

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
JUNE 12, 2018  
7:00 P.M.**

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PRESENT: Sharon P. Scott, MPA; Tina L. Vick; Dr. Patricia P. Woodbury; Herbert H. Bateman, Jr.; and Sandra N. Cherry, D. Min.-----5

ABSENT: Marcellus L. Harris III; and McKinley L. Price, DDS-----2

A. Call to Order

Vice Mayor Vick called the meeting to order and welcomed all. She stated that she would preside over the meeting in the absence of Mayor McKinley Price. She advised that the City Code identified the procedure for citizen participation regarding items on the Council agenda, as well as the opportunity for citizens to address City Council on matters germane to the business of the Council. She 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. She pointed out copies of the ordinance highlighting citizen participation and encouraged citizens to review the document.

Vice Mayor Vick requested that cell phones and/or pagers be silenced or turned off.

B. Invocation

The invocation was rendered by Reverend George Chioros, Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church.

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Councilwoman Woodbury.

D. Presentations

None Submitted

*MOTION MADE BY COUNCILWOMAN WOODBURY; SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN CHERRY, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, TO EXCUSE MAYOR PRICE FROM THIS MEETING.*

*MOTION MADE BY COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT; SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN WOODBURY, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, TO EXCUSE COUNCILMAN HARRIS FROM THIS MEETING.*

E. Public Hearings

1. Resolution Recommending Adoption of the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan

A RESOLUTION OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL RECOMMENDING ADOPTION OF THE MARSHALL-RIDLEY CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSFORMATION PLAN. This resolution recommended adoption of the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan. The Plan was the product of a Choice Neighborhood Initiative Planning Grant award from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and an 18-month community-driven planning process. The Plan had three components: Neighborhood, Housing, and People, with each component addressing different elements of resident self-sufficiency and stability. On May 2, 2018, the Planning Commission voted unanimously 6:0 to recommend endorsement of the Plan. The City Manager recommended approval.

Vice Mayor Vick allowed City Manager Rohlf to provide background information about the Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan (CNI).

City Manager Rohlf shared, while staff worked on the CNI Plan, they applied for the FY 2017 Choice Neighborhood Implementation (CNI) Grant, which led to an opportunity to apply for \$30 million to assist in transforming the Marshall-Ridley neighborhood. The City received notice from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that Newport News was one of six finalists eligible for the \$30 million. Representatives from HUD came to Newport News to visit the Marshall-Ridley neighborhood on May 22, 2018 as part of the process. City staff provided a presentation to HUD, and created a video as part of the presentation. The citizens were engaged in the development of the video (the 9-minute video was shown to those in attendance and the television listening/viewing audience).

Ms. Yugonda Sample Jones, 2115 Madison Avenue, Newport News, advised that she was a resident in the Marshall neighborhood. She advised that she learned a great deal about the history of Newport News through the CNI process. She met many of the residents, who were the true assets in the community. She witnessed the commitment and knowledge of the citizens, along with the dedication and skill of staff from the Planning and Development Departments, had encouraged neighbors to become engaged and drive the revitalization process. Ms. Sample-Jones advised that it was an honor to serve with the community, and was proud of the work done from everyone involved. It was her hope that the great City of Newport News would adopt the community engagement principles of the CNI, and echo them, in an effort to build trust and ensure the voice of the people was heard. She expressed appreciation to City Council for their commitment to the process. The plan would empower hundreds of families with the access to, and ability to have, safe, and affordable housing in a community of which everyone could be proud.

Vice Mayor Vick extended thanks to the staff and residents for their hard work throughout the process.

E. Public Hearings Continued

1. Resolution Recommending Adoption of the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan Continued

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

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Bateman, Cherry

Nays: None

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

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Bateman, Cherry

Nays: None

2. Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents, Including Deeds, Necessary to Effectuate the Conveyance of City-Owned Property Located at 1014 28<sup>th</sup> Street to the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND THE CITY CLERK TO ATTEST, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING DEEDS, NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTY TO THE NEWPORT NEWS REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY. This ordinance authorized and directed the City Manager to execute any and all documents, including deeds, necessary to effectuate the conveyance of a City-owned parcel located at 1014-28<sup>th</sup> Street, to the NNRHA in support of its revitalization activities in the Southeast Community. The NNRHA intended to facilitate development of the property as a parking area to increase parking opportunities in conjunction with the Whittaker Place Project. A review by appropriate City departments indicated there were no objections to the City conveying the requested surplus parcel. The City Manager recommended approval.

Vice Mayor Vick advised that she and her colleagues on City Council participated in a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Whittaker Place project (the old Whittaker Memorial Hospital) at 1001-1003 28<sup>th</sup> Street.

(No registered speakers)

Councilman Bateman moved closure of the public hearing; seconded by Councilwoman Cherry.

E. Public Hearings Continued

2. Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents, Including Deeds, Necessary to Effectuate the Conveyance of City-Owned Property Located at 1014 28<sup>th</sup> Street to the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA) Continued

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Bateman, Cherry

Nays: None

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

Councilman Herbert H. Bateman, Jr., 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.3 of §2.2-3112.B and §2.2-3115.H of the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act, that for discussion at the Public Hearing of June 12, 2018 (i) as Agenda Item E.2., the City Manager recommended that the Newport News City Council authorize a conveyance of property at 1014-28<sup>th</sup> Street, to the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority [NNRHA], (“the transaction”); (ii) that he was an employee of TowneBank, and NNRHA was a client of the bank; however, he did not personally represent or provide services to it; (iii) that he had no personal interest affected by the transaction; and (iv) that he was able to participate in the transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest (a signed written declaration was filed with the City Clerk prior to the City Council meetings at which time the transaction was considered – June 12, 2018; and is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Bateman, Cherry

Nays: None

3. Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents, Including Deeds, Necessary to Effectuate the Conveyance of City-Owned Property Located at 2105, 2107, and 2111 Madison Avenue to the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND THE CITY CLERK TO ATTEST, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING DEEDS, NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTY TO THE NEWPORT NEWS REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY. This ordinance authorized and directed the City Manager to execute any and all documents, including deeds, necessary to effectuate the conveyance of City-owned property located at 2105, 2107, 2111 Madison Avenue to the NNRHA. The conveyance of these City-owned lots were consistent with the City’s ongoing efforts to encourage single-family residential development in the Southeast Community. Once conveyed, NNRHA would transfer the proper-

E. Public Hearings Continued

3. Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute Any and All Documents, Including Deeds, Necessary to Effectuate the Conveyance of City-Owned Property Located at 2105, 2107, and 2111 Madison Avenue to the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA)  
Continued

ties to Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity intended to build homes on the vacant lots as part of its First-Time Homebuyer Program. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Bateman, Cherry

Nays: None

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

Councilman Herbert H. Bateman, Jr., 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.3 of §2.2-3112.B and §2.2-3115.H of the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act, that for discussion at the Public Hearing of June 12, 2018 (i) as Agenda Item E.3., the City Manager recommended that the Newport News City Council authorize a conveyance of property at 2105, 2107 and 2111 Madison Avenue to the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority [NNRHA], ("the transaction"); (ii) that he was an employee of TowneBank, and NNRHA was a client of the bank; however, he did not personally represent or provide services to it; (iii) that he had no personal interest affected by the transaction; and (iv) that he was able to participate in the transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest (a signed written declaration was filed with the City Clerk prior to the City Council meetings at which time the transaction was considered – June 12, 2018; and is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Bateman, Cherry

Nays: None

E. Public Hearings Continued

4. Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Make Offers to Acquire, By Purchase or Condemnation, All or Portions of Property 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 Authorized Purchase

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND THE CITY CLERK TO ATTEST, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING DEEDS, NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTY TO THE NEWPORT NEWS REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY. This ordinance authorized the City Manager to make offers to acquire, by voluntary sale or condemnation, all or portions of property 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 authorized purchase. The Campbell Road Improvements Project consisted of reconstructing, to current City standards, the existing Campbell Road between Bland Boulevard and Warwick Boulevard. The property being acquired would be used to construct the proposed road improvements and install stormwater drainage facilities in the project area. Funding for these acquisitions was available from previously appropriated General Obligation Bonds and State Revenue Sharing Funds. Appraisals had been conducted for each location, totaling \$96,982.36. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Bateman, Cherry

Nays: None

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

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Bateman, Cherry

Nays: None

E. Public Hearings Continued

5. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute a Second Amendment to the Tower Attachment Lease, By and Between the City of Newport News, Virginia, and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, for Space on the GAT Site Tower, Located at or Near 100 Tower Lane in York County

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 SECOND AMENDMENT TO TOWER ATTACHMENT LEASE BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA AND NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC, FOR THE GAT SITE TOWER. This resolution authorized and directed the City Manager to execute a second amendment to the Tower Attachment Lease, by and between the City of Newport News, Virginia, and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, for space on the GAT (Ground Air Transmitter) Site Tower, located at or near 100 Tower Lane in York County. The requested lease amendment would continue to provide AT&T use of space on the City-owned tower at the GAT Site Tower. The proposed terms, equipment requirements, and pricing, had been negotiated in coordination with the Department of Development and the City's consultant for cell tower issues. The amendment would extend the lease for a five-year period, from June 18, 2018 through June 17, 2023. Rent would begin at \$42,643.70 per annum, and continue to be increased annually by an amount equal to three percent (3%) of the rent for the prior lease year. All other terms and conditions of the original lease would remain the same, and in full force and effect. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Bateman, Cherry

Nays: None

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

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Bateman, Cherry

Nays: None

F. Consent Agenda

Councilwoman Woodbury moved adoption of the Consent Agenda, Item 2, as shown below; seconded by Councilwoman Scott.

F. Consent Agenda Continued

2. Ordinance Accepting the Streets and Public Improvements in the Preserve at Fisher's Creek Subdivision, Sections One (1) and Two (2), into the City Street System

AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT STEFFI PLACE, HAWSER BEND AND SHIP HAVEN DRIVE, THE PRESERVE AT FISHER'S CREEKS SUBDIVISION, SECTION ONE AND SHIP HAVEN DRIVE, THE PRESERVE AT FISHER'S CREEK SUBDIVISION, SECTION TWO, AND THE PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND THEREON INTO THE CITY STREET SYSTEM. This ordinance accepted Steffi Place, Hawser Bend, and Ship Haven Drive in Section One, and Ship Haven Drive in Section Two (2), both sections located in The Preserve at Fisher's Creek Subdivision, and the physical improvements into the City Street System. A final inspection was conducted on April 26, 2018 following the required one year warranty period of The Preserve at Fisher's Creek Subdivision Sections One and Two. The inspection indicated compliance with all requirements. Once accepted, the streets, which were constructed at the owner's expense, would be eligible for State maintenance reimbursements to the City. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Bateman, Cherry

Nays: None

Councilwoman Woodbury moved adoption of the Consent Agenda, Item 1, as shown below; seconded by Councilwoman Cherry.

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 22, 2018

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Vick, Woodbury, Bateman, Cherry

Nays: None

Abstention: Scott (Was not in attendance at the Regular Meeting of May 22, 2018)

G. Other City Council Actions

1. Resolution Accepting a Conveyance or Property Located at 12601 McManus Boulevard from the Industrial Development Authority of the City of Newport News, Virginia (IDA)

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ACCEPTING A CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 12601



G. Other City Council Actions Continued

1. Resolution Accepting a Conveyance of Property Located at 12601 McManus Boulevard from the Industrial Development Authority of the City of Newport News, Virginia (IDA) Continued

MCMANUS BOULEVARD FROM THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA. This resolution accepted a conveyance of property located at 12601 McManus Boulevard from the Industrial Development Authority of the City of Newport News (IDA). In accordance with the Comprehensive Agreement for the SCOT Relocation Project, the City required ownership of an approximately 13.77-acre parcel, located at 12601 McManus Boulevard, currently owned by the IDA. This action would provide the City with the necessary ownership to facilitate construction of new SCOT facilities for the benefit of Newport News Public Schools (NNPS). The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

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

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry

Nays: None

Abstention: Bateman (Applicant is a client of his employer, TowneBank)

H. Appropriations

Councilwoman Woodbury moved adoption of Appropriations, Item 1, as shown below; seconded by Councilman Bateman.

1. Department of Engineering – FY 2018 General Obligation Bond Authorization, The Peterson Yacht Basin Dredging Project

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM BONDS AUTHORIZED AND UNISSUED (\$620,000.00) TO PETERSON YACHT DREDGING (\$620,000.00). This resolution appropriated \$620,000.00 from the FY 2018 General Obligation Bond Authorization for the Peterson Yacht Basin Dredging Project. Peterson Yacht Basin was situated at the mouth of Salters Creek. In recent years, sedimentation had reduced the functionality of the Salters Creek Watershed. The dredging operations would remove accumulated sediment and decayed vegetation. The City Manager recommended approval.

(No registered speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Price, Scott, Vick, Woodbury, Cherry

Nays: None

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

Ms. Nina Robertson, 10 Museum Drive, Newport News, advised that she was a graduate of Peninsula Catholic High School (600 Harpersville Road, Newport News), slated to attend the University of Virginia in the Fall of 2018. She further shared that she was a member of the Newport News Mayor's Youth Commission. Ms. Robertson extended thanks to the members of the Newport News City Council for adopting a resolution to urge Congress and the Virginia General Assembly to enact legislation that would establish Extreme Risk Protection Orders to take firearms out of the hands of individuals suffering with a mental illness. This is the first progressive step toward keeping the general public safe, as well as children in schools. She acknowledged the presence of individuals in support of the legislation and asked them to stand. Those standing were passionate about keeping their loved ones and community safe from any form of violence. On behalf of students in the City of Newport News, Ms. Robertson expressed appreciation for City Council's attempt to take responsible actions to defend the future generations of students, and hoped that the resolution would inspire the General Assembly to seek further options to remove the fear of a shooting from a child, parent, administrator, or teacher. She challenged City Council to enact more resolutions and ideas about how to keep the general public of Newport News safe from any form of harm.

Ms. Jannie Bazemore, 1004 Hampton Avenue, Newport News, advised that the doors of Huntington Middle School would be closed in two days for an undetermined period of time. She further advised that members of the Newport News City Council held the keys to when the doors of Huntington would reopen to educate the youth. She noted that City Council held the funds needed to immediately begin the rebuilding process.

In response to Councilwoman Woodbury's idea regarding Ms. Bazemore leading a Capital Campaign for the rebuilding of Huntington Middle School, Ms. Bazemore shared that her research showed that not one public school within the City of Newport News required a Capital Campaign for its construction or renovation, and she did not feel that Huntington should be any different. The public schools in Newport News were funded by the City Council from the taxpayers and other funding sources. She noted that the requests for immediate funding for Huntington Middle School would continue because residents did not want the school to sit idle for two to five years. Ms. Bazemore thanked Councilwoman Woodbury for additional information shared. Ms. Bazemore also thanked Councilwoman Woodbury for the offer of a personal donation, which would be graciously accepted. Ms. Bazemore advised that the students in the Southeast Community deserved a zoned school. She requested that students not be bused above Mercury Boulevard, but allowed to attend a neighborhood school as was included in the plan in 1971 as not to violate a Court Order. Ms. Bazemore announced a new slogan, "Huntington Shall Rise Again."

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that the Newport News Public Schools had a Foundation, as did Thomas Nelson Community College, and most of the colleges in Virginia, which helped with expenses. Councilwoman Woodbury reiterated that she was quite supportive of Huntington High School because the former Principal at Huntington Middle School had been one of her students at Hampton University.

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

Ms. Lucy VanTine, 105 Cannon Drive, Newport News, extended thanks to the Planning Commission for removing the “Under Study” designation from the City Farm - the 58-acre tract of riverfront property, thereby making it clear that the City Farm land use designation was “park” for the people. Many positive comments had been received on the Citizens for Riverview Farm Park website regarding the Planning Commission’s decision, which brought the citizens one step closer to being able to walk, jog, or bike along the James River. The decision brought the citizens closer to picnicking and fishing on the James River. The decision brought the citizens closer to enjoying the birds, ducks, ospreys, egrets, blue herons, seagulls, and the majestic bald eagle, which could be seen flying and hunting along the James River. This decision brought the citizens closer to being able to gather as a community to enjoy the beautiful sunsets. The citizens looked forward to being able to tour the 58-acre river front park land. This decision was one step closer to making Newport News a world-class City.

Dr. Robin VanTine, Past Chair of the Newport News Environmental Commission, 105 Cannon Drive, Newport News, extended congratulations to Councilwomen Cherry and Scott on their re-election to the Newport News City Council on May 1, 2018. Dr. VanTine stated that the citizens of Newport News also had a victory when the Newport News Planning Commission listened carefully to the citizens of Newport News – to the will of the people and changed the Comprehensive Plan to designate the City Farm as park in the long public process of Public Hearings for the Comprehensive Plan. He thought the Planning Commission’s example of City government to seeking the citizen’s input, and responding to the people’s wishes. After extensive discussion among the members of the Planning Commission, they unanimously voted to confirm the City Farm’s land use designation as a park. Within a few hours of the decision, the news was reported on the Citizens for Riverview Farm Park website, and received over 1,000 hits, and 50 shares, within a few hours. To date, his Facebook post had reached over 4,000 Newport News citizens. Dr. VanTine shared a few of the posted comments from the Facebook page, to include, “Oh My God, that is the best news I’ve ever heard!” “This is wonderful news for our City.” “Yes to quality greenspace in Newport News!!!” “I’m so happy.” And “Thank You!!!!” “Now let’s see if we can get the gates taken down so the citizens can access it.” Woo Hoo!!!!” Dr. VanTine stated, the Citizens for Riverview Farm Park look forward to working with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism to include the citizens of Newport News to plan a wonderful waterfront park – the City Farm, as part of Riverview Farm Park.

Councilwoman Woodbury suggested that the Citizens for Riverview Farm Park also start a Foundation.

Mr. Thomas Charlock, 22 Executive Drive, Newport News, shared that views of the James River as the Indians sought in the 1600s were awe inspiring. He advised that the view would be spoiled because Virginia Power lines were under construction, but the view could be seen from the City Farm – the land that the people owned, but City Council would not allow the people in. He shared, adjacent to Riverview Farm Park was the one-half mile of City Farm

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

property, which was totally fenced and marked, "DO NOT ENTER." He heard that the public was not allowed onto the property as the City was awaiting the results of an archeological survey. He stated that thanks were due to City Council for funding the radar survey for archeological information. The survey included the grounds at Riverview Farm Park, which were in public use. If the survey results were fruitful, digging may follow. The digging plots could then be fenced. Citizens would like to see the science and history as it occurred. Mr. Charlock requested that the public be allowed onto the City Farm property. He hoped that City Council would not tarry further. Surely the Advisory Commission from the Chicago area would be allowed beyond the fenced property. Taxpaying citizens should also be allowed to walk the grounds as well. Resources should not be wasted by excuses.

Mr. Adrian Whitcomb, President, "Citizens for Riverview Farm Park," 316 – 54<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport News, shared that everyone wanted to leave behind a legacy for which to be proud. He stated there were few things that people could enjoy from day to day more than a park, particularly the City Farm property as a park, which would serve numerous people in the City of Newport News. He referenced a video from April 2017 when City Manager Cynthia Rohlf was invited to speak to the "Citizens for Riverview Farm Park." He stated that citizens need to enjoy what was available while one could as the future was not promised. Mr. Whitcomb urged City Council to do what they could to speed up the process. He reminded that the people wanted a park on the City Farm property. He had attended every City Council meeting for over one year, and recalled the only person speaking against a park was the developer who wanted to build housing on the City Farm property. Regarding a legacy, Preservation Virginia, the firm responsible for the archeology at Jamestown, listed the City Farm property as one of the ten most endangered sites in Virginia. He encouraged City Council to leave a legacy for which citizens would remember – maintain the City Farm park property as park land.

Mr. Ernest Thompson, 645-19<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport News, extended congratulations and thanks to members of City Council for approval of the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan and was hopeful that the \$30 million grant would be awarded as Newport News was very much deserving, particularly the Southeast Community.

Mr. Thompson shared, with the CNI grant, new people would move in the community, which brought him to the topic of Huntington Middle School. It was important for the school to be rebuilt immediately as citizens were expected to move into the Southeast Community. Mr. Thompson hoped that members of the Newport News City Council and School Board could come together to bring the rebuilding of Huntington Middle School happen quickly.

Mr. Thompson addressed City Council on the matter of coal dust across from the CNI community. He advised that residents of the neighborhood "sucked coal dust," and wiped it from their homes daily. He hoped that City Council would commission a study to look at the coal dust issue. He stated, if there were to be an open air restaurants in the Southeast Community, something must be done. Citizens of the East End had breathed coal dust for years.

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

Reverend James W. Brown, 46 Whetstone Drive, Hampton, commended members of City Council for approval of the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan and the great work done on the CNI. A huge change would be made in the Southeast Community with new housing, development, and job opportunities. He advised that change without education, would perpetuate the crime. The youth needed vision, and they needed teachers who were motivated and inspiring to help them develop a sense of worth. As a citizen, Reverend Brown shared that he opened a business at 2712 Chestnut Avenue. The business, under concerned citizens for justice, equality, and equity would be based on training, trades, and skills, and he would partner with other business owners in the City, with the intent to bring in everyone who wanted to better themselves, and teach them a trade, so they could feel good about who they were. He stressed that education was very much needed, whether in academics or in the form of trades. He continued that education was the key to stop the crime in the City. When people did not feel a sense of worth, they did things they should not be doing. He cited the example of Council members who had a sense of value and worth – they knew better, and so they did better. Reverend Brown advised that he would create an opportunity for the young and old to go back to school to learn a trade so they could earn money and not have to rob a store and spend time in prison.

J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments

City Clerk Mabel Washington Jenkins, introduced and welcomed the newest employee to the City Clerk's Office, Ms. Jeanice Peacock, Deputy City Clerk II.

Councilwoman Scott thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation, and sharing their community concerns.

Councilwoman Scott shared that she attended the Greek Festival, held May 31, 2018 – June 3, 2018, at the Greek Orthodox Church, 60 Traverse Road. It was a great family fun-filled event.

Councilwoman Scott and colleagues attended the Lee Hall Wine Festival, held Saturday, June 9, 2016, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., on the grounds of the Lee Hall Mansion (163 Yorktown Road).

Councilwoman Scott thanked the City for providing cultural activities for its citizens. She also mentioned the following opportunities: Port Warwick Concert Series, held each Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., 191 Walt Whitman Avenue. This was a family event to enjoy the summer on Styron Square, while listening to music. Concerts were free and all were welcome. The Concert Series at Port Warwick ran from May 23 – August 29, 2018.

Fridays at the Fountain Concert Series, held each Friday, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., at City Center at Oyster Point was another option for free family fun. This event featuring Hampton Roads' top bands was free and open to the public.

J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Scott urged citizens to support the Farmers Market, held each Wednesday at Port Warwick; and each Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at City Center at Oyster Point.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she attended Senior Night at Woodside High School (13450 Woodside Lane). Over \$300,000 in scholarships were awarded to some students individually. She advised there was money available for education and she promised to engage her colleagues on City Council and the School Board to assist other students seeking financial aid.

Councilwoman Scott extended congratulations to all of the graduates. Some high students had grade point averages (GPAs) as high as a 4.5. She was excited to have a high graduation rate in the Newport News Public Schools.

Councilwoman Scott announced the next North District Town Hall Meeting would be held on Monday, June 25, 2018, 7:00 p.m. at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Boulevard). Incoming Police Chief, Steve Drew would be the guest speaker. All were invited to attend and interact. She welcomed Chief Drew who was in attendance at the Meeting.

Councilwoman Scott extended condolences to the family of The Honorable Pricillia Burnett, who passed away on Friday, June 8, 2018. Ms. Burnett was a former member of the Newport News School Board, and was very engaged in the community. Councilwoman Scott advised that she and Ms. Burnett agreed to disagree on issues; but agreed on their love for the City of Newport News, and what they were willing to do to make the City a better place. Ms. Burnett was a former Police Officer in the Newport News Police Department, a journalist, and had a great love for children. Her legacy would live forever in the City of Newport News.

Vice Mayor Vick extended condolences to the family of The Honorable Pricillia Burnett, who passed away on Friday, June 8, 2018. Vice Mayor Vick concurred that Ms. Burnett was engaged in the community, and loved the City of Newport News. She was very interested in education for youth, and would be missed.

Regarding the CNI grant and the legislation adopted earlier, Vice Mayor Vick expressed thanks to the City's departments for their hard work – Development, Planning, NNRHA, City Manager, and Communications. She asked for prayers that the City of Newport News would receive the \$30 million CNI transformation grant.

Vice Mayor Vick welcomed the City's new Police Chief - Steve Drew.

Vice Mayor Vick welcomed the new Superintendent of the Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) – Dr. George Parker, III.

J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Woodbury extended condolences to the family of The Honorable Pricillia Burnett, who passed away on Friday, June 8, 2018. Councilwoman Woodbury indicated that she had known Ms. Burnett for a long time and knew her as a person that cared about children and her community.

Regarding school safety, Councilwoman Woodbury felt that the children needed protection. They were not being protected using effective methods. She added, if it took building a wall around the schools, and one entrance in, with a guard, she favored it. The children were worth it.

Councilwoman Woodbury advised that she and her colleagues attended a clean fuel event on Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at the Operations Center, in the Public Works Vac-Truck building. Propane vehicles and a NNPS bus were on display. She had always felt that propane was dangerous. She advised that 44 NNPS buses used propane as opposed to gasoline. She learned that propane was far safer than gasoline. Newport News was using propane and saving a great deal of money. Councilwoman Woodbury advised that the Virginia Municipal League would include a workshop on the use of propane. She acknowledged and thanked Mr. James McElheney for the educational workshop.

Councilwoman Woodbury attended the Newport News Police Department Graduation and Swearing-in Ceremony, on Friday, June 8, 2018, 3:00 p.m., at First Baptist Church (12716 Warwick Boulevard). She congratulated and shook hands with all of the 31 graduates (new officers).

Councilman Bateman welcomed the City's new Police Chief - Steve Drew.

Councilman Bateman welcomed the new Superintendent of the Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) – Dr. George Parker, III.

Councilman Bateman thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation, particularly the youth who came to express their views on important issues.

Councilman Bateman reminded that he would like to keep the City Farm property for use as a public-use park. He asked everyone to reflect on what if the Planning Commission had not had the time to change the land use designation of the City Farm property in the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that time that City Council had taken gave the ultimate decision more integrity. He shared that 362 years ago, in Newport News, the Governor of Virginia owned and lived in Denbigh Plantation. An archeological dig was done on Denbigh Plantation and it was discovered that Governor Samuel Matthews had owned and resided on the property. The City did not own the land. This was supposedly near the City Farm land. He advised that the archeological dig going on at City Farm was not required. Tying Newport News to the Colonial era would give a greater sense of place to the land.

J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

Councilwoman Cherry thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation.

Councilwoman Cherry extended condolences to the family of The Honorable Pricillia Burnett, who passed away on Friday, June 8, 2018. Ms. Burnett was a former member of the Newport News School Board, and was very engaged in the community.

Councilwoman Cherry advised, as the City looked at conveying the property at 1014-28<sup>th</sup> Street to the NNRHA, that property was once the location of Carrie Bowden nurses' home. Councilwoman Cherry was excited about Mr. John Biagas (President and CEO of Bay Electric Company, Inc.) and the team who would restore the Whittaker Hospital site, also a historic site. The Carrie Bowden nurses' home was the site where nurses who worked at Whittaker Hospital stayed, and she hoped that more historic information could be obtained and a historical didactic done to maintain the City's history.

Councilwoman Cherry extended thanks to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, for their hard work to make King-Lincoln Park Day a success. The event was held on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at King-Lincoln Park (600 Jefferson Avenue). There was a great representation of diverse food, entertainment, and fun for all.

Councilwoman Cherry extended congratulations to NNPS, and all graduates who had 1,748 on-time graduates, who received approximately \$51.6 million in scholarships.

Councilwoman Cherry extended congratulations to the students who passed there SOL (Standard of Learning) texts.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that she also attended the Greek Festival, held May 31, 2018 – June 3, 2018, at the Greek Orthodox Church, 60 Traverse Road. It was a great family fun-filled event. She thanked Father George Chioros, and members of the Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, for sharing their food, culture, and the extraordinary entertainment.

Councilwoman Cherry welcomed the new Superintendent of the Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) – Dr. George Parker, III.

Councilwoman Cherry welcomed the City's new Police Chief - Steve Drew.

Councilwoman Chery extended congratulations to Pastors Waverly and Dr. Mickey Collins, Pastors at the Malachi House Life Center Church. She advised that they had a new location at 472 Harpersville Road. She looked forward to working with them and the impact they would make along Harpersville Road and beyond.

Councilwoman Cherry advised that she and her colleagues on City Council participated in a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Whittaker Place project (the old Whittaker Memorial Hospital) at 1001-1003 28<sup>th</sup> Street. She was excited about the new undertaking of the



J. Old Business, New Business and Councilmember Comments Continued

facility and looked forward to the transformation of this historic site.

Councilwoman Cherry extended thanks to the Department of Development and the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) for hosting the Business Appreciation Luncheon on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at the Newport News Marriott at City Center (740 Town Center Drive). She indicated that it was important for the City to recognize both small and large businesses. Councilwoman Cherry encouraged all businesses owners to attend the Annual Business Appreciation Luncheon.

Councilwoman Cherry advised citizens of the South District “Your Voice Matters” Town Hall Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, June 14, 2018, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Drive).


She further advised citizens of the South District “Your Voice Matters” Town Hall Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, June 21, 2018, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (2410 Wickham Avenue).

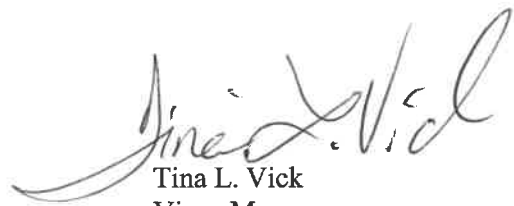
Councilwoman Cherry announced that the Annual Juneteenth Freedom Festival was scheduled for Saturday, June 16, 2018, 12 noon – 4:00 p.m., at Brooks Crossing (30<sup>th</sup> Street and Jefferson Avenue). This would be a free fun-filled family day. Free hot dogs would be available for the children. The event was hosted by the Downtown Newport News Merchants and Neighbors Association, Inc. Other food vendors and entertainment would also be on site.

K. Adjourn

Vice Mayor Vick adjourned the meeting by addressing the citizens. She stated, “May what you say and do uplift the City of Newport News.”

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS,  
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 8:18 P.M.

  
Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC  
City Clerk

  
Tina L. Vick  
Vice Mayor  
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk