

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE 10TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
October 23, 2018
4:15 p.m.**

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

ABSENT: -----0

OTHERS PRESENT: Cynthia Rohlf; Collins L. Owens; Mabel Washington Jenkins; Wanda Pierre; Darlene Bradberry; Shelia McAllister; Flora Chiros; Britta Ayers; Lisa Cipriano; Constantinos Velissarios; Susan Goodwin; Eddie Crockett; Florence Kingston; Derek Perry; Marc Rogers; Lindsay Carney; Roslyn Gervin; Elaine Johnson; Dawn Barber; Tracy Stroinski; Milissa Story; Eric Hodson; Lieutenant Jeffrey Barefoot; Alison Fox; Thomas Brown, Jr.; Darlene Mitchell; Rolando Mamanao; Curtis Garrett; James Burnett; Rebecca Kleinhample; Sarah Wilcox; Alan Archer; David Freeman; Cleder Jones; Kim Lee; Eoghan Miller; Zina Middleton; and Josh Reyes

I. Leadership Development Academy Litter Presentation

Ms. Cynthia Rohlf, City Manager, highlighted the Leadership Development Academy II (LDA II) for the great work their throughout the City regarding litter clean-up. The participants in the LDA II which was a program started in the Department of Human Resources in 2010.

City Manager Rohlf, introduced Mr. Eric Hodson, Project Coordinator, Department of Public Works, to discuss the Class of 2018 Leadership Development Academy (LDA II): Litter presentation (a copy of the presentation “Feed the Green Make Our City Clean,” is attached and made a part of these minutes).

City Manager Rohlf asked the LDA II to introduce themselves: Ms. Tracy Stroninski, Department of Engineering; Ms. Milissa Story, Department of Planning; Mr. Eric Hodson, Department of Public Works (Building Services); Lieutenant Jeff Barefoot, Newport News Police Department; Ms. Alison Fox, Newport News Police Department; Mr. Thomas Brown, Jr., Newport News Juvenile Services; Ms. Darlene B. Mitchell, Newport News Department of Human Services; Ms. Rolando Mamanao, Department of Engineering; Mr. Curtis

Garrett, Department of Public Works (Solid Waste); Ms. Roslyn Gervin, Human Resource Manager and Ms. Elaine Johnson; Acting Director, Department of Human Resources.

Mr. Hodson stated the definition of litter was trash, such as paper, cans, and bottles left lying in an open or public place. Lieutenant Jeffrey Barefoot noted there was a huge problem with tires.

There had been City-Wide Cleanup events with Mission Objectives:

- Education
- Funding
- Corporate Sponsors
- Volunteers
- Logistics

Mr. Hodson introduced the mascot of LDA II named Cappy News, to be used at educational events.

Ms. Tracy Stroinski advised that the LDA II chose as their project site, Peterson Yacht Basin located at the intersection of 16th Street and Walnut Avenue in the Southeast Community which was a 5 ½” acre lot dedicated for use as a boat ramp. It was also a location with the nesting of 30 species of birds that included a bald eagle nest at the treetop in Salters Creek, which was approximately seven (7) yards from the basin. One afternoon in April 2018 the team went to Peterson Yacht Basin and within a two (20) hour clean-up the group of twenty (2) people collected approximately 800 pounds of litter from 850 yards of shoreline. She stated Peterson Yacht Basin also held historical significance, in 1852 the Battle of the Monitor Merrimack took place in Hampton Roads just of the shoreline of the basin and in 1910, it was the location for first flight of an aircraft from marine vessel. In 1949, the basin was named after Newport News City Councilman Roy Peterson.

Mr. Thomas Brown, Jr. indicated there were educational tents at major Newport News functions and festivals, which gave volunteers an opportunity to sign-up and informed citizens of the proper waste disposal for bulk debris, electronics, and paint. As well as, the time it took for litter to degrade:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| • Piece of paper | 2 – 4 weeks |
| • Candy wrapper | 1 – 3 months |
| • Plastic bag | 10 – 20 years |

- Cigarette butt 12 years
- Aluminum can 200 – 500 years
- Plastic bottle/Six Pack Ring 450 years
- Glass bottle 1 million years

Mr. Brown provided the following litter statistics and the City's "Litter Hotline" 757-269-2870:

- Virginia spent \$25 million each year to clean up litter
- Hampton road spent over \$2 million each year to collect and dispose of litter
- 48% of all Americans openly admit to littering
- 4.5 trillion cigarette butts are littered each year worldwide

Mr. Brown stated they wanted to get Youth Involvement:

- Organized clean ups
- Science Fairs
- Art contest using recycled materials
- Litter collection competitions and challenges

Ms. Alison Fox noted various ways to educate citizens:

- Mailers
 - Easy and quick way to educate citizen
 - Contains helpful residential waste disposal information
 - Inserts included in the water bill
- Waterworks Facility Tours
 - Educates the public of the dangers of litter in our reservoir
 - Increases the residents' confidence in the drinking water supply

Ms. Milissa Story advised of Event Funding Sources with Annual Grant Opportunities:

- Cigarette Litter Prevention Keep America Beautiful
 - \$295,000

- Department of Environmental Quality Litter & Recycling Competitive Grants
 - \$94,000
- Department of Environmental Quality Litter & Recycling Non-Competitive Grants
 - \$1,782,000
- 30 Grants in 30 Days Keep Virginia Beautiful
 - \$30,000

Ms. Story noted the City of Newport News Corporate Sponsors:

- Canon Virginia, Inc.
- Waste Management
- Ferguson Enterprises
- Chick-Fil-A
- Hampton Roads Transit
- WM Jordan Company
- Liebherr
- Huntington Ingalls

- Examples of Participation
 - Partnerships with Chesapeake Bay Foundation
 - Adopt-A-Spot
 - Provide shirts to volunteers with company logo
 - Encourage employees to volunteer
 - Monetary donations
 - Lunch sponsors
 - Provided supplies

- Litter Collector Supply Kit \$15 per collector:
 - Rubber Glovers
 - Safety Vest
 - Grabbers
 - Garbage Bags
 - Bottled Water
 - Snack

Lieutenant Barefoot advised of Volunteer Resources:

- Local military stationed in the City (Army/Navy)
- Scout Troops
- High School and College Students
- Citizen Volunteers
- Employees

- Incentives to Volunteer
 - Some high schools offer special incentives on diplomas for community service
 - Scouts receive merit badges
 - Giving back to the community
 - Improving the neighborhood where you live and/or work
 - Offer fun activities along with the clean-up, such as an art contest for youth volunteers

- Recruitment
 - Educate citizens and groups on the effects of litter and graffiti
 - Celebrate their accomplishments
 - Foster pride in local neighborhoods, schools, and communities

- Convenient Online Registration
 - City of Newport News Website Link
www.nnva.gov/feedthegreenmakeourcityclean
 - Convenient Online Registration
 - Online instructions for volunteers
 - Website enables volunteers to upload event pictures and data
 - Website will tabulate the data

Councilwoman Woodbury questions whether the individuals who received summons for littering could be required to pick-up litter. Lieutenant Barefoot replied that could be ordered by the Judge.

Councilwoman Cherry asked how the program was different from Adopt-A-Spot. Lieutenant Barefoot replied they were not to reinvent the wheel; but, to create groups/teams willing to get involved with projects and work throughout the City with litter clean-up in different neighborhoods. The project could be promoted by the City as an Annual City Clean-up

Day, individuals could pre-register and pick a neighborhood and the program can track and know what neighborhoods were being cleaned, in order for trucks to go through those neighborhoods to pick up the bags and debris. The data could be tracked to determine the number of times the clean-up day should take place per year.

City Manager Rohlf advised that Adopt-A-Spot was a good program, but that group who Adopt-A-Spot does not always want to make that commitment.

Councilwoman Cherry asked whether this was City/Employee driven. City Manager Rohlf replied yes. The project came from the LDA class. As a group, they were task with identifying an issue in the City and coming up with a solution.

Ms. Fox stated the LDA group had Adopted-A-Spot to show their commitment and, would continue to meet quarterly and clean at Peterson Yacht Basin.

Councilman Harris indicated this was a great initiative and questioned whether this program had been shared with the Newport News Schools Science Departments. City Manager Rohlf replied that this litter program was just getting off the ground. Councilman Harris stated this would be a great program for the Schools Science Departments, and share the presentation with the professional development staff, as this was very informative.

Mayor Price advised of the unattractive bags hanging at the bus stops and suggested once the program was up and running, this would be a great project. Mr. Hodson replied that the upfront cost was the real challenge. He indicated coordinating services with Hampton Roads Transit, Department of Public Works (Solid Waste) and others could be worked through.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that she and Mayor Price assisted with the Chesapeake Bay Clean-up in May or June annually at Chesapeake Avenue Bay Beach and Peterson Yacht Basin. She invited the LDA Class to share the presentation at an upcoming South District Town Hall Meeting.

II. Virginia Living Museum Strategic Plan 2020: Cooperative Support for the City of Newport News Presentation

City Manager Rohlf, introduced Mr. James Burnett, President of the Board of Trustees, Virginia Living Museum, to discuss the Virginia Living Museum Strategic Plan 2020: Cooperative Support for the City of Newport News (a copy of the presentation "Virginia Living

Museum, BUILT by the Community, BELOVED by the Community, SUSTAINED by the Community,” is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Mr. Bennett stated he would highlight the return on investment, that the City of Newport News received from its strategic support of the Virginia Living Museum (VLM). He indicated that he had been associated with the VLM since 1995, and both he and his wife volunteered at VLM. Mr. Bennett stated he would focus on the quality of life that the VLM added to the City. The VLM was a high quality educational experience for K-12 students and adults. There were good synergies between the VLM and a lot of the good work being accomplished in the City. The VLM had numerous of programs, to include, the Dinosaur Trail, which had interactive activities for the children to participate. The VLM was 1 of 14 institutions in America that received the highest standards by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (American Alliance of Museums Accredited Museum).

Mr. Bennett advised, in 2017, the VLM had over 290,000 visitors, for the second most visited attraction on the lower peninsula after Busch Gardens Williamsburg. The VLM received the highest visitation of all the museums in Newport News combined, and five times the visitation of the City of Hampton’s largest attraction. He noted of those 290,000 visitors, approximately 55,000 came from outside of Hampton Roads.

Mr. Bennett noted the VLM Mission Statement, connecting people to nature through educational experiences that promoted conservation, was relevant and reflected a societal need to understand and protect the natural world that gave humanity a higher purpose. STEM, educational, and conservation was a big part of VLM’s future. The museum was recognized as an education resource that could not be duplicated by the schools. He said education enabled the VLM to reach inner-city students, who may not otherwise experience the nature world. An outside study confirmed the students who experience hands on programs were more likely to retain information than those studying the same material in a traditional classroom. There were educational components with Standards of Learning (SOL) correlated classes and labs, summer camps, road scholar, and the SPARK Summer Program. The VLM exhibit had eight (8) endangered species and partake in natural species survival plans, worked in twenty-one (21) Field Conservation Projects, while engaging college student in environment research projects. He advised that VLM had a conservation research initiative with Christopher Newport University (CNU), Hampton University (HU) and other area universities.

Mr. Bennett noted that VLM also provided volunteer opportunities. VLM had approximately 500 volunteers and approximately 250 were residents of the City of Newport News. The VLM Community Volunteers supported and gave back. In return, those volunteers

cultivated skills, gained knowledge, learned people skills and learned what it was to give back to the community. He indicated that VLM had a Volunteer Recognition Awards Banquet in August 2018 and a Conservation Ambassador Pin was developed and presented. VLM enjoyed tremendous support not only from the City of Newport News, but from its people with 7,000 member families and more than 1,000 individual donors and corporate supporters.

Mr. Bennett advised that there was a staff of dedicated and hardworking people, who tirelessly put forth their best efforts 24/7 365 days a year, the lights were never off. The animals always needed to be cared for and staff kept the facility running.

Mr. Bennett introduced Ms. Rebecca Kleinhample, Executive Director, VLM. Ms. Kleinhample advised that she became a VLM member in 1997 and had hired in 2004. She noted some of the challenges were museum staffing, particularly in animal care, which was understaffed and unpaid. Once a staff member left, VLM was unable to rehire due to lack of funding, and six years with no increases in salaries. There was 100,000 square feet of facilities and 22 acres of property that VLM managed which was vulnerable to flooding. The facility and infrastructure were technical and required constant maintenance. The facility ran 24/7 365 days a year, could not turn off the pumps or temperature sensors in an aquatic environment, and many of VLM animals required medical care because although those animals were rehabilitated, they were non-releasable. She stated high standards of accreditation required constant updates and upgrades and funding had been limited.

Ms. Kleinhample noted the strengths of VLM:

- Community Asset – Non-profit and a Tourism Attraction
- Passionate Staff – Knowledgeable and dedicated
- Volunteer Corps – Believed in the same core as the VLM staff

Ms. Kleinhample provided Revenue Growth History:

	1999	2016	2018
Total Budget	\$2.26 million	\$4.35 million	\$4.56 million
Earned Income	62%	66%	68.80%
Local Support	13%	12%	11.6%
State Support	18%	2%	1.6%
Contributions	7%	16%	16.7%
Reserve/Endowment		4%	1.3%

Ms. Kleinhample noted VLM's financial update:

- Debt Free
- Positive Cash Flow
- Established a Cash Reserve – for emergency repairs (i.e. flooding)
- Growing the Endowment - \$3.5 million but need to be at \$10 million

Ms. Kleinhample noted the upcoming events that included VLM's 52nd Community Birthday Celebration on Sunday, November 11, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., with an admission cost of \$1.00, and the 9th Annual Turkey Pardoning, to be held on Wednesday, November 21, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. (524 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard).

Mr. Bennett advised that the VLM still had work to do and thanked City Council for its continued support.

Mr. Bennett indicated a High Level Performance Review was done April 2015 by Virginia Commonwealth University and the study results showed:

- The Museum was effective and efficient in operations
- The Museum made appropriate use of private and public funds
- The Museum provided a high Return on Investment (ROI) for the City of Newport News
- A \$1 million investment by the City returns ~ \$6.1 million in generated revenues

Ms. Kleinhample introduced Ms. Sarah Wilcox who provided City Council with VLM Fast Facts and the Strategic Plan 2020 (attached and made a part of these minutes).

Vice Mayor Vick thanked the leadership of VLM and commended staff for the hard work and dedication. VLM was a true asset to the City of Newport News and its citizens.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about the regional school systems that came to the VLM on a regular basis which was part of the funding. She asked whether schools still visited the VLM? Ms. Kleinhample replies absolutely, VLM contract with the City of Newport News, Gloucester County and working to get back into school contracts, because budgets were challenged. VLM had seen a large increase of private school visits, which helped to defray some of the revenue lost. She said schools travel as far from Northern Virginia.

Mr. Bennett advised there had been a tremendous focus on revenue generation activities (i.e. memberships, school visits, etc.). VLM recognized that government support, while valuable, had its limits, and every organization had to do its part to be self-sustaining.

Councilwoman Woodbury stated she had spoken to Mr. Michael Poplawski, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism about the before and after school programs, as she believed it would be a revenue producer. She indicated that Mr. Poplawski said he believed people would pay extra if they could drop off and pick up their children at the VLM. She asked VLM if they would look into the possibility. Ms. Kleinhample indicated the biggest drawback would be transportation.

Mayor Price said he was very appreciative of the presentation on how VLM had turned around its financial picture and was moving forward. He asked about the endowment fund and presenting to foundations who were passionate about animals and willing to make generous donations. Ms. Kleinhample replied that the VLM was working toward that goal.

Councilman Jenkins stated he was excited about the Mastodon exhibit and inquired as to when that exhibit would arrive. Ms. Kleinhample replied the museum was still working out details on the exhibit.

Councilwoman Scott thanked the VLM for providing Council with the update and positive news about the museum. The VLM provided a measurable difference and added value to those with membership from across the water. VLM was attracting people who had membership and would visit the museum often. She thanked Mr. Bennett, Ms. Kleinhample, and the Board of Trustees for all of the hard work.

III. Eastern Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority (RIFA) Update

City Manager Rohlf introduced Ms. Florence Kingston, Director, Department of Development and Ms. Lindsay Carney, Legal Counselor, Patten, Wornom, Hatten & Diamonstein, to provide an update on the Regional Industrial Facility Authority (RIFA) and answer any additional questions. She advised that the Eastern Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority (EVRIFA) would be on the October 23, 2018 City Council meeting agenda for a vote.

Councilwoman Scott advised, after a discussion with City Manager Rohlf, that she had a better understanding of the RIFA, saw the value and believed it would be of benefit for the City to participate in the program.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired about the upcoming projects. City Manager Rohlf replied the Hampton Roads Unmanned Systems Facility (HRUSF) in York County was the only project. She indicated that participating localities would include Gloucester County, Hampton, James City County, Poquoson, Williamsburg and York County. The project had not moved forward because the structure was not yet in place.

Councilwoman Woodbury indicated she had concerns that once the City agreed to participate, and questioned whether got a seat at the table, would the City be able to get out of the program if not beneficial. City Manager Rohlf reminded, at the October 9, 2018 Work Session, in the RIFA briefing Ms. Carney noted that each member locality may consider RIFA Project participation in individual facilities or projects by reviewing and considering the participation agreements for the facilities or projects. The cost for such projects and any remuneration from a project should only be shared by those member localities that participated in the Participation Agreement for that project. She said there was no requirement to participate in any project and there were no penalties or adverse consequences to a member locality who did not wish to participate.

City Manager Rohlf advised that the Go Virginia Program was approved in early 2018, along with initial funding in the amount of \$150,000. The funding would be used in support of two (2) preliminary activities: (1) Creation of a regional industrial facility authority (RIFA) and (2) Development of architectural and engineering plans for HRUSF.

Ms. Kingston advised that the second part of the grant would be to hire architectural and engineering services to develop cost estimates, to make decisions to participate on the HRUSF.

Vice Mayor Vick questioned who would hire the architect. Councilwoman Cherry inquired where the funding would come from. Ms. Kingston replied the Board of Trustees once the RIFA was created.

Ms. Carney advised that the Regional Industrial Facility Authority (RIFA) would be on the Hampton City Council's agenda on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 and on Gloucester County's Board of Supervisors agenda Wednesday, November 7, 2018. She stated James City County, Poquoson, Williamsburg and York County had already acted on, and approved participation in RIFA.

Councilwoman Cherry noted she was uncomfortable even after reading all of the documentation. There were some underlying concerns that had not been disclosed, such as, what

were the dues and other associated costs. It appeared as though it was already decided that the City was going to participate, although the RIFA had not been voted on by Council. City Manager Rohlf advised that the Go Virginia Program was approved early in 2018 and this was the second part of the program. Councilwoman Cherry stated the City of Newport News did not have land and the City would fund projects and get some tax revenue, but questioned where the funding was coming from to go into the project. The funding being used for other projects could be used in our City that needed to be developed. City Manager Rohlf stated the RIFA would not be used to replace local economical development effects.

Vice Mayor Vick indicated she was on the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development Board and the GO Virginia funding was received approximately three (3) years prior. The Go Virginia Program was established to get the region to partner, which was what got the City funding to begin this process and was the reason for having a seat at the table, no one knows what could come in the near future but when it came, the City of Newport News would have a seat at the table.

Councilwoman Cherry reiterated that no one had mentioned anything about the dues that were referenced in the RIFA documentation. The City could not get out of the RIFA unless every member locality agreed. City Manager Rohlf indicated that was State Code. Ms. Carney replied there were no dues to-date because there was no Board. Once the seven (7) participating localities agreed, there would have to be a budget, the budget would require a majority vote of the Board Members. The dues would happen once the entity was formed.

Ms. Carney indicated, for the projects specific purposes, that whoever participated from the group, and all seven (7) localities would have a seat at the table; however, the City of Newport News decided it did not wish to participate in the Hampton Roads Unmanned Systems Facility (HRUSF). The City of Newport News did not have project related expenses, though expenses would only be passed on to the other six (6) localities who signed the participation agreement that outlined the obligations to contribute and what was expected in return. The only dues that would become a factor was if staff needed to hire in the future and how that would be allocated. The localities had already agreed that expenses would be allocated based on project use.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned where would the money come from to pay the dues. City Manager Rohlf replied there were not dues and no dues were anticipated. She stated any future expenses would come from the operating budget.

Mayor Price noted it was an investment and having a membership to be able to share expenses of future project should the City of Newport News decided to participate. There had to be a mechanism in place to have a revenue sharing on any future endeavors. Vice Mayor Vick stated that with any future project cost, it would be written in the project agreement to be split between the memberships. Ms. Carney indicated that was the mechanism that would prevent other localities from taking advantage of Newport News. In that participation agreement, the City of Newport News had the ability to negotiate with every project. With regard to withdrawal from RIFA, that was prescribed by the State statute.

Councilwoman Cherry thanked everyone for the explanations and details; however, she still had concerns about the impact on the operating budget. City Manager Rohlf replied it would have to make good operating judgment. Mayor Price urged her to look at it, as an investment opportunity to make money for the City on projects the City could not do on its own. Councilwoman Cherry wanted to ensure that whatever was needed to be done in the City would not be put on the back burner. She stated the City would be investing but how long would it take for the City to see a return. What was the real benefit? Mayor Price stated there was zero benefit should the City be denied a seat at the table to even have an opportunity to invest.

Vice Mayor Vick indicated if this incentive (RIFA) came before the GO Virginia Program it would not make sense. The concept behind the GO Virginia Program was to create regional partnerships, and no longer functioning in silos.

Ms. Carney noted that the preamble of the State statute indicated this mechanism was created because localities were not collaborating, and there were lack of resources in localities, whether it was capital or land. The GO Virginia Program was a mechanism to start funding.

Councilwoman Scott questioned how the staffing structure and be set-up (example: HRPDC, HRECEA, etc.) where the City would have to contribute funding to manage a staff. Ms. Carney replied that the Authority would be governed by a Board of Directors and each locality would have two (2) members. The statute did allow for an Executive Director to be hired which would be at the Board's discretion, when the Board felt it was necessary, and there was funding available to pay for that position. That was not anticipated at this point, the available funding in the amount \$150,000 would be used in support of two (2) preliminary activities: (1) Creation of a regional industrial facility authority (RIFA) and (2) Development of architectural and engineering plans for HRUSF.

Councilwoman Scott questioned whether the City of Newport News could be a part of the RIFA in perpetuity and never have to invest unless there was a project the City chose to invest. Ms. Carney replied that was correct, there was no obligation to invest in any project and no penalty for non-participation. The City would have a seat at the table and would be a part of the discussion. Vice Mayor Vick indicated having a seat at the table during discussions was vital for the City.

Ms. Carney advised, by having a seat at the table, the City would have input on what GO Virginia funding it wished to seek. The Authority would apply for those funds and the City of Newport News would support projects even though the City did not wish to invest or participate.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned who would pay for the audit. Ms. Carney replied it would be anticipated that the funds would be paid from the HRUSF where all of the expenses would be derived.

IV. Comments / Ideas / Suggestions

Councilman Jenkins advised that he had provided information of all the days recognized by the General Assembly. He indicated he met with Mr. Howard H. Hoege, III, President and CEO, the Mariners' Museum, about Shipbuilders Day and the Mariners' Museum agreed to sponsor the day of activities without any cost to the City. He did not anticipate the Shipbuilders Day generating a day off from work, but that would be at the discretion of the individual employer. Vice Mayor Vick inquired about the total cost for the Mariners' Museum to sponsor Shipbuilders Day. Councilman Jenkins replied that he did not get an exact amount; however, the Mariners' Museum would not be seeking additional funding from the City.

Vice Mayor Vick thanked Mr. David Freeman, Assistant to the City Manager; Mr. Michael Poplawski, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; and Newport News Chief of Police Steve Drew; the Park Rangers, and other staff members for the "No Trespassing" ordinance amendment adopted at the October 9, 2018 Regular Meeting of City Council and put in place for park facilities all those working at the MLK Plaza. She stated she had an opportunity to drive past the MLK Plaza for the past several days, and noticed a difference. She was appreciative of the commitment and dedication and could see the results.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about a non-profit organization providing food to the homeless at the MLK Plaza the first Saturday of each month. The non-profit organization stated they had received some complaints from a Police Officer said they could no longer

distribute food to the homeless at the MLK Plaza. She asked what would that non-profit organization need to do to continue providing for the homeless. City Manager Rohlf replied she would look into the matter. Vice Mayor Vick stated the concept of hand-out or give-away were great, but the freeness had turned into drug addicts and other unsightly things going on in the plaza. The Esquire Barber Shop and surrounding businesses were losing business from people from the plaza harassing their clients. It sounded good, but the reality was that it was not good for the community. It had an adverse effect in the community. She stated 2 Thessalonians 3:10 stated "...if any would not work, neither should he eat". Councilwoman Scott replied she understood the scripture; however, would like to know what the City policy was in any public place.

Councilman Harris noted, once the Day Services Center opened that should eliminate those concern because the homeless population would have a place to go rather than hanging out at MLK Plaza. Vice Mayor Vick agreed.

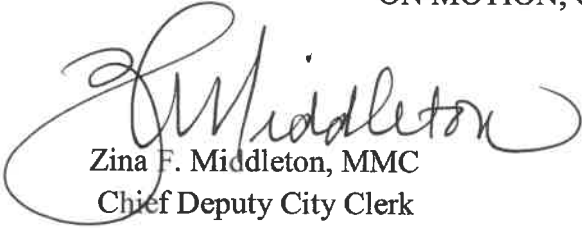
Councilwoman Cherry inquired about the Residential Parking Permit Program and how that would affect the Huntington Heights neighborhood. There were residents selling and/or allowing others to use the parking permits. The City needed to look at the enforcement aspect, those individuals were not ticketed, nor given warnings. City Attorney Owens stated if the residents on that particular street called, those individuals would be towed. Councilwoman Cherry indicated one of the main concerns of the Huntington Heights neighborhood was when they called the Police, nothing was being done. City Manager Rohlf replied she would get a group of Police Officers; Office of the City Attorney; Department of Engineering; and members of the City Manager's Office staff to come up with a solution to be more proactive. City Attorney Owens indicated each parking permit number was assigned to a specific vehicle and it should be able to be called in.

Councilwoman Cherry thanked Mr. Freeman for the information he provided on the days/months/events recognized in the City. She noted that White Cane Day was October 15, 2018, which celebrated the vision impaired community. Councilwoman Cherry advised that on Saturday, October 13, 2018, the White Cane Awareness Day Historic Walk took place on the Duke of Gloucester Street in Historic Williamsburg. The National Federation of the Blind indicated they made a request for a proclamation of the City of Newport News and never received a response. Mayor Price replied that unfortunately his office did not receive a proclamation request for White Cane Awareness Day. Councilwoman Cherry requested that the White Cane Awareness Day proclamation be placed on the schedule for October 2019.

V. Closed Meeting

(5:50 p.m. – 6:35 p.m.)

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED 6:35 P.M.



Zina F. Middleton, MMC
Chief Deputy City Clerk

McKinley L. Price
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk