MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
JUNE 25, 2019
7:00 P.M.

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

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 Pastor David Godwin, City Life 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 Councilwoman Woodbury.

D. Presentations

1. Resolution of Recognition: 100th Anniversary of The Apprentice School at Newport News Shipbuilding

Dr. Latitia McCane, Director, The Apprentice School at Newport News Shipbuilding accepted the resolution.

Mayor Price advised that The Apprentice School at Newport News Shipbuilding would celebrate its 100th Anniversary on July 1, 2019. He shared that the first Newport News Shipbuilding Apprentice, Mr. Norwood Jones, graduated on April 4, 1894. The Apprentice School was formalized in 1919.

Mayor Price indicated that the apprenticeship had developed from an informal method of learning to a highly effective, structure, instructional system for apprentices, combining essential academic education and skills training to succeed in demanding careers,
D. Presentations Continued

1. Resolution of Recognition: 100th Anniversary of The Apprentice School at Newport News Shipbuilding Continued

while earning compensation for on-the-job training experience. The academic curriculum included studies in Mathematics, Physics, Strength of Materials, Drafting, Marine Engineering, Shipbuilding Operations, and Technical Communications, among other disciplines leading to a strong technical education foundation.

Mayor Price advised that approximately 800 young men and women were enrolled in 28 different apprenticeships provided by The Apprentice School. The Apprentice School had contributed to Newport News Shipbuilding’s reputation, tradition, and success, producing complex sea-faring vessels and passenger ships, to nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers, with the craftsmanship of highly skilled graduates. He indicated that The Apprentice School at Newport News Shipbuilding had graduated more than 10,800 Apprentices in its history.

Mayor Price shared, in 2013, a new 90,000 square foot facility for The Apprentice School was opened, and included eight computer labs, two video-conferencing classrooms, a physics lab, and a 600-seat gymnasium. He also shared that The Apprentice School had an athletic program consisting of six teams, known as The Apprentice Builders.

With a mission focused on craftsmanship, scholarship, and leadership, Mayor Price indicated The Apprentice School helped shape future leaders of Newport News Shipbuilding and the shipbuilding industry. He continued, announcing that the 100th Anniversary of The Apprentice School at Newport News Shipbuilding would be celebrated throughout the year 2019, with various announcement, events, and activities.

On behalf of his colleagues on the Newport News City Council, Mayor Price recognized and celebrated The Apprentice School for its 100th Anniversary in the City of Newport News. They congratulated the faculty, staff, and graduates for their dedicated service to the City of Newport News.

E. Public Hearings

1. Ordinance O3-2018-0001 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents Necessary to Effectuate an Agreement for the Proposed Tech Center Master Plan By and Between the City of Newport News and W.M. Jordan Development, LLC

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN NO. O3-1028-0001 FOR THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PROPERTY IN AN O3 OFFICE/RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT. This ordinance approved the Tech Center Research Park Master Plan No. O3-2018-0001 to W. M. Jordan Development LLC (applicant), and the Commonwealth of Virginia, Newport News Economic Development Authority, City of Newport News, Building One at Tech Center LLC, and Southeastern Universi-
E. Public Hearings Continued

1. Ordinance O3-2018-0001 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents Necessary to Effectuate an Agreement for the Proposed Tech Center Master Plan By and Between the City of Newport News and W.M. Jordan Development, LLC Continued

ties Research Association (owners), for nine properties, located at 12050 and 12098 Jefferson Avenue; 628 and 630 Hofstader Road; 690, 700, and 730 Oyster Point Road; and 12003 and 11951 Canon Boulevard, at the Tech Center Research Park, and zoned O3 Office/Research Development District. Development in the O3 Office/Research and Development District required an approved Master Development Plan by City Council. The proposed Tech Center Research Park Master Development Plan provided guidelines and a framework for the review and approval of the proposed buildings and layout of the development. On June 5, 2019, the City Planning Commission voted unanimously 8:0 to recommend approval of the request, with conditions. The City Manager recommended approval.

Ms. Lindsey Carney, Attorney with the law firm, Patten, Hatten, Wornom, and Diamonstein, 12350 Jefferson Avenue, Newport News, represented the applicant, W.M. Jordan Development LLC, in submission of the Tech Center Master Development Plan for City Council consideration. She was accompanied by Mr. Skip Smith of W. M. Jordan Development LLC, who was available to answer questions.

Ms. Carney thanked members of the City’s Planning Department, Mr. Saul Gleiser, Senior Planner; Ms. Flora Chioros, Assistant Director; and Ms. Sheila McAllister, Director; as well as the Department of Development for their work on the Master Plan. Ms. Carney shared the following highlights of the Plan: (1) The Plan was the product of many meetings with the Planning Department, Jefferson Lab, and the Economic Development Department to collaborate on design guidelines; and (2) the goal for the Plan was that it would benefit the community as a whole. In June 2016, City Council approved Phase I of the Master Development Plan for the 3.3 acre parcel on which Building 1 had been constructed. The land was owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia, at that time, and controlled by William and Mary, with W.M. Jordan Development having negotiated a purchase agreement contingent on receiving approval of the Master Plan. Ms. Carney advised that the 80,000 square foot building was complete and 98% leased. The tenants of the cutting edge office building jointly employed and/or serviced a combination of 250 employees in Building 1 alone. She announced that the official ribbon cutting ceremony would be held in August 2019. Ms. Carney advised it was her client’s goal to obtain approval of the Master Plan and Design Guidelines for the remainder of the 80 acre park, with the ultimate goal that the entire community would also benefit from the Tech Center. New job creation, labor income, and additional state and local tax revenue would be impactful. Seven hundred sixty-seven (767) new jobs, with $42.9 million in associated labor income was projected by the time Building 2 was completed, which resulted in $118.9 million in additional economic output in the City of Newport News.
E. Public Hearings Continued

1. Ordinance O3-2018-0001 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents Necessary to Effectuate an Agreement for the Proposed Tech Center Master Plan By and Between the City of Newport News and W.M. Jordan Development, LLC Continued

Ms. Carney advised that the benefits of the Tech Center were more than economic – Building placement was designed to frame open area/open spaces and establish communal gathering areas. The eight-foot wide multi-use trail would provide the ability to walk, bike, and jog through the Tech Center connecting from Jefferson Avenue to Oyster Point, to Canon Boulevard. She further advised, at the MarketPlace rezoning, the developer attempted to put in trails, applying for a permit to impact the wetlands for the trails. The permit was to be approved by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), but was not approved. The applicant was only able to impact for the building. On behalf of her client, Ms. Carney respectfully requested that City Council support the Master Plan and the associated Design Guidelines, in order that the developer could advance his plans for Building 2.

Councilwoman Woodbury asked Ms. Carney to explain about the first trails. Ms. Carney replied that MarketPlace at Tech Center was the mixed-use development area at the corner of Oyster Point Road and Jefferson Avenue. It was not a part of the Corporate Research Park, but was a separate project. The property was re-zoned to mixed-use. The re-zoning application was made with proffers – voluntary conditions to which the developer agreed. One of the proffers was to install pedestrian trails through the wetlands, subject to governmental approval. When meeting with the ACE and DEQ, they requested to impact the wetlands areas with the trails, but were not permitted to impact with the trails for the following reasons: (1) Nothing could be done to effect the water flow, which would prohibit ground trails. The design team inquired about elevated trails, i.e. a boardwalk concept, allowing the water to flow underneath; (2) The DEQ felt elevated trails would cause a “shade impact,” not allowing the wetlands to thrive; and (3) Trails would encourage individuals to come in and perhaps litter and leave trash behind, and they did not like that impact to the wetlands. Ms. Carney indicated the applicant’s permit was not approved to install trails. As a result, the developer agreed to do other things to encourage others outside in the Corporate Research Center (CRC) site; e.g., public art installed between the Buildings 2 and 3 in the small plaza; enhanced landscaping through the City’s right-of-way; add lights and fountains to the BMPs; and sod and irrigate the drill field, which was the open space where tenants and the community were encouraged to gather and attend other events presented by the developer.

Councilwoman Cherry thanked Ms. Carney for the information, particularly about the wetlands. She inquired whether the applicant applied for a permit, and was denied. Ms. Carney responded that the applicant applied for a permit for impact for two things – buildings were impacting the wetlands, and for the trails. When the permit was received back from the ACE and DEQ, it only authorized the impact for the building. It only said what was permitted. When the applicant followed up with the ACE, they were told that would not be permitted to have impact for the trials.
E. Public Hearings Continued

1. Ordinance 03-2018-0001 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents Necessary to Effectuate an Agreement for the Proposed Tech Center Master Plan By and Between the City of Newport News and W.M. Jordan Development, LLC Continued

Councilwoman Cherry questioned, being that it was a proffer, would it not have been proper to come back to the City to advise of this, since it was the proffer to which City Council agreed. When Council voted, they voted with the proffers in place. Ms. Carney replied that staff was advised – having communicated with the Department of Planning and the Economic Development Department, who were present at some of the meetings where ACE and DEQ said they would not permit the trials. Councilwoman Cherry expressed concern that a proffer was approved, and was not fulfilled, and now the applicant wanted Council to consider communal gathering areas. She questioned what would guarantee that the applicant would fulfill its promise, if they did not uphold its promise in the first.

Ms. Carney advised that the first was subject to governmental approval, which was written in the proffers. What was included in the Master Plan before City Council was the drill field. The common spaces for communal gatherings was a part of the proffered plan and Design Guidelines. The other items; i.e. the public art, lighted fountains, landscaping, were added as a result of comments from the Planning Commission. Councilwoman Cherry questioned who would be responsible for the artwork. Ms. Carney replied that the plan was to work with the Peninsula Arts Foundation or another organization to do a sculpture or other artwork similar to what was throughout the City. The Developer agreed that it would be at the Developer’s cost.

Councilwoman Cherry inquired about the plans for a parking garage. She indicated this was a private development, and there were City streets for which the City struggled to find funding, (referencing the Harpersville Road community where residents on motorized wheelchairs had to get into the street to travel). She questioned why the City would pay for roads for a private developer, and why the developer was not paying for the roads in their private development, and the City would then pay for the maintenance of those roads. She reiterated asking the expectation that the City should pay for a private street for a private development. Regarding the parking garages, Ms. Carney replied the garages were required to achieve the density the Master Plan promoted – 840,000 square feet. When the Plan was started, it was important to the City, and the Jefferson Lab, who wanted to get one million square feet. Because the Department of Energy (DOE) needed other land, the square footage was reduced. Parking garages were required to accomplish the density. It was important to note that this was a phased development, and the applicant could conceivably build seven buildings before the first parking garage was needed, which was seventy percent (70%) of the entire development. The parking garages would not be needed until the last two buildings were constructed. The applicant negotiated with the Economic Development Authority (EDA) a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which was the precursor to a development agreement. The MOU stated there were public infrastructure improvements, such as parking garages and roads, which would be negotiated at the development agreement stage, as to cost. Regarding the roads, Ms. Carney advised the City was
E. Public Hearings Continued

1. Ordinance O3-2018-0001 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents Necessary to Effectuate an Agreement for the Proposed Tech Center Master Plan By and Between the City of Newport News and W.M. Jordan Development, LLC Continued

paying because these were public roads. The applicant had a traffic impact analysis (TIA) done, which explained the impact the development would create, which would be paid for by the developer. There were other developments occurring in the City which facilitated a need to have other access points – at Village Green Highway and Canon Boulevard, which was why the City agreed to pay for the roads. The City availed itself of the revenue sharing with Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) dollars.

Councilwoman Cherry expressed concern, wondering as other phases were reached, whether the applicant would come back to the City to pay for the parking garages. Ms. Carney responded that she was not saying that the developer was agreeing to pay for the parking garages. If the Master Plan was approved, the applicant would continue to negotiate with the EDA for the Development Agreement, which outlined a plethora of how the Park would be managed, to include putting in a property management association, and would control much more than parking garages. At that point, discussions would occur regarding contributions from the developer and the City to the public infrastructure. Councilwoman Cherry reminded that she was on the Planning Commission when the MarketPlace was rezoned, and she distinctly recalled the developer saying they would not come to the City for anything, the City’s money would not be needed, which had not been the case and was an issue for her.

Ms. Carney addressed the comment at the re-zoning of MarketPlace, the intention was that the developer sought no incentives or contributions to the buildings and the parking areas within the MarketPlace property. The contributions that were made were to Jefferson Avenue and Oyster Point Road, which was a part of the TIA, as well as the pump station. Ms. Carney advised that the developer contributed fifty percent (50%) of the cost for the pump station, and the City contributed the other fifty percent. As buildings come on line in the Tech Center, and need to use the pump station, the funds were paid back to the City. Councilwoman Cherry advised, as the Development Agreement was worked on, it would be nice to hear that the developer would cover the brunt or the project, even if the City had to take care of some of the parking garages, but that the cost was not offset to the citizens.

Mr. Brad Williamson, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of ITA International LLC, 630 Hofstadder Road, Suite 202, Newport News, shared that ITA moved its headquarters from Yorktown, Virginia, in May 2019, to the first building in the Tech Center. He advised that ITA employed 45 personnel that represented 400 total employees that operated in 20 states and three foreign countries. Two of the most significant clients were the Navy in Norfolk, and Air Force at Langley Air Force Base. He explained that the geographic location of the Tech Center was ideal. More important, Mr. Williamson advised that ITA had made a significant investment in both the education of a data analytic workforce. The Tech Center afforded the ability to create
E. Public Hearings Continued

1. Ordinance O3-2018-0001 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents Necessary to Effectuate an Agreement for the Proposed Tech Center Master Plan By and Between the City of Newport News and W.M. Jordan Development, LLC Continued

a new business, dedicated to the Data Analytic Center. The Tech Center was conducive to the high-tech employees that ITA needed to attract, and put them in a mixed-use space of commercial and retail that was ideal for its employees and interacting with other companies in the Tech Center. The company, GATHER, occupied the other part of the second floor, and affords the ability to surge its workforce by utilizing space within GATHER spaces. The location of Jefferson Lab and the potential for growth with the Ion Collider, was ideal. ITA’s workforce comes from Virginia Beach, Gloucester, and north of Williamsburg, made the accessibility of the location at the Tech Center from Interstate 64. The Tech Center provided the perfect ability to interact with clients from Cheatham Annex, the Yorktown Weapons Station, Langley Air Force Base, and Norfolk.

Mr. Sean Hughes, 5308 Discovery Park Boulevard Williamsburg, representing the College of William and Mary, who served as the custodial agency lines located within the Tech Center. Mr. Hughes expressed his support of the Tech Center Master Development Plan. The College of William and Mary, and its counterparts in the Commonwealth of Virginia, found the Plan appropriate and beneficial, and expressed support for the perceived benefits.

Mr. Mike Maier, Chief Operating Officer (COO) at Jefferson Lab, 12000 Jefferson Avenue, Newport News, expressed support to the Tech Center Master Plan. He indicated this was an important contribution to Jefferson Lab’s overall mission in attracting talent to the Newport News area. He pointed out the following three distinct benefits for City Council consideration: (1) the development sent an unmistakable message of the commitment of the City of Newport News to developing a high-tech nucleus; (2) the Tech Center development enabled Jefferson Lab to attract top technical talent to the area; and (3) the development would allow Jefferson Lab to advance its technology transfer agenda. A big part of its mission was to move some of the high technology it developed and perfected at the Laboratory, to the MarketPlace.

Vice Mayor Vick thanked Mr. Maier for his comments. She inquired whether many of Jefferson Lab’s employees resided in Newport News. Mr. Maier replied that approximately thirty percent (30%) of the administrative and support employees hired were local, but the Scientists and Engineers needed to develop the designs for the Accelerator and its systems were recruited from all over the world.

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

1. Ordinance O3-2018-0001 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents Necessary to Effectuate an Agreement for the Proposed Tech Center Master Plan By and Between the City of Newport News and W.M. Jordan Development, LLC Continued

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

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

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired for clarification, because there were many comments and concerns received regarding parking garages that the City would not pay for the parking garages. City Manager Rohlf responded that the City had made no commitment to pay for parking garages.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that she would vote in favor of the project because she believed it was a good project, but was concerned about the responsibility, financially, that would be out-laid for the City. She reiterated her concerns about the parking garage, about the different phases, and what it would mean as far as fiscal responsibility for the City. It was her hope that the developer would consider the proffers that had made, and would fulfill those proffers since they were not made before.

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

2. Ordinance Authorizing Conditional Use Permit No. CU-2019-0005, to First Baptist Church Newport News, to Allow for the Installation of an Electronic Display Sign in Conjunction With a Community Facility Located at 12716 Warwick Boulevard and Zoned R3 Single-Family Dwelling

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NUMBER CU-2019-0005 FOR THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PROPERTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING THE INSTALLATION OF AN ELECTRONIC DISPLAY SIGN FOR A COMMUNITY FACILITY IN A RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT. This ordinance authorized Conditional Use Permit No. CU-2019-0005 to First Baptist Church Newport News for the installation of an electronic display sign in conjunction with a community facility on property located at 12716 Warwick Boulevard and zoned R3 Single-Family Dwelling. The proposed sign met all regulatory requirements of the Sign Ordinance for size and operation. The new sign would be located at the newly created intersection of City Center Boulevard and Warwick Boulevard. On June 5, 2019, the City Planning Commission voted unanimously 8:0 to recommend approval of the request, with conditions. The City Manager recommended approval.
E. Public Hearings Continued


Mr. Kris Keyes, 45 Minton Drive, Newport News, as a member of First Baptist Church Newport news, respectfully requested Council approval of Conditional Use Permit No. CU-2019-0005, to First Baptist Church Newport News, to allow the installation of an electronic display sign, in conjunction with a community facility, located at 12716 Warwick Boulevard.

Vice Mayor Vick inquired whether there had been rumbles or concerns voiced from the residents in the area pertaining to the sign. Mr. Keyes replied there had been no concerns voiced by the residents in the area pertaining to the sign.

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

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

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

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

F. Consent Agenda

Councilwoman Woodbury moved adoption of the Consent Agenda, Items 1 through 3, all inclusive, as shown below; seconded by Councilwoman Scott.

1. Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 11, 2019

(No registered speakers)

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

2. Minutes of the Work Session of June 11, 2019

(No registered speakers)

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

3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 11, 2019

(No registered speakers)

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

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

G. Other City Council Actions

1. Ordinance Amending and Reordaining City Code, Chapter 2, Administration; Article XX., Office of Purchasing; Division 1., Generally; Section 2-553.5, Job Order Contracting; Limitations; Section 2-555.1, Modification of Contract; and Division 3., Competitive Negotiation; Section 2-569.2., Public Notice

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE XX., OFFICE OF PURCHASING, DIVISION 1., GENERALLY, SECTION 2-553.5, JOB ORDER CONTRACTING; LIMITATIONS; SECTION 2-555.1, MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT; AND DIVISION 3., COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATION, SECTION 2-569.2, PUBLIC NOTICE. This ordinance amended and reordained the City Code, Chapter 2, Administration; Article XX., Office of Purchasing; Division 1., Generally; Section 2-553.5, Job Order Contracting, Limitations; Section 2-555.1, Modification of Contract; and Division 3., Competitive Negotiation; Section 2-569.2., Public Notice. The General Assembly approved revisions to the Virginia Public Procurement Act (VPPA) to increase the annual limit for job order contracts from $5,000,000 to $6,000,000 and removed the requirement for newspaper publication of Request for Proposals (RFP) for professional services. A revision was also requested for City Code Section 2-555.1 Modification of Contract, clarifying that the defined modification limits and approved requirements relate to fixed-price contracts. The requested
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. Ordinance Amending and Reordaining City Code, Chapter 2, Administration; Article XX., Office of Purchasing; Division 1., Generally; Section 2-553.5, Job Order Contracting; Limitations; Section 2-555.1., Modification of Contract; and Division 3., Competitive Negotiation; Section 2-569.2., Public Notice Continued

changes aligned the City Code with the VPPA, effective July, 2019. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

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

2. Ordinance Amending City Code, Chapter 39, Swimming Pools; Article II., Public Pools; Division 1., Generally; Section 39-30, Telephones

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 39, SWIMMING POOLS, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE II., PUBLIC POOLS, DIVISION 1., GENERALLY, SECTION 39-30, TELEPHONES. This resolution amended and reordained the City Code, Chapter 39, Swimming Pools; Article II., Public Pools; Division 1., Generally; Section 39-30, Telephones. Section 39-30 of the City Code required that a hard-wired telephone capable of contacting emergency agencies (police, fire, etc.) shall be readily available within one hundred (100) feet of the pool area at all times, while the pool is open. A change was proposed to delete the requirement that the telephone be a hard-wired telephone. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

Councilman Harris inquired whether this ordinance was regarding having a cell phone at swimming pools. City Attorney Owens responded that someone from a Community Pool contacted the City and their land line telephone needed to be repaired, which would be expensive. Since many do not have landlines any longer, the ordinance was amended to only require a phone at swimming pools. Councilman Harris inquired whether the life guard on duty had to have a cell phone. City Attorney Owens responded that someone responsible at the pool
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

2. Ordinance Amending City Code, Chapter 39, Swimming Pools; Article II., Public Pools; Division 1., Generally; Section 39-30, Telephones Continued

had to have access to a phone, and it could be a cell phone as opposed to a landline hard-wired telephone.

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

3. Ordinance Amending City Code, Chapter 40, Taxation; Article I., General Provisions and Exemptions; Division 2., Exemptions Generally; Section 40-7.06, Exemption for Disabled Veterans; and Section 40-7.07, Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Members of the Armed Forces Killed in Action

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 40, TAXATION, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE I., GENERAL PROVISIONS AND EXEMPTIONS, DIVISION 2., EXEMPTIONS GENERALLY, SECTION 40-7.06, EXEMPTION FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND SECTION 40-7.07, EXEMPTION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES KILLED IN ACTION. This ordinance amended and reordained the City Code, Chapter 40, Taxation; Article I., General Provisions and Exemptions; Division 2., Exemptions Generally; Section 40-7.06, Exemption for Disabled Veterans; and Section 40-7.07, Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Members of the Armed Forces Killed in Action. Section 40-7.06 of the City Code stated that the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran was eligible for tax exemption if the surviving spouse continued to occupy the real property as his/her principal place of residence. Section 40-7.07 of the City Code stated that the surviving spouse of surviving spouses of members of the armed forces killed in action were eligible for tax exemption if the surviving spouse continued to occupy the real property as his/her principal place of residence. The Code of Virginia, 1950, was amended to allow the exemption to apply without any restriction on the spouse’s moving to a different principal place of residence. The requested changes aligned the City Code with the State Code, effective July 1, 2019. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

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

4. Ordinance Amending and Reordaining City Code, Chapter 40, Taxation; Article II, Real Estate Taxes; Division 3, Deferral For Elderly and Disabled Persons; Exemption for Qualifying Elderly Persons; Section 40-46, Definitions

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 40, TAXATION, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE II, REAL ESTATE TAXES, DIVISION 3, DEFERRAL FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED PERSONS; EXEMPTION FOR QUALIFYING ELDERLY PERSONS, SECTION 40-46, DEFINITIONS. This ordinance amended and reordained the City Code, Chapter 40, Taxation; Article II, Real Estate Taxes; Division 3, Deferral for Elderly and Disabled Persons; Exemption for Qualifying Elderly Persons; Section 40-46, Definitions. Section 40-46 of the City Code defined Dwelling and the full-time residence of the person or persons claiming deferral or exemption under this division. The requested change clarified that the dwelling on which the tax deferral was applied, shall include accessory structures that were not used for business purposes. The requested change aligned the City Code with the State Code, effective July 1, 2019. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired whether this was already in place. City Attorney Owens responded that this was a State Code change.

City Manager Rohlf added, that this did not apply only to the house.

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

5. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute a Lease
By and Between the City of Newport News and Parkview Community Center
for Continue Use as the Hilton Senior Center

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 LEASE BY AND BETWEEN PARKVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, DATED JUNE 25, 2019. This resolution authorized and directed the City Manager to execute a lease by and between the City of Newport News and Parkview Community Center for space
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

5. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute a Lease
By and Between the City of Newport News and Parkview Community Center
for Continue Use as the Hilton Senior Center Continued

located at 605 Hilton Boulevard for continued use as the Hilton Senior Center. The Department of
Parks, Recreation, and Tourism had leased the use as its Hilton Senior Center since 1981. The
lease was for approximately 3,880 square feet used for recreation programming. The lease term
would was for a one (1) year period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, with an option to renew
for four (4) additional years. Funding came from the Recreation Program’s Annual Operating
Budget. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

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

6. Resolution to the Virginia General Assembly in Support of Gun Violence
Prevention Legislation

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT
NEWS, VIRGINIA IN SUPPORT OF GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION LEGISLATION. This
resolution expressed support for gun violence reduction legislations. The City of Newport News
worked consistently to reduce gun violence in the City. The tragic events in Virginia Beach,
Roanoke, and at Virginia Tech, served as reminders that gun violence had become too common
across the Commonwealth of Virginia. City Council was concerned that gun-related violence
was endemic in society, as shown by the fact that fifty-eight percent (58%) of American adults, or
someone they cared for, had experienced gun violence in their lifetime. One hundred (100)
Americans were killed with guns daily. Shooting deaths and injuries constituted a serious public
safety issue. City Council believe that public safety was a core function of government, and it
was the responsibility of lawmakers to protect those they served. City Council also believed,
putting political ideology aside, it was possible to adopt common-sense policies that would
reduce carnage without infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens. The Newport News City
Council called upon the members of the Virginia General Assembly to pass effective measures to
protect all people from gun violence and the resulting life-long consequences and legislation that
(1) provided local governments with the authority to regulate weapons in local government
buildings and on local government property; (2) required universal background checks and
periodic background check updates for all firearms and ammunition buyers; (3) banned assault
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

6. Resolution to the Virginia General Assembly in Support of Gun Violence Prevention Legislation Continued

weapons, suppressors, bump stocks, and large capacity ammunition feeders; (4) reinstated Virginia’s one-gun-purchase-per-month law; (5) required timely reporting of lost and stolen firearms; and (6) reduced access to firearms by individuals undergoing a mental health crisis.

(No registered speakers)

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

Councilwoman Woodbury questioned whether options were left open for the localities to make adjustments. She wanted to ensure that the City would have input into what occurred on the local level. City Attorney Owens responded it depended on what the General Assembly adopted. The City could only adopt firearm regulations by ordinance that the General Assembly specifically authorized.

Mayor Price added that the Resolution before City Council would give the General Assembly a sense of where Newport News stood on the issue.

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

H. Appropriations

Councilwoman Woodbury moved adoption of Appropriation Items 1 and 2, as shown below; seconded by Councilwoman Scott.

1. Department of Engineering — Traffic Signal Improvement on Warwick Boulevard

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM LOCAL REVENUE — HUNTINGTON INGALLS INCORPORATED ($850,000.00) TO TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS ON WARWICK BOULEVARD ($850,000.00). This resolution appropriated $850,000.00 from the Asset Forfeiture Fund of the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney. The current appropriation request was for computer equipment supplies. The current unappropriated asset forfeiture fund balance was approximately $47,427.00. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)
H. Appropriations Continued

1. Department of Engineering – Traffic Signal Improvement on Warwick Boulevard Continued

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

2. Department of Engineering – Flood Control and Water Quality Projects Throughout the City

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM STORMWATER FUND BALANCE ($1,935,000.00) TO STORMWATER FUND GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ($1,935,000.00). This resolution appropriated $850,000.00 from the Asset Forfeiture Fund of the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney. The current appropriation request was for computer equipment supplies. The current unappropriated asset forfeiture fund balance was approximately $47,427.00. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

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

Ms. Donna Grubbs, 530 Kerry Lake Drive, Newport News, advised that she was the Project Leader for “Citizens United For Action.” She acknowledged the presence of some of the members and asked them to stand. Citizens United For Action was a group of citizens who work with the Newport News Police Department (NNPD) to make a measurable difference in crime through community engagement. It was their hope that more citizens would join them to take an active role in community engagement within their own neighborhoods. The NNPD set the stage with the change to community policy. Members of the NNPD got out of their cars and build relationships with the citizens they serve. The group joined the NNPD in support of community engagement affairs. On June 8, 2019, they joined the NNPD at Aqueduct Apartments. On June 15, 2019, they joined the NNPD in Ridley Circle. On June 29, 2019, 11:00 a.m., Citizens United For Action were schedule to join the NNPD at South Morrison. Ms. Grubbs distributed a debrief from the Community Engagement Fair at Aqueduct Apartments (a dopy is attached and made a part of these minutes). Residents were happy to share their concerns and ideas for resolution to those concerns. Crucial conversations brought out the need for more youth recreation activities and opportunities. It cost more than $180,000 to incarcerate a juvenile, for one year. It would be easier to invest in the youth prior to the getting in trouble. Another crucial conversation included the problem of bullying. Once drilled down, the cause of the bully-
I. Citizen Comments on Matters germane to the Business of City Council

Continued

ing was from some not having clean clothes. It was discovered that Aqueduct Apartments did not have adequate laundry facilities on site. Citizens United For Action contacted the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority, who worked with the group in an effort to find resolution. The group also sought help from other organizations throughout the community. Ms. Grubbs hoped to have more adults join the group to mentor young people throughout the community in an effort to keep some of the youth away from crime.

Mayor Price extended thanks to Ms. Grubbs and the Citizens United For Action. He advised that he had attended both Community Engagement Fairs, and appreciated all they did in the community. He thought it was great that the residents were talking and sharing perceived problems. The lack of laundry facilities at Aqueduct Apartments, which led to some of the bullying, could have a huge impact on the schools and the crime rate, as bullying had grown and ignited and could escalate. Mayor Price extended thanks for the group’s attendance and participation.

Councilwoman Woodbury extended thanks to Ms. Grubbs and the Citizens United For Action. She also expressed appreciation for all the group did in the community. Councilwoman Woodbury suggested they contact Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP), a community based organization who were community minded, and sometimes had available funds for similar matters.

Ms. Grubbs extended an invitation to members of City Council to attend the next meeting of the Citizens United For Action, which was scheduled for Tuesday, July 2, 2019, at 6:30 p.m., at the NNPD Headquarters (9710 Jefferson Avenue).

Councilman Harris advised that there was rumor that the youth would be transported to Thorncliff Boys and Girls Club. The Club near Aqueduct Apartments Boys and Girls Club had a food program, but was closed during the summer, the Clubs should be available to be utilized. Ms. Grubbs agreed and advised that the Boys and Girls Club had reached out to her, and offered to work with Citizens United For Action on this issue. Ms. Grubbs was pleased to have them work with the group, as were the residents at Aqueduct Apartments.

Councilwoman Scott inquired the reason for the Boys and Girls Club being unavailable in that area during the summertime. Ms. Grubbs replied that Councilwoman Scott would have to contact the Boys and Girls Club for an answer to her question. Vice Mayor Vick suggested the Club was unavailable in that area during the summertime due to funding. She indicated it took money to operate the satellite offices, recalling a similar matter in the Lassiter Courts area.

Vice Mayor Vick applauded Ms. Grubbs and members of the Citizens United For Action. She felt similar groups and initiatives were missing in many neighborhoods, particularly
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germane to the Business of City Council

Continued

when discussing keep the community safe. Over time, residents feel that the police was the answer to problems of crime, but was simply a Band-Aid. Communicating with one another as residents, attending Engagement Fairs discovering community needs, made citizens feel a sense of belonging, which was what gangs had been successful in. Citizens United For Action, and similar initiatives, were able to combat the work of the gangs and be competition, allowing individuals to have options and choose what was right, and have prosperity, independence, and accountability in their lives. Vice Mayor Vick extended thanks to Ms. Grubbs and the Citizens United For Action. She also expressed appreciation for all the group did in the community.

Ms. Grubbs advised that what had been done in the past was to arrest our way out of crime, which did not work. The City had attempted to put a Band-Aid on a fast growing cancer. It takes all, united, to make a difference in crime in the community.

Mr. Rodrick A. Barnes, 392 Rivers Ridge Circle, Newport News, advised that he was a member of the Planning Committee for the 3rd Annual Hampton Roads Peninsula Youth Leadership Conference. He shared that the event would be free to the public, for middle school and high school youth, and their parents. The event was scheduled for Saturday, September 28, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at the Y. H. Thomas Community Center, located at 1300 Thomas Street, Hampton. The keynote speaker for the event would be Newport News own Mr. Cameron Bertrand, Director, Pinedale Manor Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula. Several youth organization leaders would share their vision and programs. Mr. Barnes advised that he was open to suggestions as this was a community event. He solicited the support of the Newport News City Council.

Ms. Dell Robbins, 14209 Penrith Lane, Newport News, advocated for residents in the Warwick Lawns community, particularly those on Campbell Road. The residents met regularly about the Campbell Road project. The residents were informed that construction would begin in the fall of 2019, but discovered that the project had been moved back to 2020. Ms. Robbins expressed excitement to see movement on the Campbell Road project, but had been promised numerous times in the past, yet the promises were not kept. Ms. Robbins planned to meet with the residents and wanted to explain the reason for the Campbell Road Project improvements being pushed back. She requested feedback regarding the project.

City Manager Rohlf asked Mr. Everett Skipper, Director, Department of Engineering, to meet with Ms. Robbins and provide the latest information regarding the Campbell Road Project. City Manager Rohlf advised that it had to do with land acquisitions. City Attorney Owens added that the City had been in the process of attempting to acquire the land; and in addition to permanent easements, and a few fee takes, has also involved several dozen temporary construction easements, and many of the property owners had been less than forthcoming.
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germene to the Business of City Council Continued

Ms. Robbins questioned whether there was anything that she could do in reference to talking to the residents and explaining the importance of them moving forward on any offers made so that the City could continue moving forward. City Manager Rohlf replied that Mr. Skipper could provide insight, who would also be more than happy to work with the residents if a community meeting was needed.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that the Campbell Road Project had been going on for too long. She recalled Campbell Road improvements being promised since she was elected to City Council.

Councilwoman Scott thanked Ms. Robbins for her attendance and sharing her concerns. Councilwoman Scott indicated that she was glad to learn that the City was not the problem as in the past. The delay was due to land acquisitions.

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

Mr. Thompson referenced a newspaper article from the Daily Press on June 16, 2019, where the Honorable Mark Herring, Attorney General, Commonwealth of Virginia, suggested that Virginia needed to decriminalize marijuana, and make into law, the legalization of marijuana.

Mr. Thompson reminded that he had supported the legalization of marijuana for years. He asked the members of the Newport News City Council to take the lead on the Peninsula for the promotion and support of the legalization of marijuana for the increased revenue to enrich the City’s treasury and assist across the board. The State of Colorado reached the $1 billion dollar mark as a result of the legalization of marijuana – most for medical needs.

Attorney General Herring also raised the injustices that target African-Americans, and needlessly making them criminals. Mr. Thompson advised that statement hit a nerve, as his family came from prohibition, bootleggers, the war on drugs in the 60s, and the crack epidemic. He urged City Council support for the decriminalization and legalization of marijuana. He indicated it was not only the wise decision, but was also humane.

Ms. Janet T. Glauser, 7505 River Road, #4E, Newport News, commented on Riverview Farm Park. She asked City Council to keep funds designated for Riverview Farm Park that were in the current Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). She further urged them to plan for Riverview Farm Park to include the former City Farm property, not as an expensive residential area, but as a recreational center for the community.
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council
   Continued

Dr. Robin Van Tine, 105 Canon Drive, Newport News, expressed his excitement the City Council was considering putting $300,000 into the CIP for the creation of a trail and other necessary items to allow the public to access their new waterfront property. A trail had been planned for decades which extended from the older part of Riverview Farm Park round by the water and along the river at the former City Farm part of Riverview Farm Park. He envisioned all of the Newport News citizens enjoying the view of the water, the birds. Many citizens did not have the privilege of seeing their river. Dr. Van Tine urged members of City Council to follow-through with including a line item in the CIP for the former City Farm property to make it into the park it deserved. He offered his assistance in the endeavor.

Ms. Rena Crabill, 422 Eastwood Drive, Newport News, commented about the on-line version of the CIP, which was her only source. She was confused after hearing Dr. Van Tine mentioning $300,000 in the CIP. She did not see $300,000 in the on-line version of the CIP, and questioned whether or not the information was current. Ms. Crabill hoped there was money in the CIP for continuing projects at the former City Farm area to make it a part of Riverview Farm Park.

Ms. Crabill urged citizens continued support of the Foodbank of the Virginia Peninsula. There were many children who did not have access to food at school in the summer months, and their need could be greater. There were many citizens that had a need for the Foodbank because they did not have available resources.

Mr. Adrian Whitcomb, 316-54th Street, Newport News, shared that he was glad to be back before City Council (a round of applause was heard from the audience). He thanked everyone for the thoughts and prayers received, that kept his spirits up during his hospitalization.

Mr. Whitcomb learned what it was like to be confined to a room or a building and not being touched with nature. No matter how kind people were, everyone needed to be in nature, walk among the trees, walk to see the river, and to feel free.

Mr. Whitcomb expressed support for the Riverview Farm Park/City Farm property. He understood there was some money in the revised CIP to include extending the trail along the riverfront. He hoped there would be progress in one year from now, to allow people to see the land.

Ms. Mary Vause, 350 Williamsburg Court, Newport News, commented that the constituents entered the budget cycle hoping that the many promises that the City made on public projects for its residents would be fulfilled. Unfortunately, the City Manager’s Proposed CIP Budget “kicked the can down the road” on important public projects for the community that should receive funding in the upcoming CIP Budget as promised; i.e., funding for a new Huntington Middle School, funding for a renovated Grissom Library, which happened to be the only library North of Main Street, and funding for a public pool in Denbigh, for which Council-
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council

Continued

woman Scott advocated, and would be a great benefit to the north district community. All of the aforementioned projects were put on the chopping block in the City Manager’s proposed CIP Budget. Why? Ms. Vause speculated it was due to $50 million in unplanned unbudgeted spending on the SCOT Center, and $30 million in unplanned unbudgeted spending on a parking garage in City Center had almost maxed out the City’s debt ratio. If the SCOT Center and the parking garage were more important, Ms. Vause suggested borrowing more money to make it happen, but do not take money from planned, promised public projects that would benefit Newport News children and families, and which were previously promised to the citizens. She questioned why there were zero dollars in the proposed CIP Budget for a new Huntington Middle School. Ms. Vause indicated that the children deserved better, and constituents did not need to receive a lecture on what was urgent, when it was apparent that a parking garage and the SCOT Center were viewed more urgent than funding for the public schools and other more important projects in the City. Ms. Vause reminded, at every recent City Council meeting, constituents in the South District had tirelessly advocated for funding for a new Huntington Middle School in the FY 2020 CIP Budget. Their cause was urgent, and became urgent when due to a lack of maintenance and repair funding, Huntington Middle School became so dilapidated that it had to be closed for safety concerns. She advised that the time was now for City Council to push back on “kicking the can down the road” yet another year on Huntington Middle School.

Speaking of 50-year old school buildings, Ms. Vause hoped the City Manager and members of City Council would visit some of the older public school buildings in the City before voting on the CIP Budget. After visiting, City Council may understand that zero dollars in maintenance and repair for schools created urgent conditions that had failing plumbing, failing HVAC, problems with cockroaches, mice and snakes. Money for maintenance and repair would help keep the schools safer, cleaner, and more pleasant places to work.

Ms. Jannie Bazemore, 1004 Hampton Avenue, Newport News, advised that she attended the City Council Work Session, held earlier on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, and recalled hearing that City Council could provide emergency funding in situations that met the criteria. Ms. Bazemore inquired about the criteria. She questioned what could be more of an emergency than closing the only zoned middle school south of Mercury Boulevard. The situation in Huntington Middle School caused overcrowding in the other middle schools. The $2.8 million that was promised to NNPS for the plan and design of Huntington Middle School was taken back by the City, which was procrastination. The funding was pushed two years back for rebuilding Huntington Middle School, and would hopefully not go the way of the $2.8 million. Ms. Bazemore concluded with the phrase, “Huntington (Middle School) would rise again.”

Ms. Margaret Purcell (no address provided) advised that disturbing information was brought to her attention at a previous meeting of City Council. She recalled when the Honorable Ben Carson, Secretary of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was in Newport News to announce that Newport News was the recipient of the $30 million for the CNI Transformation Plan. The City Manager was questioned about schools in the
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council

Continued

area, particularly a Middle School, and her answer was so vague that the next question became, “is there a plan or is it in your head?” The City Manager replied that the plans were in the process of being made for a Middle School. Ms. Purcell urged City Manager Rohlf to be a person of her word and ensure that Huntington Middle School would be a reality. Ms. Purcell urged the City Manager to be a person with a conscience, and stop building parking garages in City Center instead of building a Middle School in Southeast Newport News.

Ms. Pam Hall, P. O. Box 9041, Hampton, a resident of the Southeast Community, stated, in her opinion, some members of City Council were put of touch with the constituents of whom they were elected to serve. She had not found one citizen that felt it was a necessity to close 30th Street, and it would add no value to the Huntington Middle School property, and the Virginia Department of Education mandate could be implemented on the current site. Ms. Hall shared the following facts: (1) HRT travelled down 30th Street and had a stop on the corner of 30th Street and Orcutt Avenue; (2) the church on 30th Street and Wickham Avenue had patrons who parked on 30th Street and Oak Avenue to Jefferson Avenue to patronize Brooks Crossing; (4) 25th to 28th Streets were all one way streets; (5) to travel to 36th Street, Ms. Hall advised that she would bypass Brooks Crossing and go to Mercury Boulevard. She advised that the City should be trying to grow the Southeast Community and not choke off a lifeline to Brooks Crossing. In her opinion, the City should be rebuilding the pride and economy in the Southeast Community. She indicated an integral part of the pride was Huntington Middle School. Ms. Hall indicated that immediate funding should be allocated for the design of the school only – immediately.

Reverend James W. Brown, 46 Whetstone Drive, Hampton, shared that he was a long-time resident of the Ridgley Circle community. He advised that he attended the Joint Work Session between the City Council and the School Board, held earlier on June 25, 2019, at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue), and was shocked to hear that Huntington Middle School should be moved from its location on Orcutt Avenue. He advised that Huntington Middle School was a landmark and had helped numerous people to elevate themselves to college, with good jobs and strong families. Reverend Brown advised there was a need for the school in the neighborhood.

Mayor Price interjected and advised there had been no mention of moving Huntington Middle School from its site.

Reverend Brown suggested a larger gymnasium for Huntington Middle School when rebuilt. He also suggested the school be used during the summer months for other activities, i.e. 3x3 Basketball Tournament, as opposed to when school was in session, which would create a safety issue. He further suggested that Huntington Middle School be larger.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments

Councilwoman Woodbury thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation, as well as those who attended the City Council Work Session, held earlier on June 25, 2019, at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue). She was appreciative of the citizens for their involvement.

Councilwoman Woodbury commended Ms. Grubbs and the Citizens United For Action for making a difference in the community.

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

Councilwoman Cherry extended condolences to Dr. Richard Mason on the passing of his mother, Ms. Martha Martin. The family would be in her thoughts and prayers.

Councilwoman Cherry welcomed Mr. Adrian Whitcomb back, sharing that he was missed.

Councilwoman Cherry extended congratulations to Master Police Officer L. J. Calloway, who would retire from the Newport News Police Department, on Friday, June 28, 2019. She thanked him for his service.

Councilwoman Cherry extended congratulations to the Newport News Police Department on the 2019 Basic Law Enforcement Academy and Swearing-in Ceremony, scheduled Friday, June 28, 2019, 7:00 p.m., at the Ferguson Center for the Arts. On the campus of Christopher Newport University (One Avenue of the Arts).

Councilwoman Cherry announced, in celebration of National Hot Dog Day, the Newport News Police Department, South Precinct, would host a “Hot Diggety-Dog Day,” on Saturday, July 13, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at 3303 Jefferson Avenue. The public was invited to attend and “sample the dogs,” at a cost of three for $5.00. The event would also include a Hot Dog Eating Contest. A flyer was available in the office of the Newport News City Clerk’s Office, 2400 Washington Avenue, 9th Floor.

Councilwoman Cherry announced there would be a “Junk & Treasure Bazaar,” on Saturday, July 20, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at 917-27th Street. Interested vendors were welcome to participate. The deadline for vendor registration was July 13, 2019. A flyer was available in the office of the Newport News City Clerk’s Office, 2400 Washington Avenue, 9th Floor.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that the South District “Your Voice Matters” Town Hall Meetings would continue during the summer.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Cherry announced that the next South District “Your Voice Matters” Town Hall Meeting, was scheduled for Thursday, July 11, 2019, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Drive). This would be an “Ice Cream Social.” She further announced, on Thursday, July 18, 2019, the South District “Your Voice Matters” Town Hall Meeting, would be held at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue), 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Councilman Harris thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation, and for sharing their thoughts, concerns, and ideas as well and those watching on television.

Councilman Harris also welcomed Mr. Adrian Whitcomb back.

Councilman Harris and his colleagues attended the Social Butterflies Foundation’s Walk for Lupus and Fibromyalgia, on Saturday, June 22, 2019, at John B. Todd Stadium, hosted by Ms. Chaz Corbett. He acknowledged and highlighted Ms. Aahjanae Newton, recognized as the 2019 Youth Honoree, at the Walk. Ms. Newton a 16-year old Denbigh High School student, was diagnosed with Lupus in September, 2018, but thrived academically, socially, and emotionally. Celebrity Grand Marshal was actress and comedienne Cocoa Brown.

Councilman Harris commended Ms. Grubbs and the Citizens United For Action for their hard work in the community. He reiterated that he had attended the “Wear Orange” Engagement Fair at Aqueduct Apartments on June 8, 2019, and was concerned to learn that the Boys and Girls Club was unavailable in that area during the summertime. He wanted to meet with Ms. Grubbs for further discussion about the Boys and Girls Club in the area.

Mayor Price extended congratulations to all involved with the 3x3 Employee Basketball Tournament, created by the Department of Human Resources, Wellness Division. He attended the tournament, held on Saturday, June 22, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon, at the Warwick Recreation Center, located at 29 Copeland Lane.

Mayor Price shared that he and his colleagues attended a CNI Community and Partners Celebration, held on Saturday, June 22, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., at the Ridley Recreation Center, located a 618-18th Street. The event was a huge success with the community coming out in full force. Mayor Price extended thanks to the community and the partners involved, to include 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 Scott thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation and voicing their opinions and concerns, particularly her constituents from the North District.

Councilwoman Scott thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation at the North District Town Hall Meeting, held on Monday, June 24, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at the Denbigh
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard). Guests joining the group included Ms. Rhonda Russell, Assistant Director, Department of Planning, and Ms. Elizabeth McCoury, Redevelopment Project Manager, Department of Development. Lieutenant Hairston, NNPD, North District shared interesting information City-Wide updates.

Councilwoman Scott advised there would be no North District Town Hall meeting in July, but would reconvene on Monday, August 26, 2019, 7:00 p.m., at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard).

Councilwoman Scott extended thanks to Ms. Florence Kingston, Director, Department of Development, for the Business Appreciation Golf Tournament, held Tuesday, June 18, 2019. Councilwoman Scott announced that she participated on the winning team, Second Team, Second Flight. This event provided the business community the opportunity to come together and network. A great time was had by all.

With reference to Ms. Crabill’s remarks about the Foodbank, Councilwoman Scott advised that Mr. B. W. Webb, originally from Newport News, football cornerback for the Cincinnati Bengals, kicked off the Peninsula Foodbank’s summer feeding program. Mr. Webb was accompanied by numerous players from the National Football League. Mr. Webb returns to Newport News annually and gives back to the community, hosting a football camp and a celebrity basketball game to raise funds.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she also participated in the Social Butterflies Foundation’s Walk for Lupus and Fibromyalgia, on Saturday, June 22, 2019, at John B. Todd Stadium with her colleagues. Councilwoman Scott advised that the Grand Marshall of the event, Comedienne, Ms. Cocoa Brown, was also from Newport News, and attended Menchville High School.

Councilwoman Scott asked Ms. Grubbs to meet with her following the meeting. She felt she may be able to assist with the Boys and Girls Club situation.

Councilwoman Scott encouraged citizens to support the Foodbank of the Virginia Peninsula, particularly with children being out of school. The Foodbank was her favorite charity. She asked citizens to donate money, food, or whatever they could.

Vice Mayor Vick extended thanks to Ms. Grubbs and the Citizens United For Action for their hard work in the community. She indicated their action was a step in the right direction for increased citizen involvement.

Vice Mayor Vick announced that the Annual Hilton Village 4th of July Parade would be held on Wednesday, July 4, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon. Participants would meet at the corner of Main Street and Warwick Boulevard.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Vice Mayor Vick extended congratulations to her daughter, Ms. Teunsha Vick, and business partner, Mr. John Eley, on the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening of JT’s Bar and Grill, located at 3301 Washington Avenue, Suite 110. One problem heard during the CNI discussions, was there were not many restaurants in the Southeast Community. JT’s, with 3,300 square feet, a capacity of 158, full service with American cuisine, met the call. She encouraged citizens to stop by the restaurant.

Responding to some of the comments, Vice Mayor Vick indicated that neither the Newport News City Council, nor the Newport News School Board, would have the children in buildings with snakes and rats. She dispelled that statement. Regarding Huntington Middle School, Vice Mayor Vick advised that she served as a substitute teacher at the school and often visited as a guest, to talk to the students about politics and elections, and never saw mold or roaches. She added the Huntington High School Alumni Association had an office in the school prior to its closure. Vice Mayor Vick urged teachers and staff, if they saw snakes, not to wait to speak to City Council, but to go to the Principal, or someone that could do something about the situation. Vice Mayor Vick shared her love for the City, and advised that Great things were happening in Newport News.

Councilwoman Scott urged citizens to attend the City’s July 4th event, “4th of July Stars in the Sky,” on Thursday, July 4, 2019, 7:00 p.m., at Victory Landing Park, 50-23rd Street.

Councilwoman Scott wished her granddaughter, Tia Scott, a Happy 20th Birthday. Tia celebrated her birthday on Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

Councilwoman Cherry extended thanks to the citizens for their attendance and participation at the Juneteenth Freedom Festival, held Saturday, June 15, 2019, 12 noon – 4:00 p.m., at Brooks Crossing (3101 Jefferson Avenue). She also thanked the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, as well as the City, for all of the support. The Downtown Newport News Merchants & Neighbors Association, Inc. served as host for the event.

Councilwoman Cherry announced the Faith, Justice & Community Meeting, hosted by the NNPD, was scheduled for Tuesday, July 2, 2019, 2:00 p.m. at the NNPD Headquarters (9710 Jefferson Avenue). There would be individuals in attendance who were in recover for OPIOD addition. All faith communities were invited.

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 8:35 P.M.