MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
AUGUST 13, 2019
7:00 P.M.

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

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 Ben Rothwell, Crosswalk 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 Councilman Harris.

D. Presentations

None

Suspension of Rules

Mayor Price advised that City Council received a letter asking that one Councilmember from the prevailing side of the vote to approve the FY 2020 - FY 2024 CIP, make a motion to reconsider the action from the July 9, 2019 Regular Meeting of City Council to revisit the topic.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that Section 2-36 of the City Code established the order of business at meetings of the City Council and placed Old Business near the end of the
Suspension of Rules Continued

agenda. Pursuant to Section 2-61, of the City Code, Suspension of Rules, Councilwoman Woodbury moved to suspension the rules establishing the normal order of the agenda and move Old Business forward to be considered prior to the Public Hearings for the meeting of August 13, 2019; seconded by Vice Mayor Vick. Mayor Price announced there was a consensus among City Council to reconsider the action and revisit the motion.

(No registered speakers)

Motion for Reconsideration

Councilwoman Cherry moved that the City Council reconsider the resolution to approve the Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2020 to FY 2024 that was defeated on July 9, 2019, at the Regular Meeting of City Council. As required by Section 2-56 of the City Code, written notice of her intent to make this motion was provided to members of City Council by letter dated July 24, 2019; seconded by Councilwoman Woodbury (a copy of a letter from Councilwoman Saundra Cherry, D. Min. is attached and made a part of these minutes).

(No registered speakers)

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

City Attorney Owens advised that the original resolution (Resolution Approving the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2020 – 2024 for the City of Newport News, Virginia) that was before City Council on July 9, 2019, was open for discussion and shown below:

Reconsideration of Resolution Approving the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2020 – 2024 for the City of Newport News, Virginia

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 FOR THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA. This resolution approved the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2020 - 2024 for the City of Newport News, Virginia. The Recommended FY 2020 - 2024 CIP reflected citywide priorities and achieved a responsible balance between the commitment to limit City borrowing and the need to advance critical capital projects and purchases. The Plan supported the City’s Strategic Priorities and represented a fiscally responsible strategy that adhered to the City’s Capital Financing and Debt Management Policies, adopted by City Council in January 2007. City Council approval was required to appropriate the funds for the projected included in the FY 2020 – 2024 CIP. The City Manager recommended approval.
Reconsideration of Resolution Approving the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2020 – 2024 for the City of Newport News, Virginia Continued

Councilwoman Cherry advised that she was on the prevailing side, looked at the CIP and carefully reviewed the document, inquired about pending projects as referenced by the City Manager at the July 9, 2019 Regular Meeting of City Council. Councilwoman Cherry indicated there were some very important projects, in getting the CIP passed for this year (FY 2019) which the Council needed to move forward on, especially before implementation of the Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) for the Southeast Community. She reminded that she represented the Southeast Community and that community had been in lack for more than 40 plus years of having transformation. To be able to do the full implementation of the CNI was one of the reasons she asked for a reconsideration of the FY 2020 - FY 2024 CIP. There were other improvements included: the Denbigh-Warwick Area Plan and the pool for the next phase of the Denbigh Community Center. She agreed with Councilwoman Scott that it had been 20 years of waiting, and she looked forward to what would be done to move that project forward. Other projects included the Campbell Road Improvement Project, which had been in the works for years. She wanted to be able to support that project. Many other projects were included which were of concern for her, and indicated for this fiscal year only, she was able to support the CIP, and to review a method for how the City looked at specific projects that would enhance bringing small businesses and incentives to the Southeast Community – especially the Huntington Middle School (HMS) Project. She expressed support for rebuilding a Middle School in the Southeast Community, which was a part of the CIP, and she did not want to do anything to hinder getting the plans for the HMS Project moving forward. She reiterated that she planned to support the CIP FY 2020 - FY 2024.

Councilwoman Scott expressed respect for Councilwoman Cherry’s decision to change her vote; but she would not change her vote. Councilwoman Scott indicated that nothing had changed for her. She represented the North District, and citizens in the North District sent her to do a job to represent them. She advised that she could not accept/support the CIP as presented and would not change her vote.

Councilman Harris thanked City Manager Rolilf for meeting with him to discuss the CIP, but he could not change his vote and would vote against it.

Councilman Marcellus L. Harris, III, a member of the Newport News City Council, filed a declaration in accord with Section 2.2-3115H of the Virginia Code. He declared, pursuant to subdivision A.2 of §2.2-3112 of the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act, that for the City Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Agenda of August 13, 2019, (i) the City Manager had recommended to the Newport News City Council that they discuss priorities for the Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2020 - 2024 (the transaction) (CIP); (ii) the said CIP includes, in part, plans to fund improvements for facilities operated by the Newport News School Board, which is a group of three or more persons the members of which are affected by the transaction; (iii) that he was employed by the Newport News School Board; and (iv) that he was able to participate in the transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest (a signed written declaration was filed
Reconsideration of Resolution Approving the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2020 – 2024 for the City of Newport News, Virginia Continued

with the City Clerk prior to the City Council meetings at which time the transaction was considered – August 13, 2019; and is attached and made a part of these minutes).

(No registered speakers)

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

E. Public Hearings

1. Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 7473-18 to Increase the Dimensions of Easements to be Acquired at 4002 and 4004 Campbell Road; Authorizing the City Manager to Make Offers to Acquire, By Purchase or Condemnation, Portions of Property Interests for the Campbell Road Improvements Project, to Provide Funds for this Purpose; and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute All Documents Necessary to Effectuate the Acquisition

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 7473-18 TO INCREASE THE DIMENSIONS OF EASEMENTS TO BE ACQUIRED AT 4002 AND 4004 CAMPBELL ROAD AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE OFFERS TO ACQUIRE, BY PURCHASE OR CONDEMNATION, PORTIONS OF THOSE CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY, FOR THE CAMPBELL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND THE CITY CLERK TO ATTEST ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECT THE PURCHASE AUTHORIZED HEREIN. This ordinance amended Ordinance No. 7473-18 to increase the dimensions of easements to be acquired at 4002 and 4004 Campbell Road; authorizing the City Manager to make offers to acquire, by purchase or condemnation, portions of property interests for the Campbell Road Improvements Project, to provide funds for this purpose; and authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to effect the purchase. On June 12, 2019, City Council authorized the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to acquire, by purchase or condemnation, various properties required for the Campbell Road Improvements Project. The amendment to the ordinance was necessary to reflect an increase in the area of the property interest taken from Parcel 27 and Parcel 28, and to reflect the associated increase in the appraisals for Parcel 27 and Parcel 28. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

1. Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 7473-18 to Increase the Dimensions of Easements to be Acquired at 4002 and 4004 Campbell Road; Authorizing the City Manager to Make Offers to Acquire, By Purchase or Condemnation, Portions of Property Interests for the Campbell Road Improvements Project, to Provide Funds for this Purpose; and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute All Documents Necessary to Effectuate the Acquisition Continued

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

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

Councilwoman Woodbury questioned the reason for the increase in the area of the property interest taken from Parcel 27 and Parcel 28.

City Attorney Owens responded it was a few square feet, with the extra being an additional temporary construction easement that would be needed for staging. It was a small amount, but because it was an increase, it had to come before City Council. City Manager Rohlf indicated there were some additional costs associated with the property.

Councilwoman Scott shared that she and Mr. Everett Skipper, Director, Department of Engineering, attended a meeting with citizens of Campbell Road, who were concerned that the schedule for the project continued to change. They asked to be kept abreast of progress pertaining to the Project. Councilwoman Scott expressed appreciation for the work being done to move this project forward, as it had been pending for quite some time. The condition of Campbell Road could be considered dangerous, particularly with a great deal of the residents being elderly, and required to back out of their driveways to travel. She was pleased that the impediments were not on the City’s part, but were due to land acquisitions. Citizens assumed that the City delayed the Project, which was not the case.

Vote on Roll Call:
Ayes: Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry
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.
F. Consent Agenda Continued

1. Minutes of the Joint City Council and School Board Meeting of June 25, 2019

(No registered speakers)

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

2. Minutes of the Work Session of July 9, 2019

(No registered speakers)

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

3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 9, 2019

(No registered speakers)

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

4. Minutes of the Joint City Council, Planning Commission, and Economic Development Authority-Industrial Development Authority of July 16, 2019

(No registered speakers)

Vice Mayor Vick extended thanks to all of the parties involved with scheduling the Joint Meeting of the City Council, Planning Commission, and Economic Development Authority-Industrial Development Authority of July 16, 2019 on the Denbigh-Warwick Area Plan. She stated it was a good meeting being able to meet collectively to share ideas, make comments, and to take a tour of the area. Oftentimes, City Council can visit various sites individually prior to voting on an issue, but to have a collective conversation about the Denbigh area and discuss improvements, and the need for additional investors to come to the area, was great. Mayor Price concurred.

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

5. Ordinance Amending City Code, Chapter 15, Elections; Article I., Voting Precincts; Section 15-47, Voting Places in Respective Voting Precincts

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 15, ELECTIONS, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE I., VOTING PRECINCTS. This ordinance amended the City Code, Chapter 15, Elections; Article I., Voting Precincts; Section15-47, Voting Places in Respective Voting Precincts; authorizing the relocation of the Wilson Precinct from Pandora Lodge to Ivy Baptist Church. The Newport News Electoral Board recommended the relocation of the Wilson Precinct from the Pandora Lodge because of the deterioration of the facility. The Board's proposal was to relocate the precinct to Ivy Baptist Church. The voters would be notified of the relocation and proper signage would be placed at the old polling location. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Councilwoman Cherry inquired of the cost involved to move the voting precinct from Pandora Lodge to Ivy Baptist Church, and further asked the purpose of the move, and the length of time for the relocation.

City Manager responded that the relocation would be permanent.

Ms. Vicki V. Lewis, Voter Registrar, advised that the reason for the relocation from Pandora Lodge was because the building was not kept up, unclean, and was deteriorating. A new site was sought in the Wilson Precinct for the previous mentioned reasons, and Ivy Baptist Church was selected as the site. Ivy Baptist Church had an auditorium which had a separate entrance from the front of the church that could be utilized as the voting precinct. Ms. Lewis further advised the only cost associated with the relocation was the cost to mail the inserts to the voters advising of the relocation.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned whether the church charged a fee. Ms. Lewis responded the church was not charging for use of the site as a voting precinct. Councilwoman Cherry inquired whether the relocation would be permanent. Ms. Lewis replied that the precinct in Ivy Baptist Church would be permanent as there were no other public buildings within the Wilson Precinct to utilize.

Councilwoman Scott inquired whether a notice would be placed on Pandora Lodge in case individuals showed up, advising of the new location. Ms. Lewis replied yes, a notice would be placed on Pandora Lodge. Ms. Lewis thanked City Council for their support.

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

1. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute a Lease By and Between the City of Newport News, Virginia and Blue Canon, LLC, for General Office/Storage Space Located at 802 Blue Crab Road, Suite 500

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 BLUE CANON, LLC, AND THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, DATED AUGUST 13, 2019, FOR GENERAL OFFICE WAREHOUSE SPACE AT 802 BLUE CRAB ROAD, SUITE 500, IN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA. This resolution authorized the City Manager to execute a lease by and between the City of Newport News, Virginia and Blue Canon LLC, for general office/warehouse space located at 802 Blue Crab Road, Suite 500. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Department) leased six (6) separate commercial storage units for storage of a variety of materials, equipment, and supplies, associated with annual events, festivals, and related activities. The Department recommended consolidating the materials and equipment stored in the six (6) commercial units to a single climate-controlled (air-conditioned) unit. The recommended storage unit provided a number of benefits over the storage facilities, to include climate control, 200 additional square feet of storage, increased vertical storage capability, easier access with multiple entry-ways, and a 12' bay door (as opposed to 8' doors). Located at City Center, the recommended storage unit was more centralized and convenient to event venues, and would help improve staff efficiency in accessing and transporting event supplies, equipment, and materials. The lease would commence on October 1, 2019, and run for a period of five (5) years. Rent would begin in year one at $1,417 per month and increase approximately five percent (5%) in each successive year. Funding would come from the discontinuation of the existing six (6) storage facility leases. The additional expenditure for storage of approximately $17,004 per year would come from the Department’s General Operating Budget allocation for Special Events. The difference was expected to be offset by increased efficiencies and better protection of stored equipment and materials that were anticipated with the consolidation of storage units, and the climate-controlled environment for supplies. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

Councilwoman Cherry recalled that City Council voted on the item before them, when trying to find a location for the City’s Christmas tree.

City Attorney Owens responded the space on Blue Crab Road was a different unit, which would be used to store other items owned by the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism that were scattered throughout the City. Councilwoman Cherry questioned whether
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute a Lease
   By and Between the City of Newport News, Virginia and Blue Canon, LLC,
   for General Office/Storage Space Located at 802 Blue Crab Road, Suite 500
   Continued

   the matter before City Council was a continuation of the other agreement. City Attorney Owens
   advised that the two were different. The prior agreement was for five (5) years, and commenced
   in February; but the agreement before City Council would be a year-to-year agreement allowing
   either party to terminate the agreement given 90-days notice at the end of each year.

   Councilwoman Cherry recalled the base rent, and the charges were at one (1)
   price, and then decreased. She observed that the agreement before City Council increased. She
   questioned the difference between the two (2) agreements. City Manager Rohlf replied the item
   before City Council was a different lease agreement. The City was consolidating storage into one
   (1) unit for storage of items by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. The
   Department anticipated the efficiencies between a more centrally located unit which would help
   offset the costs and would be picked up by Parks’ Operating Budget. Councilwoman Cherry
   questioned whether there were two (2) separate units in the same location. City Manager Rohlf
   responded yes. She advised that the agreement before them had a slightly higher lease, which
   included an escalator. She further advised that the City continuously evaluated its space needs.

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

2. Resolution Endorsing the Submission of the Transportation Alternative
   Program (TAP) Grant Application for the Nettles Drive Sidewalk
   Improvement Project

   A RESOLUTION ENDORSING A TRANSPORTATION
   ALTERNATIVES PROJECT FOR THE NETTLES DRIVE SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT
   PROJECT – OYSTER POINT ROAD TO POINTER CIRCLE IN THE CITY OF NEWPORT
   NEWS. This resolution endorsed the City’s Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
   application for the Nettles Drive Sidewalk Improvement Project. The TAP Federal Grant
   provided funding to improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The City applied for funding to
   install a shared use path on Nettles Drive from Oyster Point Road to Pointer Circle. The total
   project value was $1,156,185; including a twenty percent (20%) City match of $231,237, and a
   grant request for $924,948. The City Manager recommended approval.

   (No registered speakers)
G. Other City Council Actions Continued

2. Resolution Endorsing the Submission of the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant Application for the Nettles Drive Sidewalk Improvement Project Continued

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

Councilwoman Cherry expressed concerns about the Nettles Drive Improvement Project. She represented the residents on Harpersville Road. She asked Mr. Everett Skipper, Director, Department of Engineering, to provide an explanation to the residents, particularly those in the Bayberry neighborhood, about the sidewalk improvements, so they would understand about plans for the sidewalk improvement project and anticipated completion date.

Mr. Skipper explained that funding for the Harpersville Road Project was requested in October, 2017, as an application to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for the first available funding, which was a Highway Safety Improvement Grant under the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Program. The City was granted the money as following: (1) Funding for design would come available in FY 2021, which would begin in 2020; (2) Funding for land acquisition would be available in FY 2022, and would begin the summer of 2023; and (3) Funding for construction would be available in FY 2023, and would begin in the summer of 2024. He advised that the money was committed. VDOT had put the money into the 6-Year Plan.

Mr. Skipper advised that the Nettles Drive Sidewalk Improvement Project had a shorter period between application and funding becoming available. The funding would be available in the Spring of 2021, with the application being submitted in 2019. Although the money would come equal with the start of the Harpersville Road Improvement Project, the City would not know for sure until the Commonwealth Transportation Board acted in the Spring of 2020, whether the money would be available for Nettles Drive Improvements.

Councilwoman Cherry invited Mr. Skipper to the next meeting of the Bayberry Watch Neighborhood Group to provide a status update for the Harpersville Road Improvement Project. Mr. Skipper promised to attend. Councilwoman Cherry wanted to assure the residents that they were well represented, and that their voices were being heard.

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

3. Ordinance Amending and Reordaining City Code, Chapter 22, Library System; Article III., Law Library; Section 22-39, Availability of Books, Reports and Papers to Public and Removal of Same From Library

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 22, LIBRARY SYSTEM, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE III., LAW LIBRARY, SECTION 22-39, AVAILABILITY OF BOOKS, REPORTS AND PAPERS TO PUBLIC AND REMOVAL OF SAME FROM LIBRARY. This ordinance amended and reordained the City Code, Chapter 22, Library System; Article III., Law Library; Section 22-39, Availability of Books, Reports and Papers to the Public, and Removal of Same From Library. The Law Library was a public law library, part of the Newport News Public Library System. The Law Library’s collection was non-circulating, and could not be removed from the premises, except by the following individuals: Judges, the City Attorney, any Assistant City Attorney, the Commonwealth’s Attorney, and any Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney. A revision was requested to the City Code, Section 22-39 to allow the Chief Magistrate, or any Magistrate, to borrow books and legal research materials from the Law Library. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

Councilwoman Cherry questioned whether the action before City Council aligned with other jurisdictions that allowed their Magistrates to go into the Law Library to remove books, reports and papers.

City Manager Rohlf asked Ms. Sonia Alcantara-Antoine, Director, Department of Libraries and Information Services, to address the issue. Ms. Alcantara-Antoine advised that there were 21 Law Libraries in the State. Each jurisdiction handled how they wanted to make the materials available, and to who the materials were made available. Ms. Alcantara-Antoine indicated that a request from the Chief Magistrate for the Cities of Hampton and Newport News, Ms. Kara Akins, who also served on the Law Library Advisory Committee, that the privilege be granted to herself and other Magistrates in the area.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about consequences if the materials were not returned. Ms. Alcantara-Antoine replied that had not occurred to-date, but it would be the same as if material(s) was not returned to the library - reimbursement would be sought from the individual that borrowed the material(s).

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

4. Ordinance Authorizing an Encroachment Upon the 23rd Street Right-of-Way and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Encroachment Agreement Between the City of Newport News, Virginia and Railhouse, LLC

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN ENCROACHMENT UPON THE 23RD STREET RIGHT OF WAY IN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY SET FORTH HEREBIN, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA AND RAILHOUSE, LLC. This ordinance authorized an encroachment upon the 23rd Street right-of-way, and authorized the City Manager to execute an encroachment agreement between the City of Newport News, Virginia and Railhouse, LLC, for property located at 206-23rd Street. Railhouse, LLC (Railhouse), owned a parcel of real estate in the City of Newport News known as 206-23rd Street, Newport News, Virginia. The right-of-way in this area was immediately adjacent to the face of the building. Railhouse asked for an encroachment to allow it to construct an awning extending from the building into the right-of-way. Terms incorporated in the Encroachment Agreement included revocation by the City and requirements for insurance and maintenance. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

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

H. Appropriations

Vice Mayor Vick moved adoption of Appropriations, Item 1, as shown below; seconded by Councilwoman Woodbury.


A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM LOCAL REVENUE – HRSD ($682,682.00) TO HRSD HAMPTON TRUNK A & B REPLACEMENT ALONG JEFFERSON AVENUE ($682,682.00). This resolution appropriated $682,682.00 in Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) funds for the Hampton Trunk A & B Replacement Project Along Jefferson Avenue. City Council previously appropriated $825,318.00 for this work, to be reimbursed from HRSD. The bid received from the contractor exceeded the HRSD engineer's estimate. HRSD would provide all funds for the work. No additional City funds were required.
H. Appropriations Continued

1. Department of Engineering – Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD)
   Hampton Trunk A & B Replacement Along Jefferson Avenue Continued

The force main installation would be completed as part of the Jefferson Avenue Phase 2 Utility
Relocation and Streetscape Project. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

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

Mr. Antonio Thompson, P. O. Box 413, Newport News, quoted Bible scriptures
from 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 reiterated his suggestion for the legalization of marijuana. He
quoted Bible scripture from Matthew 26:29 ("But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of
this fruit of the vine, until the day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom,") and
advised that he would not possess, nor smoke, nor purchase marijuana until marijuana was lawful
to possess, grow, and smoke in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He was hopeful that Virginia
Attorney General Mark Herring would be elected Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia
and sign into law the decriminalization and legalization of marijuana. Mr. Thompson shared, on
August 8, 2019, he was arrested for possession of marijuana. He was thankful that his request for
mercy to be released from jail of his own recognizance was granted. Mr. Thompson indicated that
he was grateful to be addressing the City Council in the Chambers and not in jail. He prayed to
the Lord that his desire to possess and smoke marijuana be taken away until the day it is legal and
lawful for him to possess, grow, and smoke marijuana. He further advised that his prayers were
answered as he had no desire to possess nor smoke marijuana. His arrest had turned into a great
opportunity to serve.

Mr. Randy Abbitt, 53 James River Lane, Newport News, advised that he was
born and raised in Newport News, had been a Newport News citizen for 67 years, and had been in
business for over 40 years. He addressed City Council about one of his businesses – Deep Creek
Landing Marina. As owner of the Deep Creek Landing Marina, he expressed concern about the
City’s interest in Leeward Municipal Marina and the Menchville Marina. He recalled addressing
City Council in 2007. Mr. Abbitt indicated that his Marina was in direct competition with the
Leeward Municipal Marina. The Leeward Marina and the Deep Creek Landing Marina were the
only two marinas of the kind in Newport News.
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council
   Continued

Mr. Abbitt shared that he had paid $1 million in taxes in a 9-year period to the City of Newport News. The Marina had paid over $200,000 since 2000 to the City of Newport News. He cited the following scenario: there are two building supply companies – Lowes and the City of Newport News Building Products. There was no difference in the materials, but the difference in the pricing was 30-40% less with the City of Newport News Building Products. A letter distributed to members of Council showed that the slip rental rates were 30%-40% cheaper than the local marinas. He indicated that he could no longer compete in this manner. He advised that his business was hurting, and it was not fair.

Mr. Abbitt further commented about the meters at Leeward Municipal Marina. The meters measure the kilowatts and individuals were billed for usage. He indicated that every Marina had a meter. Leeward Municipal Marina had not fixed their meter in over 12 years. The cost was $33.00 for all of the electricity. Mr. Abbitt pointed out there was one pier in his Marina (Deep Creek Landing) with 16 boats, which averaged $2,000 per month. He shared that the City was losing money as well as the tax-payer’s money. He asked members of City Council for assistance, as he could not continue to compete with the City of Newport News (a copy of Mr. Abbitt’s letter is attached and made a part of these minutes).

City Manager Rohlf shared that Mr. Abbitt contacted her office, but she was unable to speak with him. Assistant City Manager Ralph Clayton returned a call to Mr. Abbitt. She asked Mr. Clayton to meet with Mr. Abbitt to obtain additional information. Staff had researched the matter and discovered there was correspondence from prior years. City Manager Rohlf indicated that she needed an opportunity to review the information as it predated her, but she would peruse the material and provide a report to City Council.

Vice Mayor Vick extended thanks to Mr. Abbitt for being a long-term business owner in the City of Newport News. She hoped the problem could be rectified.

Councilwoman Scott inquired whether individuals were leaving his Marina at Deep Creek Landing because the other Marinas were less expensive. Mr. Abbitt responded yes, and indicated that he had more vacancies than ever. His gas prices were down, diesel prices were down, his slip rents were down, which comprised all of his income. He further shared that he had put in over $1 million of improvements for the Marina. There were only three (3) marinas in the Newport News, and the City owned two (2) of those.

Mr. Jason Godfrey, 55 Haughton Lane, Newport News, advised that he, his wife, and his father-in-law, operated Deep Creek Landing Marina. They wanted to address the many problems that the City had allowed to persist at Menchville Marina. The City had allowed workboats from all over the Bay to use the facility with little to no oversight. The boat owners were not required to sign a lease and there was no record. Owners of the vessels did not possess insurance. Six boats had sank and when the boats sank, the City was left to deal with the problem. Mr. Godfrey indicated that local boaters and residents were force to look at the ongoing
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council

Continued

environmental disaster. Multiple complaints were received about the VMRC (Virginia Marine Resources Commission) and the City’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, which had fallen on deaf ears. Nothing ever changed. The boats were leaking oil and pumping bilges out, which all flowed into the creek, and were sucked up by the marshes. He advised that the trash was unbelievable. Mr. Godfrey indicated that the residents of Deep Creek should not have to look at the deplorable site on a daily basis. Most of the boats were not registered in Newport News, but came from Gloucester, Hayes, and Matthews, but Newport News dealt with it. He urged any assistance offered by City Council.

City Manager Rohlf thanked Mr. Godfrey for bringing the matter to City Council. She advised that the City was aware of the issue. It was her intent to have a Work Session with City Council in September to address the matter of the Menchville Marina and other topics, to perhaps include a tour of the Marina.

Councilwoman Woodbury recalled that Christopher Newport University (CNU) had a part of the Marina. City Manager Rohlf responded that CNU did have a building in the Marina, used for their Sailing Center. City Manager Rohlf advised that staff had taken some steps regarding the Marina. She hoped to bring the matter to City Council in September, 2019.

Councilwoman Scott thanked Mr. Godfrey for sharing the matter with City Council. She advised that she was at the Marina during the week of August 5, 2019, having visited the City Farm/Riverview Farm Park area, and accidentally ended up at the Marina. She was aware that the City Manager was addressing the matter and did not bring up any additional issues. She concurred that the area needed attention. She reminded that she participated in “Clean the Bay Day” in 2016, and the area had gotten progressively worse. Mr. Godfrey added that the City was receiving nothing as a result. City Manager Rohlf advised that Mr. Godfrey and Mr. Abbitt would be alerted when City Council took a tour, and welcomed them to join the tour.

Ms. Jannie Bazemore, 1004 Hampton Avenue, Newport News, expressed thanks to the Department of Planning for the July 31, 2019 Presentation on the proposed Huntington Middle School Complex. Ms. Bazemore advised, with today’s atmosphere of unrest and violence, she remained concerned about the safety of the school campus, and the students when adding programs and activities to a school campus that invited the public during school hours. The City must be vigilant more than ever when it comes to school safety. She advised that Huntington Middle School should be rebuilt first before looking at other resources for the area. Recreation should not be put ahead of the education of the youth. The United States lagged behind in education, as was the City of Newport News. Ms. Bazemore indicated that Huntington Middle School should be rebuilt immediately as other schools would need repairs in the near future. She urged City Council to let Huntington Middle School be the priority. If the future generation was not educated, they would not make the money to spend in the City’s economic development projects. Ms. Bazemore further indicated that the rebuilding of Huntington Middle School needed to start no later than 2020. She urged the funds be allocated to begin the plans and the designs.
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council
Continued

immediately, and reopen the school as soon as possible. She concluded with her signature phrase, “Huntington Shall Rise Again”.

Mr. Adrian Whitcomb, 316-54th Street, Newport News, recalled the celebration of the 400th Anniversary of America’s First Representative Legislative Assembly in North America, the 1619 General Assembly, with “Democracy Weekend” on July 27 - 28, 2019. He shared there would be another event on August 23 - 25, 2019 – A Commemoration of the Arrival of the first Africans to the English speaking area of North America. The arrival occurred at Point Comfort, the site of present-day Fort Monroe National Monument in Hampton. A host of events were planned to commemorate the historic occasion. Citizens were invited to visit www.hamptonva2019.com for detailed information. Mr. Whitcomb encouraged citizens to attend.

Mr. Whitcomb commented on the former City Farm property near Riverview Farm Park. He thanked City Council for including a portion of funds in the CIP. He hoped that trails would be added for public use. He advised that City of Newport News was full of history, and urged City officials to preserve that history and the City’s recreational value.

Ms. Mary Vause, 350 Williamsburg Court, Newport News, advised that she was a Newport News Public Schools graduate, teacher, and parent, as well as a member of the Newport News Education Association (the local teachers’ union). Ms. Vause recalled that four (4) out of seven (7) members of City Council voted against the CIP budget at the July 9, 2019 Regular Meeting of City Council that postponed funding for a new Huntington Middle School and a pool at the Denbigh Community Center. She extended thanks to Councilmembers Cherry, Scott, Harris, and Jenkins for bravely taking a stand on July 9, 2019 against the unfair CIP budget that did not fulfill its public funding responsibilities to Newport News citizens. Ms. Vause also extended thanks to Councilmembers Scott, Harris, and Jenkins for sticking with their original vote one month later. One would hope with the majority of Council members rejecting the CIP Budget on July 9, 2019, that the City Manager would have taken time to meet with all concerned Councilmembers to obtain their input and to craft a better budget that all of City Council could support, or to announce changes moving forward to make more balanced budgets that did not further postpone new constructions on schools, community centers, and libraries due to extravagant “Sweetheart deals” for private companies and developers. Ms. Vause indicated that the reconsideration of the CIP budget should have been announced to the public to allow public comments. She further indicated the agenda for the August 13, 2019 Regular Meeting of City Council listed on line at the Newport News City Council website did not include the reconsideration of the CIP budget that was pushed through without any opportunity for public comments, and found it concerning that no public comments were permitted prior to the vote, which was not announced. Ms. Vause advised that the action was as if the public’s opinion was unwanted and intentionally avoided, which was not what open and transparent government looked like. An example of the way the City had over prioritized economic development over long-awaited long promised public projects was the $50 million spent on the SCOT Center project, and the $30 million spent on a taxpayer funded parking garage in City Center for a pri-
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council
Continued

Ms. Vause stated the $80 million spent on unplanned, unbudgeted, “economic
development spending” was used to justify postponing funding for Huntington Middle School
and a pool at the Denbigh Community Center; even though members of City Council were never
informed that supporting the SCOT Center and the City Center parking garage deals would mean
that long-awaited public projects, like Huntington Middle School and the Denbigh Community
Center pool, would be pushed back farther.

Ms. Vause questioned how the aging school buildings in Newport News would
be funded on time if funding for Huntington Middle School continued to be pushed back further. She
further reminded in prior CIP budgets, Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) buildings
received approximately one-half (1/2) of the funding per square foot as other City buildings. She
reminded that Huntington Middle School was closed in 2018 due to dilationation and safety
concerns after years of inadequate funding for school maintenance and repairs. A 2000 study by
Mosely Architects identified many more schools that were in critical need of renovation and
replacement in the pipeline behind Huntington Middle School.

Mayor Price asked City Attorney Owens to comment on the matter of why there
was no public comment on the reconsideration of the CIP. City Attorney Owens replied that the
public comment on the CIP was at the July 9, 2019 Regular Meeting of City Council. When it
was defeated, he advised, there was a provision in the City Code for reconsideration of an item
from the prior meeting, to be at the next Regular Meeting. A Councilmember must provide
written notice, at least 24 hours in advance of their intent to bring a motion to reconsider. He
stated there was nothing that required that the motion be brought forward, even with written
notice, which meant that a reconsideration would not be an agenda item. It would come up under
“Old Business”. Members of City Council agreed to suspend the rules and move the matter
forward from “Old Business”.

Ms. Pam Hall, P. O. Box 9041, Hampton, a resident of the Southeast
Community, commented that artificial intelligence, self-driving cars, drones, face-time, and
whatever the imagination dreamed up and portrayed from the past were today’s realities. She
urged inquisitive minds to think outside of the box, and indicated the NNPS had that task. City
Council should do whatever was necessary to ensure adequate salaries and modern facilities. She
suggested beginning with a new 22nd Century Huntington STEAM (Science, Technology,
Engineering, Arts, and Math) Middle School to set the standard and attract a community of
families and businesses vying to take advantage of all the City of Newport News has to offer.

Ms. Hall recalled, in 2013, Mr. Chad Pritchett, Senior Analyst, Department of
Budget and Evaluation, stated that Huntington Middle School replacement funding would be
available in 2018/2019. The FY 2015-2019 CIP footnote included a new Huntington Middle
School at a cost of $40 million. In 2016, the NNPS submitted $143 million budget, of which $62
million was for a new Huntington Middle School, but to approximately one-half (1/2) by the City
I. Citizen Comments on Matters Germaine to the Business of City Council

Continued

Manager. In 2019, the City proposed $37 million at a future date, and stated that more funding could be made available if the City’s vision was included. Ms. Hall advised that the longer funding was delayed would put more children at risk of incarceration or death. She indicated the children and the citizens in the Southeast Community of Newport News deserved better. Without hopes and dreams, a future could seem bleak. Ms. Hall suggested, if Newport News was “One City,” let the tax dollars be equally split among all parts of the City.

On June 5, 2016, a Daily Press Op-ed stated, “having good schools is itself among the most important economic development initiatives any community could make. They are a big reason that families and businesses move into, and settle down in the City.” Ms. Hall stated, a City Community Center, a non-profit that paid $1/per year in rent to the NNPS, a closed public school, and a public library were all separate entities linked only by a common thread called City funding.

J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments

City Clerk, Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC, introduced and welcomed Ms. Lora Graham, Deputy City Clerk II, to the City Clerk’s Office.

Councilman Harris thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation, sharing their thoughts, concerns, and ideas, as well and those watching via various media streams.

Councilman Harris announced the following events: (1) First Baptist Church
Denbigh (FBCD) Family Conference, Thursday, August 22, 2019, 6:30 p.m., at First Baptist
Church Denbigh, (3628 Campbell Road). He and Councilwoman Sharon Scott would participate
on a panel of community leaders, as well as Newport News Police Chief, Steve Drew, Sheriff
Gabe Morgan, and Commonwealth Attorney, Howard Gwynn; discussing State of the City issues;
(2) Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Commemoration Celebration – 400 Years
of African-American History, Thursday, August 22, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., at New Beech
Grove Baptist Church (361 Beechmont Drive); (3) Back-to-School Supply Drive, Friday, August
23, 2019, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Marshall Courts Boys and Girls Club (3301 Marshall Avenue),
sponsored by “Not My Child” organization, led by Mr. Devon Kelly; and (4) “End Violence in
the Community,” Friday, August 30, 2019, 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m., at Rebounderz (12650 Patrick
Henry Drive), hosted by Mr. John Morgan, General Manager.

Councilman Harris highlighted the Woodside High School Varsity Basketball
Team, and Coach, Mr. Stefan Welch. Councilman Harris indicated the team did more than play
basketball, to include riding buses through different neighborhoods to distribute books and
literature with the “Books on Bikes” organization, during the summer months, and at Christmas
time. The team members also had a mentorship program run by Coach Welch, with his feeder
schools in the community. He also offered a free Kids, Skills and Drills Clinic in the community.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilman Harris advised that he and his wife, Rasheena, would celebrate their 11th wedding anniversary on Friday, August 23, 2019. He extended loving wishes and accolades to his wife.

Mayor Price wished his wife, Valerie, a Happy Birthday. Mrs. Price celebrated her birthday on Tuesday, August 13, 2019. Mayor Price extended greetings to his grandson, who was visiting.

Mayor Price reminded that there would be no second Council meeting in August. The next Regular Meeting of City Council would be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Price extended congratulations to An Achievable Dream Middle and High School on their new Wellness Center and equipment received. A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Tennis Exhibition match was held on Wednesday, July 17, 2019, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Mr. Tony Brothers served as referee.

Mayor Price and his colleagues attended a Deconsecration Service at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 221-34th Street on Saturday, July 20, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. St. Paul’s was a tremendous asset and had served as part of the Newport News community for 130 years.

Mayor Price announced that the City’s project to replace the Warwick Boulevard Bridge over Lake Maury was complete. The two-year project replaced the aging bridge and expanded the roadway to better serve citizens and guests for decades. He advised that over 25,000 drivers traveled that route daily. A Virtual Ribbon Cutting was available for view on the website.

Mayor Price announced the Brooks Crossing Innovation and Opportunity Center Ribbon Cutting, and tours, were scheduled for Saturday, August 24, 2019, 12:00 noon, at 550-30th Street. The Honorable Ralph Northam, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, would be a guest at the event. The public was welcome to attend. The first floor of the building would be dedicated to the neighborhood to show other industries the Shipyard had available, plus the types of jobs and careers to communicate to the community.

Mayor Price announced that the 2019 National Night Out was held on Tuesday, August 6, 2019, 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. The Kick-off began at the Newport News Police Headquarters (9710 Jefferson Avenue). He indicated it was nice to see numerous communities coming out and sharing their neighborhoods.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Mayor Price advised that the Play Ball event originally scheduled for August 7, 2019, was cancelled due to inclement weather, was rescheduled for Wednesday, August 14, 2019, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at TowncBank Athletic Park, 741 Adams Drive. He shared that the U. S. Conference of Mayors joined forces with various organizations to bring more minorities into the sport of baseball.

Councilwoman Scott thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation and voicing their opinions and concerns.

Councilwoman Scott commented about the Special Meeting of the City Council, Planning Commission, and the Economic Development Authority/Industrial Development Authority on the Denbigh-Warwick Area Plan. The value she saw in bringing the bodies together was to see the possibilities and challenges for the North District. It provided a better idea of what everyone saw collectively, and she was hopeful for a positive outcome to the Plan for the North District.

Councilwoman Scott described the National Night Out activities as amazing. She shared that over 100 youth were on site in the Nettles Drive community. It was exhilarating to observe the enthusiasm and excitement in the air.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she had toured some of the Parks and Recreation facilities and ended up at the Doris Miller Community Pool (2814 Wickham Avenue). She indicated the pool was amazing! She imagined it transitioning to the North District to the Denbigh Community Center. It was her hope that the citizens in the Southeast Community were appreciative. Councilwoman Scott advised that there were visitors at the pool from other locales who saw the value, and mentioned they would be willing to pay for use of the Doris Miller Community Pool.

Councilwoman Scott announced that the North District Town Hall Meetings would resume on on Monday, August 26, 2019, 7:00 p.m., at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard), for “Back to School Night”. Dr. George Parker, Superintendent of the NNPS would be the guest, as the other North District School Board representatives were not available. Councilwoman Scott advised that every child attending accompanied by an adult would receive free Back-to-School supplies. All citizens were encouraged to attend and participate in the conversation.

Councilwoman Scott encouraged citizens to attend the World Arts Festival, on Saturday, August 24, 2019, 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at City Center. This annual event showed the diversity of Newport News citizens.

Councilwoman Scott wished a speedy recovery to Ms. Ashley Terry, the one youth North District Town Hall Meeting attendee, a Woodside High School student who attended most North District Town Hall Meetings as time permitted.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Scott wished a Happy Birthday to Ms. Dawn Barber, Director, Department of Juvenile Services, who celebrated her birthday on Tuesday, August 13, 2019.

Vice Mayor Vick advised that she and her colleagues attended an outstanding New Teacher Welcome Breakfast, on Tuesday, August 13, 2019, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. at Woodside High School (13450 Woodside Lane). The turnout was excellent, with over 200 teachers in attendance. Dr. Parker, Superintendent NNPS, was very enthused. Representatives from Cox Communications were present and speaking about some of the amazing things being done to provide internet access to the youth.

Vice Mayor Vick shared that citizens’ comments about the grant that was written to provide a bike and walking trail in the area of Chesapeake Avenue were great. Citizens were appreciative of the area on the beautiful James River, making the area more accessible to citizens to comfortably walk and ride their bikes. She extended kudos to the members of City Council who supported this project, and to the City’s team of experts who worked to make this project happen.

Vice Mayor Vick extended condolences to Frank and Denise James on the passing of their mother, Ms. Mary Whitaker. Evangelist Denise James was Councilwoman Vick’s AKA soror. Ms. Whitaker’s Homegoing Service was great, and the employees of the Department of Public Works came out in great numbers to show their support.

Vice Mayor Vick advised that she was pleased to participate in the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula’s 12th Annual Smart Smiles 5K Run/Walk, on Saturday, August 17, 2019, 8:00 a.m., at Mariners’ Museum Park. All funds raised would provide dental care for young people who could not afford dental care.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised of Deconsecration Service and of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 221-34th Street and its ministry, on Saturday, July 20, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. St. Paul’s was a tremendous asset and had contributed greatly to the homeless and the downtown area of Newport News. She stated it was a sad occasion.

Councilwoman Woodbury extended condolences on the passing of former Newport News Councilman, William “Bones” Haskins. She extended thanks to his family for his many years of service to the City of Newport News.

Councilwoman Woodbury indicated that National Night Out events and activities were great! She extended kudos to the family who set up a lemonade stand. She mentioned it was a wonderful feeling of energy and enthusiasm throughout the City. She was delighted to be a part of it.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Woodbury indicated that she was inspired by former State Delegate, Ms. Flora D. Crittenden, on her 95th Birthday. Councilwoman Woodbury and her colleagues attended Delegate Crittenden’s 95th Birthday Celebration on Sunday, August 11, 2019, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., at Crittenden Middle School (6158 Jefferson Avenue). Crittenden Middle School was named in Delegate Crittenden’s honor. Councilwoman Woodbury shared one of Delegate Crittenden’s life lessons from Former Principal Homer L. Hines, about refusing to do a homework assignment/project, and when her choir was to attend a field trip, she was not allowed to participate, which taught her a life lesson of consequences.

Councilwoman Woodbury also attended the outstanding New Teacher Welcome Breakfast, on Tuesday, August 13, 2019, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m., at Woodside High School (13450 Woodside Lane). She was inspired by an incredible young man who wrote a beautiful poem about his 7th grade teacher who taught him about life and life’s lessons through music. Councilwoman Woodbury was honored to have sat next to the 2019 Teacher of the Year, Mr. Andy Perry, a 7th grade life science and advanced physical science teacher at Crittenden Middle School.

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

Councilwoman Cherry also extended condolences to Frank and Denise James on the passing of their mother, Ms. Mary Whitaker. Evangelist Denise James was one of her colleagues.

Councilwoman Cherry extended thanks to all of the Neighborhood Watch Groups that sponsored National Night Out activities. She commended those neighborhood groups that combined and partnered with other communities. She also thanked Chief Steve Drew for the Kick-off at the Newport News Police Headquarters (9710 Jefferson Avenue), which was special, with youth participation. Councilwoman Cherry advised that Chief Drew had shown that youth really mattered to him personally. She also thanked all of the officers of the NNPD for their participation in National Night Out events and activities throughout the neighborhoods.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that this was the only meeting of City Council scheduled for the month of August.

Councilwoman Cherry announced that the next South District “Your Voice Matters” Town Hall Meeting, was scheduled for Thursday, August 15, 2019, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., held at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue), which would be an open meeting for discussion, concerns, sharing of ideas, and exchanging of information. All citizens were welcome to attend. She reminded that the South District Town Meetings were a collaborative effort between the City Council, the School Board, and the Police Department.
J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Cherry invited citizens to attend the final summer concert series, sponsored by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. The concert was held on Saturday, August 17, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at King Lincoln Park (600 Jefferson Avenue). Rare Essence was the featured band.

Councilwoman Cherry announced there would be a Back-to-School Community Fest, scheduled for Saturday, August 24, 2019, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., at 617-27th Street. Free school supplies were available for all children accompanied by an adult.

Councilwoman Cherry encouraged citizens to attend the Brooks Crossing Innovation and Opportunity Center Ribbon Cutting, on Saturday, August 24, 2019, 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m., at 550-30th Street.

Councilwoman Cherry extended birthday greetings to her nephew, Mr. Lawrence Allen Britt, who celebrated his birthday on Saturday, August 17th; as well as Mr. Lamont Britt, who celebrated his birthday on Tuesday, August 20th; and her aunt, Ms. Addie Threatt, the Matriarch of the family, and the domino champion of the family, who celebrated her 86th birthday on Saturday, August 31st.

Councilwoman Cherry wished everyone a happy and safe Labor Day.

Councilwoman Cherry announced the next Faith, Justice & Community Meeting, hosted by the NNPD, was scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2019, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the NNPD Headquarters (9710 Jefferson Avenue). She thanked Chief Drew for providing crime statistics and updates on what was occurring in the City. Pastors or a pastoral representative from all faith communities were invited to attend.

Councilwoman Woodbury indicated that citizens in the Central District would like a bike and walking trail on the former City Farm property.

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 8:22 P.M.
Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC
City Clerk

McKinley L. Price, DDS
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk