

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
JULY 10, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Saundra N. Cherry, D. Min.; Marcellus L. Harris III; David H. Jenkins;
McKinley L. Price, DDS; Sharon P. Scott, MPA; Tina L. Vick; and Dr. Patricia
P. Woodbury-----7

ABSENT: None-----0

A. Call to Order

Mayor Price called the meeting to order and welcomed all. He stated the City Code 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 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 Rabbi Gershon Litt, Adath Jeshurun and Hillel at Christopher Newport University (CNU).

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 Cherry.

D. Presentations

None

E. Public Hearings

1. Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Deed of Easement for City-owned Property Located at 100 Yorktown Road in Lee Hall

AN ORDINANCE 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 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 10TH DAY OF JULY, 2018, FOR AN EASEMENT ACROSS CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 100 YORKTOWN ROAD, NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA. This ordinance authorized the City Manager to execute a Deed of Easement for City-owned property located at 100 Yorktown Road

E. Public Hearings Continued

1. Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Deed of Easement for City-owned Property Located at 100 Yorktown Road in Lee Hall Continued

in Lee Hall. At its June 26, 2018 Regular Meeting, City Council received one (1) bid in response to a request to receive bids for granting a utility easement over City-owned property at 100 Yorktown Road in Lee Hall. The easement was needed to build an additional circuit that would help alleviate the circuit overload the area experienced. The successful bidder was Dominion Energy Virginia, with a bid of \$1,759. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Vice Mayor Vick moved closure of the public hearing; seconded by Councilman Harris.

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

Vice Mayor Vick moved adoption of the above ordinance; seconded by Councilman Harris.

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

2. Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Deed of Easement for City-owned Property Located at 170 Yorktown Road in Lee Hall

AN ORDINANCE 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 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 10TH DAY OF JULY, 2018, FOR AN EASEMENT ACROSS CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 170 YORKTOWN ROAD, NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA. This ordinance authorized the City Manager to execute a Deed of Easement over City-owned property located at 170 Yorktown Road in Lee Hall. At its June 26, 2018 Regular Meeting, City Council received one (1) bid in response to a request to receive bids for granting a utility easement over City-owned property at 170 Yorktown Road in Lee Hall. The easement was needed to build an additional circuit that would help alleviate the circuit overload the area experienced. The successful bidder was Dominion Energy Virginia, with a bid of \$2,700. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

E. Public Hearings Continued

2. Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Deed of Easement for City-owned Property Located at 170 Yorktown Road in Lee Hall Continued

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

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

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

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

3. Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Deed of Easement for City-owned Property Located at 2901 Diascund Reservoir Road in New Kent County

AN ORDINANCE 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 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 10TH DAY OF JULY, 2018, FOR AN EASEMENT ACROSS CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED ADJACENT TO 2901 DIASCUND RESERVOIR ROAD, NEW KENT COUNTY, VIRGINIA. This ordinance authorized the City Manager to execute a Deed of Easement for City-owned property located at 2901 Diascund Reservoir Road in New Kent County. At its June 26, 2018 Regular Meeting, City Council received one (1) bid in response to a request to receive bids for granting a utility easement across City-owned property adjacent to 2901 Diascund Reservoir Road in New Kent County. The easement was needed for underground cable placement. The successful bidder was Dominion Energy Virginia, with a bid of \$1,080. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Councilwoman Woodbury moved closure of the public hearing; seconded by Vice Mayor Vick.

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

E. Public Hearings Continued

3. Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Deed of Easement for City-owned Property Located at 2901 Diascund Reservoir Road in New Kent County Continued

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

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

F. Consent Agenda

Councilwoman Woodbury moved adoption of the Consent Agenda, Items 1 through 5, all inclusive, as shown below; seconded by Councilman Harris.

1. Minutes of the Work Session of June 12, 2018

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

2. Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 26, 2018

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

3. Minutes of the Work Session of June 26, 2018

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

4. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 26, 2018

(No registered speakers)

F. Consent Agenda Continued

4. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 26, 2018 Continued

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

5. Resolution of Appreciation: The Honorable Herbert H. Bateman, Jr.

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE HONORABLE HERBERT H. BATEMAN, JR. This resolution honored and recognized Herbert H. Bateman, Jr. for his twenty (20) years of service as a member of the Newport News City Council. Mr. Bateman served the citizens of the City of Newport News as a representative of the Central District since 1998. As part of his City Council service, he was appointed to serve on the Newport News Transportation Safety Commission. He was born and raised in Newport News, Virginia. He graduated from Hampton Roads Academy, and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a double major in Government/Foreign Affairs and History. He later earned a Virginia Banker's Association Degree in Bank Management from the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia. Mr. Bateman worked as a commercial and private banker in Newport News for over thirty (30) years and served as Executive Vice President at TowneBank. He served as a Commissioner and Past Chairman of the Peninsula Airport Commission, a member and Past Chair of the New Horizons Technical Center Board, and served as a member of the Peninsula Ports Authority's Sub-Committee on Cruise Ships. He completed his fifth term on the Newport News City Council and decided not to seek re-election. He made many valuable contributions to the City, the Virginia Peninsula, and the Hampton Roads Region, which the Council of the City of Newport News wished to recognize. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

G. Other City Council Actions

1. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Right-of-Entry and Maintenance Agreement Between the City of Newport News, Virginia and Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.

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 RIGHT OF ENTRY AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT, DATED THE 10TH DAY OF JULY, 2018, BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA AND FERGUSON ENTERPRISES,

G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Right-of-Entry and Maintenance Agreement Between the City of Newport News, Virginia and Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. Continued

INC. This resolution authorized the City Manager to execute a Right-of-Entry and Maintenance Agreement between the City of Newport News, Virginia, and Ferguson Enterprises, Incorporated (FEI). Certain improvements associated with the proposed FEI expansion project in City Center, were located within the City parcel at 725 Town Center Drive. The improvements in the City parcel include civil engineering landscaping, site preparation, construction, and related activities to facilitate the installation of concrete pavers, underground irrigation, lighting and landscaping. FEI would require a Right-of-Entry and Maintenance Agreement from the City in order to allow the improvements to be made and maintained. The improvements would be owned by the City, but made at FEI's expense, in addition to the maintenance of said improvements. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

2. Ordinance Amending the City Code, Chapter 2, Administration; Article XX., Office of Purchasing; Division 1., Generally; Section 2-553.3, Methods of Procurement

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 2-553.3, METHODS OF PROCUREMENT. This ordinance amended the City Code, Chapter 2, Administration, Article XX., Office of Purchasing; Division 1., Generally; Section 2053.3, Methods of Procurement; to align language with the State Code. The General Assembly approved a revision to the Virginia Public Procurement Act (VPPA) to increase the threshold for competitive negotiation for professional services. The threshold was increased from \$60,000 to \$80,000 and became effective July 1, 2018. This ordinance amendment would align the language in the City Code with the VPPA. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

G. Other City Council Actions Continued

2. Ordinance Amending the City Code, Chapter 2, Administration; Article XX., Office of Purchasing; Division 1., Generally; Section 2-553.3, Methods of Procurement Continued

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Cherry, Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury

Nays: None

H. Appropriations

None Submitted

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

Ms. Jannie Bazemore, 1004 Hampton Avenue, Newport News, advised that she went to bed at night and awoke in the mornings with Huntington Middle School on her mind and dreamed often. She shared a dream of her sitting in Riverview Farm Park looking out over the James River and watched the most beautiful sunset. She asked why was there a question as to whether or not the adjacent City Farm property should be a park for all to enjoy, rather than for a wealthy few. She indicated that green was clean and refreshing, and something Newport News needed more of. Her dream evolved to a huge, red brick building, with so much history and pride, to make one wonder why the facility should ever be destroyed. She then saw the same building encapsulated in a State-of-the-Art 21st Century building, with a huge sign on the front, which read "Huntington Middle School STEAM Academy." The School would incorporate the previous magnet program. In the dream, she saw students inside of the school working hard on science, technology, engineering, arts and communication, and math. She saw large science labs, technology rooms, a dance and television studio, robotics, and numerous other areas. More exciting was the student population of 800 plus, of every race, color, creed, and nationality, surrounded by a caring administrative staff and faculty. When she realized it was a dream, she determined it could become reality. She urged members of Council to make a dream come true for future Newport News citizens, working together as "One City" to reopen the doors of Huntington Middle School. She concluded with the slogan, "Huntington will, and Huntington shall rise again."

Ms. Holly White, 496 Crescent Way, Apt. 206, Newport News, the mother of Malachi Smith, the young child that was shot in the head on June 6, 2018, shared that Malachi continued to recover, but had a long way to go. Ms. White advised that her family was torn apart, living apart in different localities. She shared that she still heard gun shots in the background while speaking to her family members on the phone that chose to remain in the neighborhood. Gunfire had increased in the neighborhood since Malachi was shot on June 6, 2018. Ms. White pleaded with members of City Council to find a way to have more police officers, more programs, or more activities for the children to do to make them feel safe in their neighborhoods. She added that lighting in the community was very poor – it was an ambush waiting to happen for

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

those police officers, paramedics, who are trying to help. Security firms refused to come into the neighborhood to do their jobs effectively due to the poor lighting. The children were suffering and paying the consequences as a result. Ms. White volunteered to speak out on the issue of violence.

Vice Mayor Vick inquired about the community. Ms. White responded that she lived in the Auburn Pointe Apartment Complex in the Denbigh area. She shared that the area was not safe for anyone, to include citizens, police officers, and first responders.

Councilwoman Scott expressed how sorry she was to hear about Malachi's shooting. She inquired whether the lighting was poor on the City side or within the apartment complex. Mrs. White responded that the lighting was poor on both the City side and within the apartment complex. Ms. White encouraged members of City Council to drive through the neighborhood to witness the darkness in the neighborhood firsthand. She was not sure whether the shootings were gang-related, but stated the shootings were getting out of hand. Any children outside playing were summoned inside at 8:27 p.m. nightly. Ms. White advised that the community had come together, but it was unfortunate that it took her son getting shot in the head for it to occur. Children were afraid of going outside to play, or to the pool, wondering whether they would get caught in the middle of an unresolved dispute. She advised that there was a tense, heavy feeling in the air throughout the community.

Councilwoman Cherry thanked Ms. White for attending and sharing the problems in the community. She asked Mayor Price and members of City Council to join her in celebrating Malachi with applause. She asked Malachi to stand and be recognized.

Reverend James W. Brown, 46 Whetstone Drive, Hampton, advised that he was formerly a long-time resident of the City of Newport News. He was saddened to hear that children were being shot in the City of Newport News on a daily basis. His prayer was that there would be a change with Chief Drew, the new chief of the Newport News Police Department, and the strengthened relationships between citizens and the City. Criminals should be locked up. He stated there may be a disparity, but the disparity existed because people committed stupid crimes, i.e. shoot into cars, stabbing and robbing people. Reverend Brown indicated they needed to be in jail. He commended Chief Drew and believed he had programs in mind that would help the City of Newport News. Reverend Brown indicated the citizens also needed to help. In order for the scales to be balanced, it would take law enforcement and citizens working together. Citizens needed to be engaged to help protect their communities.

Reverend Brown indicated that he looked forward to great things happening in the schools with the selection of a new Superintendent, Dr. George Parker. As the City moved forward, Reverend Brown prayed that the City Council, would adopt whatever Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) that included the funds for the rebuilding of Huntington Middle School. He advised that Huntington Middle School was greatly needed in the Southeast Community.

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

Reverend Brown stated that Newport News could do great things when law enforcement, City officials, and the citizens came together.

Mr. Dale Goode, 174 Luanita Lane, Newport News, reminded that he usually spoke about Riverview Farm Park, but instead, distributed handouts about Newport News not using its land as well as surrounding localities and cities (comments made at the June 2018 Meeting of the Newport News Planning Commission). He felt Newport News could do better. He based his conclusions on a document written by the Newport News Planning Department entitled Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities. He encouraged members of City Council to read it.

Mr. Goode commented on the violence in the City. He shared that he read a book entitled, "Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America" by Jill Leovy. This book described how bad the situation can get. The site was South Central Los Angeles. It was about two murder cases and the Detective that brought the cases to trial, and what it took to have a successful outcome. The book explained that it was not easy due to a lack of cooperation. He did not have the answers, but felt something needed to be done. It was his hope that the new Police Chief would put Newport News in the right direction.

Mr. Goode shared that he was reading a book entitled "Crime and Politics: Big Government's Erratic Campaign for Law and Order" by Ted Gest. This book described the erratic funding of crime prevention across the United States. The book included an entire section on the City of Newport News and how in 1985 the Chief of Police was able to secure a \$1.2 million Federal Grant and how crime went down. Funding typically goes away with most success stories (a copy of Mr. Goode's remarks are attached and made a part of these minutes).

Ms. Michele Handy Mass representing Mr. Douglas Totten and Ms. Brigitte Totten, 738-32nd Street, Newport News, spoke on behalf of Ms. Totten (who was present, but chose not to speak due to a heavy German accent). Ms. Totten wanted to purchase 740-32nd Street, an adjacent parcel. The taxes had not been paid on the property (740-32nd Street) since 1995. A utility pole was situated in the middle to the parcel, with a bird nest in it. Ms. Totten contacted the Department of Codes Compliance to have the light turned on, but was refused, since she was not the owner of the parcel. The Codes Department sent Ms. Totten to the 4th floor, which sent her to the 9th floor, who sent her to a property auction in Poquoson. Poquoson officials advised that the value of the property was too low and would not be put on auction. Ms. Totten questioned to which Department she would need to speak to acquire the parcel, which she had maintained for seven years.

City Manager Rohlf asked Ms. Totten to speak with Mr. David Freeman, Assistant to the City Manager, for additional details.

Mr. Antonio Thompson, P. O. Box 413, (757-243-7150) Newport News, commented on treasury enrichment and public safety and security. Mr. Thompson indicted that the Police Chief could only do a great job if the criminal justice system was transformed into

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

execution as opposed to incarceration. He advised that prisons and jails no longer worked. He stated before every great World War, there was world trade among nations. It was clear that the trade war between the United States and China would lead to World War III. He quoted Bible scripture (I Thessalonians, Chapter 4, verse 16), where he reiterated his belief that United States President Donald Trump was the trump of God, who would take away the Food Stamp Program, Medicaid, and Social Security Income, and Medicare and all Social Security entitlements following soon after. Mr. Thompson urged citizens to support treasury enrichment. Treasury Enrichment would become necessary for the financial prosperity and survival of the Corporation of Newport News. He felt that God was creating circumstances that would bring everyone together. Mr. Thompson urged citizens to contribute to the Newport News Police Foundation, and mail contributions to the Foundation at P. O. Box 120496, Newport News, VA 23601.

Dr. Shawna Kim Lawson, 631-31st Street, Newport News, advised that her husband was killed on June 8, 2018 on Interstate 664 in a head-on collision by a drunk driver who left the scene of the accident. He had to call the police for help, which has motivated her to travel throughout the City looking for other violations and unsafe conditions. She suggested that blinking traffic lights be placed on Jefferson Avenue, at the off-ramp on 27th Street; on Jefferson Avenue at 36th Street, on Jefferson Avenue at 35th Street, as well as re-vamp and re-paint a No Left Turn on Jefferson Avenue before 40th Street. She suggested that Jefferson Avenue be lighted, as there were three (3) bars. It was extremely dark from 40th Street to Mercury Boulevard. She urged members of Council to see that something was done for the safety of the residents.

Mr. Adrian Whitcomb, President, "Citizens for Riverview Farm Park," 316 – 54th Street, Newport News, advised that the summer months provided opportunities to get out to enjoy summer concerts and other events and mingle with fellow residents. The 100-year Celebration of Hilton Village held Saturday, July 7, 2018, was a prime example of how important a community could be. It was a tremendous effort and acquainted citizens with the history importance of Hilton Village. He added that it was fitting that the evening events were on the shore of the James River.

Mr. Whitcomb added that other events along the waterfront included King-Lincoln Park Day, on Saturday, June 2, 2018. People throughout the City want a waterfront park close to where they live to enjoy on a regular basis.

Mr. Whitcomb pointed out that Huntington Park was the closest waterfront park to him for most of his life. With Huntington Beach being the most used beach in the City, it had become the busiest park. There was a need to improve the beach at Hilton so that it was more than a narrow strip that disappeared at high tide. Riverview Farm Park would be ideal if the City did not find another use for the former City Farm property. His desire was to have a Grand Celebration at Riverview Farm Park on the shores of the James and Warwick Rivers, celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the resolution that created Riverview Farm Park in the year 2021 (a copy of Mr. Whitcomb's remarks are attached and made a part of these minutes).

J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments

City Clerk Mabel Washington Jenkins, welcomed Councilman Dave Jenkins, and advised that she and the members of the Clerk's Office looked forward to working with him.

Councilwoman Cherry thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation.

Councilwoman Cherry extended congratulations to the newly elected Councilmember Dave Jenkins, as well as re-elected Councilmembers, Councilwoman Sharon Scott and Mayor McKinley Price.

Councilwoman Cherry thanked everyone that attended the City Council Organizational Meeting, held Tuesday, July 10, 2018, 10:00 a.m. She extended a special thanks to her Pastors, Apostle Charlie Ammons and Pastor Vikki Ammons, Restoration Christian Church; as well as her friends and family, and members of Team Cherry for their hard work and support. Councilwoman Cherry also thanked the residents in the South District for their support and voted to get her re-elected.

Councilwoman Cherry extended congratulations to Chief Steve Drew, Newport News Police Department. His swearing-in Ceremony was held on Thursday, June 28, 2018, at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue). She thanked Chief Drew for his presence, and his forward movement already being noted in the community.

Councilwoman Cherry extended congratulations to the residents of Hilton Village on the 100th Hilton Village Centennial Grand Celebration on Saturday, July 7, 2018. The City should be very proud. The history shared spoke volumes of neighbors and how a community could remain vibrant over time.

Councilwoman Cherry reminded that there would not be a South District "Your Voice Matters" Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, July 12, 2018, at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Drive).

She announced that the South District "Your Voice Matters" Town Hall Meeting would reconvene Thursday, July 19, 2018, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue). Dr. Terri Best, the new South District representative on the Newport News School Board would be the guest speaker.

Councilwoman Cherry thanked God for all of her colleagues on the Newport News City Council. She looked forward to working with them in the next four years. She vowed to continue standing in integrity, to be transparent, and to avail herself to listen and hear the voices of the citizens of Newport News.

Councilman Harris thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation.

J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments

Councilman Harris extended congratulations to the members of the Newport News City Council that were re-elected – Mayor Price, Councilwoman Cherry, and Councilwoman Scott. He further congratulated the newly elected Councilmember Dave Jenkins, and advised that he looked forward to working with him, and his colleagues moving forward.

Councilman Harris acknowledged the Grand Opening of Dudley’s Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) School, held on Saturday, June 30, 2018, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The driving school is a family-owned and operated business located at 10860 Warwick Boulevard. It is the first black-owned CDL School in the State of Virginia.

Councilman Harris reiterated comments from the June 26, 2018 Regular Meeting of City Council, when he shared the news about Malachi William Lewis Smith, and his injuries due to an unfortunate incident, and his great recovery. It was great to have Malachi present. Councilman Harris indicated the he was proud of Malachi and his vibrant sprit, as well as his mother, Ms. Holly White, for speaking out. Councilman Harris stated that it was unfortunate the Malachi was not the only young person that experienced a shooting.

Councilman Harris acknowledged the presence of Chief Steve Drew, who was sworn-in at Thursday, June 28, 2018. Based on conversations with Chief Drew, Councilman Harris advised that he looked forward to his proactive approach, and programs and initiatives to stop the violence. Too many of the youth were experiencing unfortunate incidents. He looked forward to working with Chief Drew, as youth development was near and dear to his heart. Being able to see the young people reach their potential was of utmost importance. He thanked Ms. White for her attendance. Sometimes hearing it from a citizen, who had experienced a tragic event, shines more light on the issue. He stood behind her suggestion about enhancing more programs and initiatives, as well as working closer with the School system to combat the violence plaguing the communities. He hoped that more light could be added to the neighborhoods in an effort to make the communities safe – from Lee Hall to Ivy Avenue.

Councilman Harris thanked Malachi for providing hope needed to overcome unfortunate obstacles.

Councilman Jenkins thanked the voters of Newport News for providing him the opportunity to serve. Councilman Jenkins looked forward to serving the citizens to the best of his ability over the next four years to make a difference in the City of Newport News, and expected the citizens to hold him accountable, and to let him know if he began to stray.

Councilman Jenkins expressed thanks to his colleagues on the Newport News City Council, who had been great through his transition to site on the Council. He also thanked the City employees for helping in the transition – taking time from their normal duties to brief on their operations. He advised there were many great employees in the City of Newport News that did wonderful things for the City.

J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments

Mayor Price also welcomed newly elected Councilmember Dave Jenkins, and advised that he looked forward to working with him, and his colleagues moving forward.

Councilwoman Scott thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation and expressed appreciation for their comments.

Regarding Ms. White's comments, Councilwoman Scott advised that the yellow street signs in her community meant it was private property, and the apartment management firm would need to be engaged to correct the lighting problem. Councilwoman Scott thanked Ms. White for attending, and was glad that her son, Malachi was improving.

Councilwoman Scott advised that there would not be a North District Town Hall Meeting in July, but would reconvene on August 24, 2018. The topic would focus largely on the Newport News Public School system changes, bus routes, and anything citizens would need to know about what was occurring in the School system. She encouraged citizens to attend. The Honorable Douglas Brown, Newport News School Board Member would be the guest. The Honorable Marvin Harris, Newport News School Board Member, was also invited to be a guest.

Councilwoman Scott welcomed the newly elected Councilmember Dave Jenkins. She advised that she looked forward to working with her colleagues over the next four years to get things done to benefit the entire City. She reminded of her comments on what was constant – change, choice, and principles, which would have to be used to the best of one's ability, in an effort to make Newport News the best City it could be.

Vice Mayor Vick thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation.

Regarding comments by Ms. White, and Ms. Lawson, Vice Mayor Vick advised that she was saddened about the crime in the City, and noticed there were dark areas in many communities in the City. She asked City Manager Rohlf about having staff look into the many areas which citizens report need more light and where crime occurred. Some of the lighting could be due to aged infrastructure. Vice Mayor Vick noticed at the Hilton Village Grand Celebration, the closeness of the neighbors, and it told of what was missing as a community. This was a part in crime areas – neighbors must come together as a community. She also noted that most residents did not keep their porch lights on, which played into safety in communities. She inquired about revamping the crime watch programs in partnership with Virginia Power, having Block Captains on each block, advising that the citizens needed to reactivate. There was a tendency to stay to one another, with privacy fences, and not getting to know your neighbors. Residents in the Hilton community communicated with one another. They were in tune to keeping their area safe. Just as the Police were asked to put forth an effort, all citizens should get involved as a community. Vice Mayor Vick stated that negative people became nervous when citizens organized and talked. She encouraged neighborhoods and communities to work with the new Police Chief. Vice Mayor Vick applauded Ms. White for taking a leadership role in her community. Negativity could not be allowed in the neighborhoods without a fight. She cited the broken glass syndrome, where when one window was broken, and went unreported, another

J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

window would get broken and the criminal element would take over the neighborhood. Council would do what they could to assist, because the children could not continue to live in fear due to undesirables in the community. Everyone should pledge to do better, particularly with the tragedy experienced by Ms. Lawson's husband and Malachi. Everyone should work together to do something about the crime in Newport News.

Regarding comments by Ms. Bazemore, Councilwoman Woodbury advised that she liked her dream about Huntington Middle School being rebuilt. It was a beautiful dream for which Councilwoman Woodbury expressed her support.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that she had attended swearing-in Ceremony for Police Chief Steve Drew, held on Thursday, June 28, 2018, at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue). She commended Chief Drew, who held a "Community Walk-through" on Monday, July 2, 2018, with 75 Community leaders and police officers, to include the Commonwealth Attorney, Howard Gwynn. She and Councilman Jenkins also participated. Three different apartment buildings were visited and presented with flyers asking citizens to say something if they saw something, and advising who to contact, where to call, etc., giving citizens the opportunity to build trust. It was a magnificent event and demonstrated the true meaning of community policing. Councilwoman Woodbury reiterated comments of Vice Mayor Vick, indicating there had to be consequences for bad behavior. Without consequences, bad behavior escalated.


Councilwoman Woodbury shared that great things had happened during the past week, advising that she began with the Flag Raising Ceremony at the Knight of Columbus on Wednesday, July 4, 2018; on to participate in two parades – the Historic Hilton Village 4th of July Parade, followed by the Annual Brandon Heights Parade. She loved all of the events. The week ended with the 100th Hilton Village Centennial Grand Celebration on Saturday, July 7, 2018. Councilwoman Woodbury commended Ms. Jaqueline Legg, who spearheaded the Hilton Village Centennial events.


Councilwoman Woodbury commented on Neighborhood Watch groups. Newport News had strong Neighborhood Watch groups in every community. She noticed they had dwindled. Neighborhood Watch meeting provided an opportunity for neighbors to come together as a community and report what was happening in the neighborhoods. She advised that the Newport News Police would assist in setting up Neighborhood Watch groups in various communities. She urged citizens to consider setting up a Neighborhood Watch group in their community.

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 7:55 P.M.


Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC
City Clerk


McKinley L. Price, DDS
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk