MINUTES OF WORK SESSION
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE 10TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
September 24, 2019
4:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Cynthia D. Rohlf; Collins L. Owens; Mabel Washington Jenkins; Joye Thompkins; Darlene Bradberry; Lisa Cipriano; Karen Wilds; Kevin Otey, Jr.; Police Chief Steve Drew; Fire Chief Jeffrey Johnson; Shelia McAllister; Flora Chioros; Susan Goodwin; Karen Witherspoon; LaTessa Davis; Stacy Fuqua; Amy Burgoyne; Virginia Lovell; Florence Kingston; Venerria Thomas; Louis Martinez; Frank James; Craig Galant; James McElheney; Everett Skipper; Alan Archer; David Freeman; Ralph Clayton; Cleder Jones; Kim Lee; Eoghan Miller; Adrian Whitcomb; Zina Middleton and Josh Reyes

I. Choice Neighborhood Initiative Update Briefing

Ms. Cynthia Rohlf, City Manager, advised that it had been several months since the City was awarded the $30 million Choice Neighborhood Initiative. City Manager Rohlf introduced Ms. Karen Wilds, Director, Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority, to provide the Choice Neighborhood Initiative Update Briefing (a copy of the presentation “Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood – Transformation Plan and Implementation Update, September 24, 2019” is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Ms. Wilds advised, within the past three – four months, the Budget Program schedule was finalized for submission to The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and initiated monthly telephone status calls with HUD and Core Teams.

Ms. Wilds shared there was a great deal of Community Outreach and noted the following:

- Regular meetings were held with:
  - Ridley Residents (Monthly)
Ms. Wilds advised that the City was obligated to spend the $30 million by September 30, 2025, which was six (6) years. She indicated with the amount of work to be done, designs and approvals, and a new subdivision at the Ridley Circle, six (6) years would go by quickly.

Ms. Wilds advised of the housing timeline as follows:

- Finalizing Design Plans for Phase 1
- Hired a Coordinator (Mr. Daniel Best) – Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA)
- Worked on Financing Plan for Phase 1 Housing
  - Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) - $18.3M (61% grant)
  - Applied for Innovative Round Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)
  - Gap larger – Innovative Round Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) pricing and construction pricing had increased
  - Applied for Vibrant Community’s Grant

Ms. Wilds shared that NNHRA had met with the Virginia Housing and Redevelopment Authority to explore different types of opportunities available because of the Choice Neighborhood Initiative, and were thinking about the special allocations for CNI, or changing the plans on how funds were awarded to benefit the Cities of Newport News and Norfolk.

Ms. Wilds advised that NNHRA had put together a disposition application for the Harbor Jefferson site that was not related to CNI but was within the CNI footprint. The application would be submitted to HUD to relieve the City of the title restrictions and putting out a Request For Proposal (RFP) for site in October 2019.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that she expressed her concerns about housing and what the plans were for the corner of 29th Street and how NNHRA would accommodate children with greenspace. She indicated, because she had not heard anything that her concerns were heightened. Ms. Wilds replied that the latest design/plan would be worked on by the Department of Planning; those elements were being suggested, and the developer was asked to go back a third
time. She indicated NNHRA should be in receipt of the latest design and recommendation by mid October 2019. City Manager Rohlf indicated and advised that the City had been working on Councilwoman Cherry’s concerns, and staff had been working diligently to incorporate the amenities discussed for the transformation. Councilwoman Cherry questioned whether the amenities would be incorporated to meet the needs of those individuals who would move to that area. City Manager Rohlf replied yes, and there were other amenities associated with CNI for the entire community. It would be a neighborhood of choice for those returning, and others who wished to reside in the neighborhood. Councilwoman Cherry stated she did not want to just see another neighborhood where people were being moved to public housing. She shared that a constituent attended the South District “Your Voice Matters” Town Hall meeting and indicated no one had been out in the neighborhood/community to talk to her, and she lived in the 600 block of 29th Street and wanted to know who/what would be at her backdoor. No one had talked to that community to share what would be in the area, and how it would impact that block. Ms. Wilds replied that staff would ensure that everyone within the Phase 1 area would get a special invitation to the next scheduled community meeting. Councilwoman Cherry stated that the people attending the quarterly meetings were probably the Ridley residents. Ms. Wild replied no; the quarterly community meetings were neighbors in the Choice Neighborhood, with less than 20% Ridley residents. Councilwoman Cherry suggested, while discussing the phasing in that area, please include everyone; especially those residents located at the 600 block of 28th and 29th Streets, extend the invitation, whether those residents attended or not would be up to them, but should be given the opportunity to hear about the plan. Ms. Wilds replied they would reach out to the community with flyers and other means of contact.

Ms. Wilds advised that Capital Funds could not be used. Permanent Debt:

- Innovative Round Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)
- Vibrant Communities $1.5 million
- Met with Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) to explore paths for CNI financing

Ms. Wilds shared the Neighborhood update as follows:

- Brooks Crossing Innovation and Opportunity Center opened August 24, 2019 and was being used
- Economic Development Authority (EDA) had awarded contract for co-working space renovations
- Start-up entrepreneurs, shared services and support
- Bates Drive multi-use trail
The project engineer, Carson Towne, was working with the design consultant to finalize the design of the multi-use pathway. The design consultant, Guernsey Tingle, Architects had submitted 65 percent (65%) drawings that included the pathway, areas for multi-generational fitness equipment, lighting and landscaping. The consultant received comments from city departments and was working on the revisions to the plans. In addition, the Newport News Green Foundation secured $52,000 of grant funding to assist in the beautification of the path. The project timeline was being worked on to ensure that the project met the goals within the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant.

- Lighting Improvements began at Marshal based on hot spot study

Ms. Wilds advised of the Relocation plans as follows:

- Hired Relocation Coordinator (Ms. Starr Lane). She would work closely with Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) Case Workers to determine the need of each family.
- Each family’s preferences on where they would like to move would be considered in making housing referrals and the ability to move back if that family choose to do so; would provide transportation if needed; would begin with 60 families north of 16th Street and West of Ivy Avenue.
- Phasing (3) – notices would go out as early as December 2019, after HUD approved the T.P.V.

Ms. Wilds introduced Mr. Kevin Otey, Jr., Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives with Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP), to continue the presentation.

Mr. Otey expressed his excitement about the great work taking place in the Southeast Community. He indicated the work could be seen, and continued to happen, in the Southeast Community as milestones continued to be celebrated.

Mr. Otey advised of the Case Management and People Services Update as follows:

- EmpowOR Client Management Software was completed
- HRCAP hired a Family Services Coordinator to begin case management
- Human Services had begun interviewing for a Senior Family Services Specialist
- Over 60 households had completed the initial intake form
- On May 6, 2019, HRCAP began meeting with residents for a comprehensive assessment
Mr. Otey shared that the Case Management and Service Delivery was as follows:

- There was an 180-day window of time to provide initial case management visits to each of the 60 families
- To ensure the appropriate level of service, a collaborative staffing model (HRCAP, DHS, NNRHA, and Penrose) would be used, employing a Family Services Director, LCSW Senior Supervisor, LMSW Supervisor, Family Service Specialists, Program Navigators, and a Special Projects Director.

**UPDATE**

- 25 intakes completed prior to March visit
- 60 intakes since after March visit
- 21 intakes after HUD Award announcement
- 149 Households remained after the HUD visit
- 43 household remained as of September 24, 2019
- Proposed Schedule within HUD Guideline – May 14th – Nov 10th to have all initial case management visits must be made with each household
- Changes and Challenges to Report
  - Strategic Community Walks
  - Home Visits to complete initial assessments
  - Expanded case management office hours which included weekend hours

Councilwoman Cherry thanked Ms. Wilds and Mr. Otey, who shared the CNI updates. She indicated that several residents advised that their case worker was no longer available, and questioned what was being done for consistence, the number of case workers available to be consistent with the residents, and asked would there be a back-up case worker available? Mr. Otey replied there were several challenges in the beginning, and advised that there had been some turnovers, but with the partnership with the City, one of the pieces were dollars allocated to case management. He indicated that residents probably thought that they were assigned case managers prior to the HUD visit, but that was only the initial visit. Mr. Otey shared that the initial meetings with Case Managers had started the day of the grant award and would be completed within 180 days as required by HUD. The second step was a two-hour intake process with the assessment. By November 2019, case managers would be assigned to each family.

Mr. Otey advised that Southeastern Virginia Health System was currently scheduling their second meeting. The clinic had moved locations since the HUD visit to the new
address of 611 – 16th Street, Newport News. Southeastern Virginia Health System was onsite providing screenings and enrolling residents that were eligible for Medicaid expansion program every Wednesday from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Mr. Otey advised that the Brooks Crossing Innovation and Opportunity Center served as an instructional resource that allowed visitors, both young and old, to train in a safe and professional space to develop work-ready skills for existing and future industries, as well as, serve as a model for professional development and continuing education.

Mr. Otey shared the Workforce Program Update: March – June 30, 2019 as follows:

- 32 Participants - **Goal Achieved 100%**
- 12 Entered Employment - **Goal Achieved 100%**
- 8 Unique Employers - **Goal Achieved 200%**
- $11.25 Average Hourly Starting Wage - **Goal Achieved 122.22%**
- 10 With Benefits - **Goal Achieved 133.33%**
- 6 Employed Part-Time - **Goal Achieved 120%**
- 12 Employed Full-Time - **Goal Achieved 200%**
- 9 Jobs in Career Pathway - **Goal Achieved 180%**

**STEP – HRCAP and NNPS**

- 149 In-School Youth Placements
- 15 Out-School Youth Placements
- 596 Soft Skills Training Certificates Obtained

Mr. Otey advised there had been numerous Counseling Services, Relocation, Mobility, and Homeownership information provided as follows:

- Held Homeownership Workshop, Saturday, June 8, 2019 from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm at the Ridley Recreational Center at 618 – 18th Street
- HRCAP Credit Improvement Program and Financial Literacy Services
- Habitat for Humanity’s Application Process
- Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority’s Homebuyer Resources
- Virginia Cooperative Extension Services and Programs
- Family Investment Center
- Free credit reports
Vice Mayor Vick advised that the Counseling Services and Homeownership Workshops were well attended. She expressed her excitement about the programs and information that was shared, and she thanked the staff. She shared that the residents were engaged, wanted to know what opportunities were available for them, and how they could take advantage of those opportunities.

Mr. Otey indicated that HRCAP were appreciative of the space at the Lift and Connect Resource Center which was in the heart of the community and allowed residents could walk to the center. Residents could be engaged and meet the case managers and staff and see other service partners that were available. The Service Provider Network was still being built. There were 60 member organizations that were partnering and met the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m., at which time could meet with case management staff to discuss what was being done in the community, so that services were not duplicated but bringing the needed services to the community as each partner had level.

Mr. Otey advised that Resident Outreach Services would continue with the following:

- Door-to-Door Outreach to Residents
- Weekly door-to-door visits by Family Services Team
- Community Walks with Partners
- Family Services Team attend Tenant Council Meetings
- Activities schedules for residents in the neighborhood
- On-going communication through website & social media
- Monthly Newsletters
- Expanded Wi-Fi and Digital Kiosks

Mr. Otey shared the testimony of Mr. Ta’sean Townsend, who went through the Navigating Wealth Program. Mr. Townsend wanted an opportunity to better himself. He continued to call, indicating he wanted to be in the program and was persistent. Mr. Otey explained that there was a waiting list, but Mr. Townsend continued to be persistent. Mr. Townsend achieved a goal through the six-week program and works full-time at American Lumber, with benefits, making $11.25 per hour. CNI Committee/Team had to be available to the residents and make sure that doors of opportunity were opened for each of them.

Vice Mayor Vick shared, after that attending the meeting, one did not realize how far some people had been, so the job readiness was a great opportunity. At the last meeting, Mr. Melvin Turnstall gave a testimony. He was employed by Bay Electric Company. To hear the excitement and appreciation of the opportunity was so overwhelming that he was in tears. There
was not a dry eye in the room, because Section 3 of the CNI Grant was allowing people to gain meaningful employment, and they were excited and thankful for having an opportunity to work. Mr. Turnstall was happy that a business afforded him an opportunity to work. Mr. Otey replied that was what the Navigating Wealth Program was doing – touching hearts and opening doors.

Vice Mayor Vick reiterated how thankful she was for the partnerships and hard work that staff continued to do, not just sitting in an office behind a desk but by being out in the community. She shared that transportation had been provided for residents to attend meetings. The residents were engaged at the homeownership and credit counseling sessions. Kudos to all involved with the CNI Transformation.

City Manager Rohlf shared that she wanted to also thank all City staff, HRCAP, NNRHA, Business partnerships and the residents. When the City applied for the $30 million CNI Grant, all involved were motivated and worked hard. She stated the momentum and excitement had continued and actually increased since the grant was awarded. Ms. Wilds indicated she was excited and proud about what was going to happen in the community. Ms. Wilds mentioned that the CNI Grant was a six-year grant and those six-years would go by quickly.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned how the reporting worked with HUD. She inquired whether there would be a quarterly and mid-year report or whether HUD would visit? Ms. Wilds replied that HUD would make visits, and written reports would be submitted through a computer portal and report to HUD on a quarterly basis. Vice Mayor Vick shared that HUD Representatives had been at many of the CNI meetings. City Manager Rohlf noted that there were reporting requirements, and the HUD manual provided all of the requirements, everything was being documented, not just financial, but programmatic as well. Reporting was very structured as to what the requirements were.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned, since there were multiple moving parts in the program, who was managing the reporting. City Manager Rohlf replied that as Ms. Wilds mentioned, they had hired Mr. Daniel Best, Coordinator, Ms. Starr Lane, Relocation Coordinator, and the City would be hiring a Project Coordinator to assist with the CNI Transformation program.

Ms. Wilds explained that the City had not received any funds to-date, but once the funds were available, the funds would be drawn down, and had to be used within a three-day period. As mentioned previously, a Budget Program was being finalized and scheduled for submission to Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and once approved, it could be made available to City Council.
Vice Mayor Vick indicated it was a great deal of work was involved and continued to be done. Most people looked at the $30 million check, but the work required a balance between, educating people and moving people. It was difficult relocate people who had lived in the Ridley neighborhood for years, and to make them feel comfortable with the process, and more importantly, understand the process. She was appreciative that she was allowed to be so involved, as a long-time Ridley Circle resident, and on the City’s behalf, to ensure that the residents were safe.

Ms. Wilds reiterated, of the 43 households that had not had the initial visit, was not because the attempt had not been made. During the community walk, there were those specific households’ lists and those doors were knocked on but with no answer. Vice Mayor Vick indicated, when discussing gentrification, the City could not guarantee what would happen with private properties during the transition, but NNRHA property residents had been assured that they would be taken care of during the transformation. The City staff, NNRHA, and HRCAP had been open and honest with residents about what to expect during the transformation. Ms. Wilds explained that residents had the right to return to their homes if they choose to do so.

Councilwoman Cherry said residents would have an opportunity to return, with the difference in mixed-housing that would be developed in the Ridley area. The residents would have the right of refusal; and inquired whether the opportunity would open for other people that were not necessarily in the CNI scope, to also purchase property/housing. Ms. Wilds replied, as part of the CNI, there would be 33 single-family homes that would be developed, and anyone would have an opportunity to purchase those homes. The bulk of what would be developed was rental housing, half of those were replacements. The residents would return to the replacement housing but would be marketing to the community overall for other units. She indicated details had to be established, for example a resident who had lived in Ridley Circle the longest and waiting the longest – but had to advise of their intention, as to whether they would be returning. HUD required that residents be offered the opportunity to return until the last unit was occupied. There would be some families who may get comfortable where they are and may choose to stay where they were relocated because the children could be in a new school, and the unit would not be available for 1 to 3 years. Brooks Crossing was buzzing with activity, and people liked to live near where they work. Vice Mayor Vick believed that the transformation process would give the City the opportunity to go back to the origination of public housing that it was not permanent with the mindset that a person did not have to live in public housing forever. Sometimes people could get complacent at how things had been for years, but children needed to know that they could do something better, and public housing was not the end all for their life. Ms. Wilds advised, with all of the work being done by HRCAP, many may not be eligible for subsidized housing. Mr. Turnstall, who received the job with Bay Electric Company and made $11.25 per hour, with benefits, would not be eligible; the goal was to move people forward to have better lives. Vice Mayor Vick advised that Mr.
Turnstall spoke at the meeting and needed to be the example of how the program worked and its success; he shared that he was telling of all his friends about work. To work for some people was a part of everyday life, and for others they had no clue about what it was to work everyday. Mr. Turnstall should be the spokesperson for what was being done in the community.

City Manager Rohlf advised that there were a number of partners that leveraged over $200 million in addition to support the $30 million grant. With all of the partners referenced the NNPS and other businesses, it was a very in-depth process that took effort, but it was all worthwhile.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned whether the partners mentioned were coming to the table and staying at the table. Ms. Wilds replied, to-date none of the partners had left. City Manager Rohlf indicated some of the partners may not be as engaged, but that also had to do with a timing issue. Ms. Wilds advised there would be a big event in October 2019, to get all of the partners energized and back to the table.

II. Health Insurance Update

Ms. Cynthia Rohlf, City Manager, introduced Ms. LaTessa Davis, Human Resources Manager, Department of Human Resources and Ms. Susan Goodwin, Director, Department of Finance, to provide the Health Insurance Update (a copy of the presentation “2020 Employee Health Insurance – Optima Health, September 24, 2019” is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Ms. Davis expressed her excitement for the partnership with Optima Health and why the City chose Optima Health. She advised, that through the normal procurement process, a Request for Proposal (RFP) went out to bid for medical and pharmacy providers. When the proposals were reviewed, the focus was on health in an effort to ensure that the City had health care provider where services were uninterrupted, by offering a broad network of access for doctors, specialists and hospitals everywhere City employees lived and worked. The City wanted a provider that offered excellent services and support for employees with health concerns through a transitional care program and to achieve this with the lowest possible cost to the employees and the City. Optima Health, the local carrier owned by Sentara, provided the overall best comprehensive proposal that achieved those goals. Optima Health offered a broad network of providers with area hospitals participating; as well as the employees’ current physicians and/or specialists currently used would remain in network. Optima Health was committed to helping the employees’ transition with minimum disruption and demonstrated excellent services and came highly recommended from neighboring localities, while achieving this at a lower cost compared to the Anthem renewal. Again, some of the highlights were as follows:
✓ Established local carrier owned by Sentara

✓ Broad network with local health systems in-network and nationwide access
  • Riverside Health System
  • Sentara CarePlex, and all Sentara facilities and medical groups
  • Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters
  • Bon Secours Mary Immaculate Hospital
  • Access in all 50 states through national PHCS network
  • Minimal disruption to members
  • Lower cost compared to Anthem renewal
  • Pharmacies services included: Walmart, Walgreen, and CVS

✓ Excellent service highly recommended by neighboring localities
  • City of Chesapeake
  • City of Norfolk
  • City of Portsmouth
  • City of Virginia Beach

Ms. Davis advised that several Optima Health Open Enrollment information sessions would be held beginning Tuesday, October 1, 2019. 2020 Employee Open Enrollment was October 14 – 28, 2019, as Optima Health would take effect on January 1, 2020. The Open Enrollment Highlights were as follows:

**OPTIMIZE YOUR benefits:**

• Two (2) Optima Health plans would be offered
• Optima Health would administer Health Saving Account (HSA) and Flexible Spending Account (FSA)
• Dental provider remained Delta Dental
• Vision provider remained VSP (Vision Provider)
• No change to fitness or Short-Term/Long Term Disability

Ms. Davis advised that Ms. Susan Goodwin would provide information on the retirees Open Enrollment Highlights along with the financial impact of the Optima Health transition. Ms. Goodwin shared that the Pre-65 2020 Retirees Open Enrollment was November 1 – 30, 2019. She advised that the plan changes were implemented and had gotten positive feedback back from the retirees.
OPTIMIZE YOUR benefits:

- Pre-65 retirees health insurance would also transition to Optima Health
- No change to Pre-65 plans and rates decreasing
- Post-65 provider remained Humana
- No change to fitness centers

Ms. Goodwin noted the financial impact was as follows:

- Anthem renewal was $1.2 million higher than Optima Health plans
- Optima Health also offered:
  - Substantial performance guarantees
  - $100,000 transitional allowance
  - $200,000 wellness credit
  - $25,000 One City Marathon sponsorship

Ms. Goodwin advised of the 2020 Health Insurance Cost Increases as follows:

- Anthem 8%
- Optima 5%

Councilwoman Cherry inquired whether there was a penalty for leaving Anthem and what was the reason for the transitional allowance. Ms. Goodwin replied the City went through the procurement process, and the change would take effect January 1, 2020. The transitional allowance was available in case something did not go well with the transition. City Manager Rohlf indicated the City hoped not to use the $100,000 transitional allowance; however, it was available if needed. She advised that Anthem was at the end of its five (5) year contract and had an opportunity to bid through the procurement process. Ms. Goodwin shared that Optima Health brought a lot to the table and were showed their commitment to success. She expressed excitement about the new partnership with Optima Health.

Ms. Goodwin introduced Ms. Stacy Fuqua, Director, Optima Health Plan and Client Development and Ms. Amy Burgoyne, Senior Client Executive, Optima Health to share additional information on the new health plan and answer questions.

Ms. Fuqua thanked the City for its confidence and opportunity in choosing Optima Health to provide excellent health care coverage, and were excited about the partnership and being able to serve City employees, retirees and family members beginning January 1, 2020. She thanked the City for choosing Optima Health. This would be an informational presentation about the services that Optima Health provided and commitment to the City and were available to answer
questions. The mission of Optima Health was to improve health every day. As a division of Sentara Healthcare, it was engrained in Optima Health to improve health care and take care of its members/patients, try to align the mission with the City and look for ways to better serve a community partner. Optima Health was an experienced partner with a long-term partnership in Hampton Roads, serving over 500,000 members throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia, which included government programs, employer group programs, individual policies, school systems and other localities. Optima Health was happy to begin serving the City of Newport News on January 1, 2020. One thing that made Optima Health successful in the Hampton Roads area were partnerships and the ability to develop and sustain long-term relationships with their employer groups, from the provider network prospective through all the major hospital systems (Sentara Healthcare, Sentara CarePlex, Riverside Health System, Bon Secours, Mary Immaculate Hospital, Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters, and more) over 30,000 providers’ in-network across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Councilwoman Cherry inquired about the PPO plan. Ms. Fuqua replied it was Point-of-Service Plan which acted exactly like a PPO, there would be no referral on the in-network providers and there was an in-network and out-of-network benefit. Councilwoman Cherry questioned whether the employees had to go to the providers within the Optima Health network or would there be an extra cost to go out-of-network to stay with their doctors. She inquired about how to keep their doctors and pay in-network cost. Ms. Fuqua replied, outside of the 30,000 providers, the cost would go up with out-of-network providers and the employee would be responsible for the additional cost. After reviewing the services and providers of the City, Optima Health believed that with the in-network providers there would be no disruption with the broad access of providers for employees and retirees. Councilwoman Cherry indicated that there was the potential that if an employee’s doctor was out-of-network that their premium would be higher. Ms. Fuqua replied yes, that was correct under the PPO plan. City Manager Rohlf advised that the comparisons were done and asked Ms. Goodwin to respond. Ms. Goodwin replied 99% of the providers were in-network. Ms. Fuqua indicated, if there was a provider not in-network that Optima Health would work with that provider to get them in-network.

Councilwoman Scott questioned whether the prescription plan was on tiers, $10/$20/$30 up to $50 and how Optima Health prescription plan works compared to Anthem’s? Ms. Burgoyne replied, that as part of the procurement process, the City put forth the plan design and asked the bidder whether the plan design would be able to be administered. They would have the same prescription plan tiers and would work the same as Anthem with minimal differences. The tiers should remain the same with $10/$30/$50 with some minor differences. Councilwoman Scott inquired about the difference in price, if one did not want to use generics, but only formulary. Ms. Burgoyne replied that some employees may choose to take the higher cost brand, and if there
was a generic available, that person would pay the difference between the generic and name brand, which was the way the City’s current plan was set-up.

City Manager Rohlf advised that the City had set the rate, and Optima Health only administered the City’s plan. Councilwoman Scott shared that she believed the whole idea was to do something different. She did not realize that the City had requested to have the same plan replicated. Ms. Goodwin replied the City had Optima Health review what Anthem offered and wanted to give the employees the best benefit at the lowest cost. The plan would be administered by Optima Health on the City’s behalf. City Manager Rohlf reiterated it was the City’s plan and took into consideration the cost and the benefits to the employees.

Ms. Fuqua advised that Optima Health offered a National Provider Network through a company called PHCS. When employees received their ID card, the PHCS logo would be on the back of the card and communication material informing employees that there was a National Provider Network available if they were to seek care outside of the Hampton Roads area. Optima Health vision was to become a long-term partner by serving the City and its employees with:

- Exceptional service
- Smooth transition of care process – Attending all of the City’s open enrollment meetings and retiree meetings
- Customized Benefit Plans – Administer the City’s benefits and could customize plans based on the City’s needs
- Supporting the City’s wellness program – Help increase engagement
- ID cards by January 1, 2020
- Resources and Information – Call member services and ask a nurse locally, and had a dedicated webpage for the City’s employees
  (www.optimhealth.com/nvva)

Ms. Fuqua shared the Optima Health Commitment as follows:

- Partnership - Collaboration with the City and engage with the employees
- Affordability - Helping address affordability for the City and employees
- Access - Local and national provider network
- Employee Well-being - Addressing the Physical and Behavioral Health needs of employees and family members
- Performance - Operational Performance and Service Guarantees
Councilwoman Cherry questioned whether employees would receive a list of in-network physicians, and if their physician was not in-network, who should make the initial contact with that physician to see, whether they would consider to becoming an in-network provider. Ms. Fuqua replied network directory was a thing of the past and to find out whether a doctor was in-network would be to call doctor to ask if they accepted Optima Health or visit the website: www.optimahsalth.com/nnva at the top of the page there was a link to find doctors. There were pre-filters available to search by Newport News zip codes. Ms. Fuqua noted as Ms. Goodwin had mentioned there was a 99% match. Councilwoman Cherry indicated she wanted to ensure that employees had a way to find the necessary information. Ms. Fuqua replied that employees could also call Optima Health to do the homework on their behalf. Councilwoman Cherry advised that was what she wanted to hear, that personal assistance would be available to the employees.

III. 60th Street Water Tanks Demolition Update

Ms. Cynthia Rohlf, City Manager, introduced Mr. Louis Martinez, Director, Department of Waterworks, to provide the 60th Street Water Tanks Demolition Update (a copy of the presentation “60th Street Water Tanks Demolition, September 24, 2019” is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Mr. Martinez advised of the reason for the 60th Street Water Tanks demolition was due to aging infrastructure. He shared that the neighborhood notification area would be notified with door hangers. The Newport News Waterworks Department advised that the elevated water tank and the ground storage tank in the neighborhood were being demolished. The project would begin late summer/fall 2019 with a completion of summer 2020. This project would not affect drinking water.

Mr. Martinez advised that the Newport News Waterworks had two (2) storage tanks at the 60th Street complex: a one million gallon, steel elevated storage tank built in the 1930’s and a three million gallon, concrete ground storage tank built in 1918. The water industry guidelines suggest that water tanks approaching 100 years in operation had reached the end of their useful service lives. Both tanks were taken out of service in 2017.

Mr. Martinez shared how this would impact the neighborhood. He advised that crews would be seen on-site demolishing and disassembling the tanks and removing debris from the site. Citizens should expect temporary changes to traffic patterns on Warwick Boulevard and additional construction traffic. Additional noise and/or dust may be experienced in close proximity to the construction site. The water would not be affected.
Mr. Martinez provided a summary of the 60th Street Asset Reclamation Project as follows:

- The two tanks at the 60th Street and Warwick Boulevard Complex had been in operation for nearly 100 years.
- They were functionally obsolete and were at the end of their useful service lives.
- Beginning in fall 2019, both tanks would be demolished. The demolition period would span from fall 2019 through spring 2020.
- During demolition there may be inconveniences to neighbors due to noise, dust, additional construction traffic, and temporary changes to traffic patterns on Warwick Boulevard.
- The Waterworks Department was committed to doing everything they could to minimize any inconvenience and disruption to the neighborhood.

Mr. Martinez advised that the Newport News Waterworks Department was committed to doing everything to minimize any inconvenience and disruption to the neighborhood and encouraged citizens to contact the office if they had any questions about the project. The Newport News Waterworks Department could be reached at 757-926-1000.

Councilman Jenkins questioned whether there were any offices or warehouse structures that would be demolished. Mr. Martinez replied there was an old meter shop that was still being used. That building would not be demolished at this time because the Voter Registrar’s voting machines were being stored until a location could be secured to relocate the voting machines, the building would remain. He advised there was also some piping in the area which was like spaghetti because the area was built so long ago. This building was built in 1923. Some of the piping would be capped off and some of the pipe construction changed. Once the Voter Registrar’s office secured a location to store the voting machines, the building could be demolished.

Councilwoman Cherry thanked Mr. Everett Skipper in advance as he would be presenting at the “Your Voice Matters” South District Town Hall Meeting on October 10, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Drive) to discuss the Huntington Heights traffic calming concerns. She hoped that the work would be done with minimum traffic and noise in the Huntington Heights. Mr. Martinez replied the work would be done during daylight hours. No work would be done at night. He also shared no work would be done during rush hour traffic.
IV. Comments / Ideas / Suggestions

Councilwoman Cherry advised that a constituent at her “Your Voice Matters” South District Town Hall Meeting inquired about Brooks Crossing and whether there were brochures available to distribute in the community to provide specific information about what was in Brooks Crossing Innovation Center and when classes would be offered. City Manager Rohlf replied that she had seen various information but not the details. Ms. Kingston advised that they were making sure that there was an internal calendar for all of the partners. Staff would work with HRCAP to get the internal calendars open and available to the public. Councilwoman Cherry shared that citizens know the Brooks Crossing Innovation Center was there, but did not have the necessary information (i.e. hours of operation, what type of classes, training or programs offered). Vice Mayor Vick mentioned that Old Dominion University (ODU) staffed the Brooks Crossing Innovation Center. Ms. Kingston replied that ODU would need additional staff as some of the programs would take place late evenings or at night because children were in school. All involved were trying to come together and find the best way to distribute the information. City Manager Rohlf advised everything to engage was being done; unfortunately, everyone could not be reached. She encouraged people to reach out to the City Manager’s office and the City for additional information.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that she met with Ms. Carrie Cox, Community Activist, who shared information on a program entitled “Putting Communities Together, Inc.” and she was impressed by the program (a copy is attached and made a part of these minutes). Ms. Cox was from Richmond and worked with young people and knew and worked with Police Chief Steve Drew. Councilwoman Woodbury stated Ms. Cox informed her that she attended City Council meetings. She requested that each City Council member and the City Manager and staff be provided with a copy of the packet of information.

Councilwoman Woodbury shared brochures of the Virginia Air and Space Museum and indicated that she had visited numerous times. The Virginia Air and Space Museum worked with the Newport News Public Schools STEM Programs. She requested that Ms. Lisa Cipriano provide any information on what had been provided to the Virginia Air and Space Museum in the past and asked whether funding was available in the City Council contingency fund. She requested the City Council consider providing funding from the contingency fund or community support funds to support the efforts of the Virginia Air and Space Museum and its STEM Programs. She shared additional information from Mr. Robert R. Griesmer, Executive Director/CEO, Virginia Air and Space Museum and funding history. Councilwoman Woodbury requested that City Council review the information provided, request a tour, and make a decision at the October 22, 2019 City Council Work Session (a copy is attached and made a part of these minutes). Councilwoman Cherry questioned the amount of funding requested by the Virginia Air and Space
Museum. Councilwoman Woodbury replied funding for the expansion and operation of the STEM Program. She reiterated that Virginia Air and Space Museum provided services for Newport News Public Schools as well and requested support for $50,000 between the two contingency funds.

City Manager Rohlf introduced and welcomed the City’s new Human Resources Director, Ms. Karen Witherspoon.

V. Closed Meeting

(5:41 p.m. – 5:55 p.m.)

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED 5:55 P.M.

Zina F. Middleton, MMC
Chief Deputy City Clerk

McKinley L. Price
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk