr. Jones comment about not allowing Airbnb (short-term rentals) in a multi-family dwelling, and asked for clarification. Mr. Jones replied the NNHA wanted to limit Airbnb (short-term rentals) to single family dwellings, as opposed to multi-family properties, whether apartment complexes or multi-family rental houses.

Councilwoman Cherry urged citizens to speak their minds loud and clear on the matter of short-term rentals, and encourage other residents to attend the meetings of the Planning Commission to voice their issues, concerns, and ideas. She wanted the matter addressed more broadly, and not solely from the NNHA, but others as well.

Mr. Blaine Dorsey, 2311 Radius Way, Hotel General Manager of the Courtyard Newport News Airport, and City resident, advised, within the past 30 days, the hotel had received six leads that were lost, for long-term rentals, of 90 plus days. One loss was from a
E. Public Hearings Continued

4. Ordinance Amending and Reordaining City Code Chapter 45, Zoning Ordinance; Article V., General Regulations; By Adding Thereto a New Section, Namely; Section 45-517.1, Short Term Rentals Continued

medical solutions company for 91 days. This lead, at an average rate of $139, amounted to approximately $12,649 worth of room revenue lost, or $1,770.86 worth of taxes. The NNHA urged the City to limit the platform, meaning a renter could stay no more than 90 days. The NNHA further urged that the renters be monitored through the company Host Compliance. The NNHA encouraged City Council to refer the matter back to the Planning Commission for further discussion. He advised members of the Hotel Association would be honored to participate in the discussion.

Mr. Chris Simpson, advised that he worked for a hospitality management firm which managed a hotel in the City of Newport News, and shared that he was also a Newport News resident. He advised that cities did not win with Airbnb (short-term rentals) as they were untaxable, not regulated, and were unknown to visitors to the City. Newport News was a great City and the hotel industry wanted to ensure they provided a product in which they could be proud. Airbnb rentals were unknown and the hotel industry were not aware of what type establishment visitors walked into. The industry wanted to be aware of the visitor’s experiences. It would take only one bad experience to leave a bad feeling. Mr. Simpson shared that Airbnb rentals were described as a quaint home sharing service, but had grown into a corporate entity that made millions of dollars from businesses taking advantage of loopholes and running defector hotels, taking away from the legitimate hotels in town that were being inspected, following codes, rules and regulations. He advised that his firm had identified 165 listings, representing 113 unique rentals in Newport News. The median nightly rate was $70.00. Eighty percent (80%) of the listings were single-family homes. There had been 154% growth annually, which was expected to increase. Mr. Simpson shared that Airbnb tourism could change the character of a neighborhood and conversion of long-term rentals could affect housing availability. He further shared that visitors were unaware of the local rules, and unfair competition could lead to hotel job loss. Short-term renters would not necessarily care about keeping good quality neighborly relations. Mr. Simpson urged City Council to remit the short-term rental ordinance back to the Planning Commission to allow further exploration of terms, opportunities, and further development (a copy of Mr. Simpson’s remarks are attached and made a part of these minutes).

Mr. Brandon Johnson, Director of Sales, Newport News Marriott at City Center, indicated that everyone was in agreement of the opportunity to evaluate short-term rentals deeper. He shared that the NNHA had a meeting with members of the City’s Planning staff, and felt that the ordinance was a strong starting point. There were not inclusion in the ordinance that the NNHA would recommend striking, but there were a number they would recommend adding. It was agreed to ask the City Council remit the matter back to the Planning Commission to continue the conversation.

Councilwoman Scott moved closure of the public hearing; seconded by Councilwoman Woodbury.
E. Public Hearings Continued

4. Ordinance Amending and Reordaining City Code Chapter 45, Zoning Ordinance; Article V., General Regulations; By Adding Thereto a New Section, Namely; Section 45-517.1, Short Term Rentals Continued

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

Councilwoman Scott moved to refer the matter back to the Planning Commission, adoption of the ordinance as shown above; seconded by Councilwoman Woodbury.

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

F. Consent Agenda

Vice Mayor Vick moved adoption of the Consent Agenda, Items 1 through 5, all inclusive, as shown below; seconded by Councilman Jenkins.

1. Minutes of the Work Session of May 28, 2019

(No registered speakers)

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

2. Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 28, 2019

(No registered speakers)

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

3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 28, 2019

(No registered speakers)

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

4. Resolution of Recognition: USS Newport News (SSN 750) Commissioning 30th Anniversary

A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR THE USS NEWPORT NEWS (SSN 750) COMMISSIONING 30TH ANNIVERSARY. The Los Angeles-class nuclear submarine, USS Newport News, was commissioned in June, 1989 after being constructed by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company. This submarine was the eighth vessel to bear the name of the City, and the third to see naval service. Since its commissioning in June 1989, the submarine USS Newport News steamed approximately 700,000 nautical miles, visited 40 foreign ports, and made four transits of the Panama Canal in support of the nation’s defense. The USS Newport News provided Tomahawk strike warfare and intelligence support during Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Fox, Operation Iraqi Freedom and during the Global War on terrorism. The USS Newport News was highly decorated, had been awarded the Southwest Asia Service Medal, with two bronze stars, two Artic Service Ribbons, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, with three bronze stars, a Meritorious Unit Citation, a Navy Unit Citation, and the Sea Service ribbon, with one silver star and one bronze star. In 2011, the USS Newport News received both the Battle Effectiveness (Battle “E”) and the Marjorie Sterrett Battleship Fund Awards. After a successful 2011 North Atlantic deployment, the USS Newport News underwent a major overhaul. In 2016, the USS Newport News was back in action, completing a six-month deployment, which involved visits to Norway, Gibraltar, Greece, and a transit of the Suez Canal. In 2018, the USS Newport News completed a successful European Command deployment, during which the crew took part in multiple events designed to strengthen the bonds between the United States and the United Kingdom. The motto of the USS Newport News, Magni Nominis Umbra (“In the Shadow of a Great Name”) links the submarine to its Namesake City, as well as the careers of previous naval ships that carried the name Newport News. The City Council acknowledged and congratulated Commander David W. Fassel and the crew of the USS Newport News (SSN 750), and all who served on board the vessel, on the 30th Anniversary of the submarine’s commissioning, and for its distinguished and decorated service to the nation.

(No registered speakers)

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

5. Resolution of Recognition: Newport News Shipbuilding Athletic Program 100th Anniversary

A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR THE NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING ATHLETIC PROGRAM’S 100TH ANNIVERSARY. The Apprentice School at Newport News Shipbuilding would celebrate its 100th Anniversary on July 1, 2019. The Athletic Program at the Apprentice School would also celebrate its 100th Anniversary on July 1, 2019. The first sports team established at the Apprentice School was football in 1919, followed by
F. Consent Agenda Continued

5. Resolution of Recognition: Newport News Shipbuilding Athletic Program 100th Anniversary Continued

basketball and baseball teams, established in 1921. Edward J. Robeson was named the first Athletic Director of the Apprentice School in 1923. In 1926, Maroon and Gold were first used as official school colors, and Maroons used as the first school nickname. The school nickname was changed to the Builders. In 1932, track and field was added to the athletic program, followed by wrestling in 1937, and golf and tennis in 1938. In 1934, the Apprentice Athletic Building opened and served the school until 1972, when it was closed prior to the opening of the Apprentice Athletic Center in 1972. The Athletic Program of the Apprentice School became recognized by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) in 1986. In 1994, Women’s Basketball was added as the first female sport in the athletic program, followed by Women’s Wrestling in 2019. Over its history, the Apprentice School Athletic Program saw many championship victories, including the Men’s Basketball Team becoming the State Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Champions in 1937; the Women’s Basketball team winning the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) National Championship in 2001 and 2002; the Men’s Basketball teams winning the USCAA National Championships in 2002 and 2003; the Baseball team winning the USCAA National Championship in 2007 and 2015; Wrestling winning the National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA) National Championship in 2009; golfer Ben Hunter winning the USCAA Golf Titles in 2010 and 2013; and the Football Team winning the National Club Football Association (NCFA) National Championship in 2018. The City Council recognized and congratulated the coaches, staff, and athletes of the Apprentice School at Newport News Shipbuilding’s Athletic Program for their dedication, success, and extended best wished for continued success and development.

(No registered speakers)

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

G. Other City Council Actions

1. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents Necessary to Effectuate the FY 2018 Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) Implementation Grant Agreement Between the City of Newport News, Virginia and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND THE CITY CLERK TO ATTEST, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, THAT CERTAIN FY 2018 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS IMPLEMENTATION GRANT AGRE-
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents Necessary to Effectuate the FY 2018 Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) Implementation Grant Agreement Between the City of Newport News, Virginia and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continued

MENT BY AND BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE NEWPORT NEWS REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY, AND THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS. This resolution authorized and directed the City Manager to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the FY 2018 CNI Implementation Grant Agreement between the City of Newport News and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The CNI was a U.S. Department of HUD program that leveraged public and private investments to replace distressed public housing and transform neighborhoods of concentrated poverty into neighborhoods of opportunity. The three core goals of CNI are housing, people, and neighborhoods. In 2016, the City of Newport News (City) and the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA) were awarded a $500,000 CNI Planning Grant from HUD to develop a Transformation Plan for the Ridley Place public housing site and the surrounding Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood. Having been a finalist in FY 2017, the City and NNRHA were awarded a $30 million CNI Implementation Grant for FY 2018. As a condition of the grant, the co-applicants, the City, and NNRHA were required to sign and return the Grant Agreement prior to June 21, 2019. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes:  Vick, Woodbury, Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott
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 Revelation 6:4, and Romans 13:4. Mr. Thompson urged members of City Council to learn from the mass murders in Virginia Beach (Twelve people were killed Friday, May 31, 2019, after a disgruntled city employee fatally shot 12, and wounded five others. This was the deadliest mass
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council
   Continued

   shooting in America since November 2018). Citizens needed to learn how to effectively deter
   future mass murders. He shared the following solutions that should be carefully followed: (1)
   bring together all legal fire-armed citizens and some illegal fire-armed citizens to promote and
   strongly encourage the collective will of all fire-armed citizens to take part as partners with the
   Police Department to help better protect and serve. Mr. Thompson suggested that every one of
   sound mind and body must be given a gun to defend themselves. He advised that the Police
   would be unable to arrive on the scene quick enough in a mass shooting, particularly not as quick
   as a fire-armed citizen already on site. Mr. Thompson reminded that he had been a strong
   advocate for firearms and teaching young people how to use firearms.

   Ms. Ashley Foster, 630 Riverbend Court, #102, Newport News, shared her
   wonderful experience as a member of the Newport News Police Department (NNPD) Citizen
   Police Academy (CPA). Over a twelve week period, the group was able to interact with both
   police officers and civilians of the department in a very positive way. They met dedicated K-9
   officers and their loyal and well-trained partners. They learned about possible ways to identify
   gang members and gang activity, and the various methods the officer use to decrease the gang
   presence in the community. The group was made aware of the many community outreach
   opportunities available throughout the City. Ms. Foster shared that the most valuable part was the
   being able to interact with members of the Newport News Police Department in a safe and
   comfortable setting. The CPA allowed citizens to educate themselves. She recalled one member
   that was not fond of law enforcement. As the weeks went by, the questions were less skeptical,
   and the individual showed more interest. Following her speech at graduation, the individual
   admitted to having a good time, transforming from not wanting to participate to being sad the
   CPA had come to an end. The NNPD made a huge stride toward a safer and unified community.
   Ms. Foster thanked the NNPD for the life-changing opportunity.

   Ms. Lena Holmes, 75 Wellesley Drive, #223, Newport News, shared that she was
   a member of the Pinecroft Senior Citizens, and had joined other seniors by participating in the
   NNPD Police Citizen Police Academy for Seniors (CPAS). She advised that it was an interesting
   and educational program. She shared how impressive the speakers were, to include information
   shared on weapons, narcotics, and missing persons. She was especially impressed by the
   camaraderie and the respect shown by members of the NNPD. Ms. Holmes was pleased with the
   relationship between the NNPD and the Sheriff’s Office, particularly reaching out to the youth,
   giving them a better perspective of what police officers did. She encouraged citizens to get
   involved and participate in a Newport News Police Academy.

   Ms. Cassady Pope, 410 Hoiser Street, Newport News, shared that she was a
   graduate of the NNPD Citizen Police Academy for Youth (CPAY). She commented that her
   experience in CPAY was amazing. During the week-long academy, she had the opportunity to see
   the K-9 unit, learned about forensics, and the marine patrol unit. Discussions involved teen-
   related topics to include teen dating violence, choices and consequences. CPAY helped her get
   engaged with the NNPD, and inspired her to enroll in a forensics class at school. She met new
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council
Continued

people and created a bond with her peers and the men and women in the NNPD. Ms. Pope indicated the CPAY was not only educational, but also fun, and signed up to attend another session. She extended thanks to the NNPD for the opportunity to participate in the CPAY.

Ms. Brenda Ferguson, 5006 Roanoke Avenue, Newport News, commented about her increased tax assessment, and inquired whether City Council could lower her taxes. She suggested salary increases for those employees providing service, i.e. police officers and teachers. Ms. Ferguson advised, if she had to pay more taxes, she would like to see the increased revenue go toward those working for the community. She complimented members of the NNPD, who were doing a great job. She had issued a complaint about loud music and large trucks in her neighborhood. Loud parties had become a problem. Ms. Ferguson inquired whether the City could collaborate with the Department of Codes Compliance to provide a solution to the noise and keep the community safe and sound.

Mayor Price explained that City Council did not control tax assessments. It was the Treasurer’s Office that handled the distribution of tax bills and the collection of taxes. Councilwoman Woodbury advised that Ms. Ferguson could appeal her assessment to the Board of Review of Real Estate Assessments. Mayor Price advised that the information for the Board of Review could be found on the tax assessment card she received. Ms. Ferguson questioned whether City Council could help if she filed an appeal. City Manager Rohlf asked Mr. David Freeman, Assistant to the City Manager, City Manager’s Office to meet with Ms. Ferguson to obtain further information.

Mr. Dion Witherspoon, 926-19th Street, Newport News, shared that he was a Therapeutic Mentor and Behavioral Counselor with the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board (CSB), and spoke on behalf of the Huntington High School Alumni Association. He shared his observation of the favorable reaction among Council members when the City Manager mentioned the $30 million grant award received from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He also advised, following the announcement of the $30 million grant award, City Council approved construction of a $31 million parking garage in City Center. He indicated money played a vital role in what was done and what was not done. On behalf of the Huntington High School Alumni Association, he inquired what would be as most beneficial for the community – a free parking garage or a school. Regarding the rebuilding of Huntington Middle School, Mr. Witherspoon asked City Council to follow through on the promise made concerning the matter. He recalled City Manager Rohlf advising the HUD representatives that Newport News was awaiting for the funding to be approved prior to proceeding. He advised, the funding was approved, but the community was still waiting for something to be done, e.g., allocation of funds for the design and plan for Huntington Middle School. Mr. Witherspoon advised, as elected officials, City Council should fulfill its responsibility to the citizens of Newport News - for the needs and concerns of the people in the community. He acknowledged members of the Huntington High School Alumni Association and asked the members to show a raise of their hands. The members were present and waiting for something to be done.
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council

Continued

Ms. Jannie Bazemore, 1004 Hampton Avenue, Newport News, advised that she attended a very informative City Council Work Session, held earlier on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, and was pleased to hear the word Huntington mentioned in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) discussion. She expressed concern for the safety of the children as there was discussion about a Huntington campus. She questioned the incorporation of other buildings along with Huntington Middle School. She hoped the vision would be for buildings that were separate and apart from the Middle School so that unknown persons were not being brought into the building during school hours to avoid the overabundance of human traffic that would be hard to control (referring to the mass murders in Virginia Beach). Ms. Bazemore indicated that the school should be a separate project from the other visions the City may have. She advised that Huntington was a vital part of the community, not only downtown in the Southeast, but throughout the City as it was a magnet program which all children could attend. Every parent with an elementary school child should be present, in support of Huntington Middle School, as they would be effected.

Ms. Bazemore encouraged members of City Council to support the NNPS request for funds for Huntington Middle School, and that it be put on a faster track. She advised that the Huntington High School Alumni Association would continue to ask, and to work together, because they knew that “Huntington (Middle School) would rise again.”

Mr. James Lovett Jr., 25 Riverlands Drive, Apt. B, Newport News, representing members of the Huntington High School Alumni Association, concurred with the remarks made by Ms. Bazemore and Mr. Witherspoon.

Mr. Lovett advocated for salary increases for NNPS teachers. It was important that the teachers were paid for their hard work. He heard rumors of some teacher leaving the NNPS due to a lack of adequate pay.

Mr. Lovett advised that the City should demolish the old Huntington Middle School, and rebuild a replacement as soon as possible. He further encouraged the City to provide the $2.8 million for the design of Huntington Middle School and $50 million to rebuild the school.

Mr. Ernest Thompson, 645-19th Street, Newport News, expressed his excitement for the HUD grant award to the City of Newport News in the amount of $30 million. Mr. Thompson reminded that he worked with the CNI Transformation Project from its inception. He extended thanks to Ms. Sheila McAllister, Director, Department of Planning, who brought the CNI Transformation plan to the community’s attention. He recalled having the first application being rejected, but the team persevered and was a recipient of $30 million CNI Grant. Mr. Thompson advised that he had perused the CNI Implementation Grant Agreement and indicated there was a great deal of work to be done.
I. Citizen Comments on Matters germane to the Business of City Council

Mr. Thompson reminded that one of the goals mentioned about the Choice Neighborhood was education – effective schools. It also referenced people and responsive needs to the surrounding neighborhoods. And under neighborhoods, good schools was mentioned. City Manager Rohlf shared that Huntington Middle School was promised and was really going to happen. Mr. Thompson expressed his hope that this would become reality, and that a brand new Huntington Middle School could be constructed within a short amount of time, so that the children in the Southeast Community could experience a beautiful new school to attend and bring the community back to life.

Ms. Pam Hall, P. O. Box 9041, Hampton, a resident of the Southeast Community, stated, “Run, Hide, Fight,” was the shortened version of civilian response to active shooter events. She shared the website www.everytown.org, reported, in 2019, 45 incidents of gun violence on school grounds had occurred, but there was no way to count the emotional injury suffered by the children. While vying for the $30 million HUD grant, the City assured Secretary of HUD, Dr. Ben Carson, that the citizens of Newport News and the Newport News School Board, there would be a new Huntington Middle School. She inquired now that the funds were awarded, when the citizens and the School Board could expect the funding to be appropriated and approved for the disbursement for Huntington Middle School. Ms. Hall could foresee free adult education classes in partnership with Thomas Nelson Community College and Newport News Public Schools in the evenings, to include English as a Second Language (ESL) and GED diploma classes. This would complement the new Newport News workforce Center slated to open in the summer of 2019, supported by a five-year grant, which would support accessible workforce and training services at the Brooks Crossing Innovation and Opportunity Center. Ms. Hall indicated it was abysmal that the citizens would have to continue to plead for funding for Huntington Middle School. She suggested that members of City Council stand by their word. She shared there was no time wasted to appropriate over $31 million to W. M. Jordan with its winning bid of over $21.5 million for a fourth parking garage. Ms. Hall questioned whether W. M. Jordan would have to return its surplus funds to the City if the project was completed under budget. Ms. Hall concluded her comments with the following from the Daily Press: “The entire millennial cohort is getting older and the oldest of them are turning 39 this year. If previous generations are an indicator, then this generation will also push toward the suburbs from inner cities as they age, marry, and raise their children. It must become a high priority to capture as many graduating college students as possible to ensure this region remains economically viable and vibrant for generations to come.”

J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments

Vice Mayor Vick moved that a resolution be adopted to authorize the execution of Addendum No. 2 to the employment contract of the City Manager. A copy of the resolution was provided to the members of City Council and is shown below.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AND THE CITY CLERK TO ATTEST, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, THAT CERTAIN ADDENDUM NO. 2 DATED THE 11TH DAY OF JUNE, 2019, TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, AND CYNTHIA D. ROHLF, CITY MANAGER.

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

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

Vice Mayor Vick indicated it was great to hear from Ms. Ashley Foster, who shared her experiences after participating and graduating from the Newport News Police Citizen Police Academy (CPA). The CPA was a great opportunity for citizens to get to know and interact with the police officers.

Vice Mayor Vick extended heartfelt thoughts and prayers to the victims, and their families, of the mass shootings in Virginia Beach (Twelve people were killed Friday, May 31, 2019, after a city employee fatally shot 12, and wounded five others. This was reported to be the deadliest mass shooting in America since November 2018). Vice Mayor Vick extended her best regards to Virginia Beach Mayor, Bobby Dyer, and members of the Virginia Beach City Council, and complimented the Virginia Beach First Responders for their professional handling of this horrific tragedy.

Vice Mayor Vick extended congratulations to all of the graduates. It was great to see their excitement and enthusiasm. She spoke with many of the graduates, some who had acquire jobs and were able to remain in the City of Newport News.

Vice Mayor Vick attended a CNI Community Celebration, held on Saturday, June 8, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., at the Ridley Recreation Center, located a 618-18th Street. The event described the CNI process. She thanked all of the partners involved — the Hampton Roads Community Action Program, Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity, the Virginia Cooperative Extension, and all of the City staff.

Councilwoman Woodbury extended thanks and congratulations to all of the young people, and seniors for their participation in the Newport News Police Department (NNPD) Citizen Police Academy (CPA). It was important for all to be involved.

Councilwoman Woodbury extended congratulations to all of the high school graduates.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Woodbury extended thoughts and prayers to Mr. Adrian Whitcomb, an active and dedicated citizen, and leader of the Citizens for Riverview Farm Park. Mr. Whitcomb had attended every City Council meeting advocating on behalf of Riverview Farm Park and the City Farm property. Mr. Whitcomb underwent surgery and was still recovering.

Councilwoman Woodbury warned all to be careful that Newport News would not lose City Manager Rohlf. Councilwoman Woodbury accompanied the City Manager to a business in Industrial Park on Friday, June 7, 2019, where the owner offered City Manager Rohlf a job on the spot for successfully driving and operating a forklift.

Councilwoman Woodbury moved that a resolution be adopted to authorize the execution of Addendum No. 14 to the employment contract of the City Clerk. A copy of the resolution was provided to the members of City Council and is shown below.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AND THE CHIEF DEPUTY CITY CLERK TO ATTEST, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, THAT CERTIN ADDENDUM NO. 14 DATED THE 11TH DAY OF JUNE, 2019, TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, AND MABEL WASHINGTON JENKINS, FORMERLY KNOWN AS MABEL V. WASHINGTON, CITY CLERK.

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

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

Councilwoman Cherry thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation, and for sharing their thoughts, concerns, and ideas.

Councilwoman Cherry also extended heartfelt thoughts and prayers to the victims, and their families, of the mass shootings in Virginia Beach (Twelve people were killed Friday, May 31, 2019, after a city employee fatally shot 12, and wounded five others. This was reported to be the deadliest mass shooting in America since November 2018).

Councilwoman Cherry extended congratulations to all of the high school graduates. She extended special congratulations to her nephew, Jacoby Nelson, on graduating from the fifth grade at Hidenwood Elementary School. Councilwoman Cherry wished Jacoby a Happy Birthday, who would celebrate his 11th birthday on Tuesday, June 18, 2019.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Cherry extended congratulations to Chief Drew and the NNPD, for the promotion ceremony, held on Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 7:00 p.m., at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue). She extended thanks to all of the new officers of the NNPD. She thanked them for their commitment and dedication to the residents of Newport News, and looked forward to continue working with them.

Councilwoman Cherry extended thanks to Mr. Everett Skipper, Director, Department of Engineering, the NNPD, and the United States Navy for their support and presentation at the Your Voice Matters South District Town Hall Meeting, held on Thursday, June 6, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center (2570 McLawhorne Drive). She advised the dialogue was specifically about the Huntington Heights traffic calming measures. She thanked Mr. Skipper for the work done by him and his staff to bring resolution to some of the concerns. Additional conversation was needed, but expressed thanks for all of the work already done. Councilwoman Cherry also extended thanks to the many residents that attended and participated in that meeting. She promised the residents that the City was committed to continue to work to bring together some resolution for the traffic calming in the Huntington Heights area.

Councilwoman Cherry extended congratulations to Chief Jeff Johnson, Newport News Fire Department (NNFD), graduation ceremony for the Sixth Fire Academy, held on Monday, June 10, 2019, 6:00 p.m., in Freeman Hall, at Christopher Newport University (One University Place). She thanked Chief Johnson and the men and women of the NNFD for all they do to help bring awareness about what the Fire Department does.

Councilwoman Cherry announced that the Annual Juneteenth Freedom Festival was scheduled for Saturday, June 15, 2019, 12 noon – 4:00 p.m., at Brooks Crossing, in front of Piggly Wiggly (3101 Jefferson Avenue). This promised to be a free, fun-filled event for all. Interested vendors or exhibitors were instructed to contact the City Clerk's Office at (757) 926-8634.

Councilman Harris thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation, and for sharing their thoughts, concerns, and ideas.

Councilman Harris extended condolences to the citizens that were impacted by the tragedy in Virginia Beach, as well as the families in Newport News that had been affected by the tragedy (Twelve people were killed Friday, May 31, 2019, after a city employee fatally shot 12, and wounded five others. This was reported to be the deadliest mass shooting in America since November 2018).

Councilman Harris extended congratulations to all of the high school graduates. It was exciting to see the youth moving on to their next phase in life as they commenced into young adulthood.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilman Harris highlighted one young lady that he had the opportunity to work with, Ms. Hailey McLean, who was the 2019 Valedictorian at Denbigh High School, graduating with a 4.4 GPA. Hailey planned to continue her education at the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville, Virginia. Councilman Harris extended best wishes to Hailey, as he watched and mentored her from her freshman year to her senior year. Councilman Harris extended congratulations to Ms. Hailey McLean, and all of the high school graduates.

Councilman Harris moved that a resolution be adopted to authorize the execution of Addendum No. 8 to the employment contract of the City Attorney. A copy of the resolution was provided to the members of City Council and is shown below.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND THE CITY CLERK TO ATTEST, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, THAT CERTAIN ADDENDUM NO. 8 DATED THE 11TH DAY OF JUNE, 2019, TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, AND COLLINS L. OWENS, JR., CITY ATTORNEY.

Councilman Harris moved adoption of the above resolution; seconded by Councilwoman Cherry.

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

Councilwoman Scott thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation and voicing their opinions and concerns. She advised, as always, her belief in open government, as was the reason that she started holding town hall meetings 17 years ago.

Councilwoman Scott extended condolences to the citizens that were impacted by the tragedy in Virginia Beach (Twelve people were killed Friday, May 31, 2019, after a city employee fatally shot 12, and wounded five others. This was reported to be the deadliest mass shooting in America since November 2018). She explained that she was on vacation overseas when the news travelled around the world that the mass shooting took place in Virginia Beach. More important, her heart went out to the elected leaders in Virginia Beach. She applauded the leaders and first responders for the manner in which they took charge of the situation. She extended prayers to them as they continued to raise funds to support the families impacted by the tragedy.

Councilwoman Scott extended congratulations to all of the high school graduates in Newport News Public Schools, particularly, her granddaughter, Aaliyah Scott. Aaliyah graduated with a 3.89 GPA, and planned to continue her education at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. Councilwoman Scott congratulated and extended best wishes to Aaliyah.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Scott commended Ms. Elizabeth McCoury, Redevelopment Project Manager, Department of Development, who does an awesome job with the free informational sessions offered throughout the City of Newport News, to include a session for first time homebuyers. Councilwoman Scott applauded Ms. McCoury for her efforts, and encouraged citizens to take advantage of the opportunities offered, particularly those who wanted to be in business.

Councilwoman Scott announced the next North District Town Hall Meeting would be held on Monday, June 24, 2019, 7:00 p.m., at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard). There would be Open Discussion. All citizens were welcome to attend to share their ideas.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she was heavy-hearted, and would miss one of her favorite police officers, Captain Jill Daszkowski, NNPD, North District, who retired. Councilwoman Scott advised that Captain Daszkowski had played a vital role in the success of the North District Town Hall Meetings, by attending, engaging with the citizens, sharing important information, and addressing the concerns of the citizens. Councilwoman Scott extended congratulations to Captain Daszkowski on her retirement from the NNPD. She would be missed.

Councilwoman Scott announced there would be a Books on Bikes Kickoff event on Wednesday, June 12, 2019, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard). She advised the group literally rode bikes, and distributes books to any child who wanted to read during the summer. She encouraged citizens to attend and show support for Ms. Karen Ciotta, and her group, as they continued to advocate for literacy.

Councilwoman Woodbury extended congratulations to her grandson, Michael O’Flynn, who would graduate from the 8th grade at Booker T. Washington, on Thursday morning, June 13, 2019.

Councilwoman Cherry announced that the Your Voice Matters South District Town Hall Meeting, that would normally be held on Thursday, June 13, 2019, would not be held (the meeting typically held on the second Thursday of each month, was held on June 6, 2019, at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Drive).

Councilwoman Cherry announced the next Your Voice Matters South District Town Hall Meeting, scheduled for the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue) would be held on Thursday, June 20, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. This would be the Annual Summer Ice-Cream Social. All were welcome to attend.

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 8:15 P.M.

Mabel Washington Jenkins
Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC
City Clerk

McKinley L. Price, DDS
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, testo:

City Clerk