

**MINUTES OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE DENBIGH COMMUNITY CENTER
15198 Warwick Boulevard
April 11, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Marcellus L. Harris III; David H. Jenkins; McKinley L. Price, DDS; Sharon P. Scott, MPA; and Sandra N. Cherry, D. Min-----5

ABSENT: Tina L. Vick and Dr. Patricia P. Woodbury-----2

I. Call to Order

Mayor Price called the meeting to order and welcomed the citizens to the Budget Public Hearing. He advised that the only item on the agenda was the Public Hearing for the City Manager's Fiscal Year 2020 Recommended Operating Budget.

II. Public Hearing for the City Manager's Fiscal Year 2020 Recommended Operating Budget

Mayor Price advised that this was the second public hearing that City Council was conducting on the City Manager's Fiscal Year 2020 Recommended Operating Budget. He indicated, by State Code, each locality was required to hold one public hearing, but due to the unique geography of the City of Newport News, two public hearings were held for the ease and benefit of the citizens. This ensured that City Council heard from all citizens on their budget issues. Mayor Price reminded that the City Manager had presented her FY 2020 Recommended Operating Budget to City Council on March 26, 2019. Two Work Sessions had been held to hear detailed presentations on the Recommended Budget. He advised, on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, City Council would hold a third Budget Work Session to discuss the comments, suggestions, and recommendations received from the public, and communicate its desires and concerns to the City Manager. He further advised, on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, City Council planned to adopt the total City's Operating Budget for all annual operating funds, including Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) Operating Budget. By State Code, the last legal date to adopt the NNPS budget was May 15 of each year, and June 15, 2019, for the City Manager's Operating Budget. He advised that the Budget Hearing would be carried live on the City's Cable Channel, Cox 48; and Verizon Cable Channel 19; as well as the City's website "www.nnva.gov," and in the local public library.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILWOMAN CHERRY; SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN HARRIS; AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXCUSE VICE MAYOR VICK AND COUNCILWOMAN WOODBURY FROM THIS MEETING.

a. Public Comments to City Council

Mayor Price opened the Public Hearing. Speakers included the following:

Mr. Jason Young, Executive Director of Community Brain Injury Services, 12725 McManus Boulevard, Suite 2E, Newport News, thanked City Council for continued and ongoing support of The Denbigh House through Community Support Agency Grant funding (a copy of

II. Public Hearing for the City Manager's Fiscal Year 2020 Recommended Operating Budget Continued

a. Public Comments to City Council Continued

Mr. Young's remarks are attached and made a part of these minutes). He advised that Community Brain Injury Services was one of the nine State-funded "safety net" brain injury service providers in operation around the Commonwealth, and was the designated safety net service provider for the Peninsula. As the designated safety net provider, they served anyone who walked through their doors regardless of the ability to pay for service. Due to the chronically underfunded nature of State funding for brain injury services, the funding had a mandate to engage local communities for support to more fully serve persons with brain injury within the service area. The City's continued support was essential for their ability to fulfill the mandate, but was also critical in allowed them to efficiently and effectively serve Newport News residents with brain injury.

Mr. Young advised that the highly individualized services of the Denbigh House helped survivors and their families continue to live in the community with maximum independence, proper supports, and helped those individuals manage and live with lifelong disability resulting from a brain injury. Services were provided as long as the survivor needed and requested them, which for many, was for an extended and often ongoing period of time.

Mr. Young shared that The Denbigh House was able to provide 1,267 days of intensive services to Newport News citizens with brain injury in 2018. Of the 77 individuals served through the Denbigh House, 55% were Newport News residents. He announced that Community Brain Injury Services were able to offer long-term case management services to survivors of brain injury, which they had advocated for since opening in 2005. In 2018, thanks to additional state funding appropriated for brain injury services across the Commonwealth, Community Brain Injury Services was awarded a contract to provide case management services for the Virginia Peninsula. Mr. Young advised that the agency's ability to serve the community was a direct result of the continued commitment of funding partners, such as the City of Newport News.

Councilwoman Cherry thanked Mr. Young for his presence, and extended thanks for all of the services provided by the Community Brain Injury Services. She was pleased to hear about the long-term case management services to survivors of brain injury as that had been a gap which needed to be closed.

Mr. Young concurred and stated that long-term case management had been a large gap in the community. He advised that Community Brain Injury Services was fortunate to receive the funding to offer long-term case management services in the community.

II. Public Hearing for the City Manager's Fiscal Year 2020 Recommended Operating Budget Continued

a. Public Comments to City Council Continued

Ms. Rhonda Wagner, 107 Haviland Drive, Newport News, Newport News Public School teacher and parent, as well as President of the Newport News Education Association (NNEA), urged members of City Council to vote for fully funding of Dr. George Parker's (Superintendent, Newport News Public Schools) proposed NNPS budget. She addressed many rumors. It was implied that the NNPS increased funding was about teacher salary increases, and that many work as hard, if not harder than teachers for less money and that teachers should stop complaining. This was a false, unprecedented, uneducated statement reminiscent of the United States Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos. Ms. Wagner agreed that people could work just as hard as teachers, but they were not present. Many of the City's Educational Professionals did not make a living wage, also worked equally as hard. Ms. Wagner inquired whether the City was experiencing a mass exodus of City employees from their professions, whether City employees received a 30-minute lunch, and whether they negotiated with City Council for funding on an annual basis. It had been alluded that the City should fund Job Training for parents, allowing for better jobs (translating into parents being home more frequently), which would address behavior problems in the classrooms to help teachers. Ms. Wagner stated it had been the City's position that NNPS was presenting inaccurate and misleading slides, and that only the City's information should be trusted, not the School Board's. She stated City Council would be held to the same standards as other governing bodies. NNPS used documentation compiled by the State of Virginia. To suggest otherwise, alluded that the State lied, used bad evidence, or made false claims. Because NNPS requested additional money annually, and although they requested a reasonable amount for FY 2020, the City Manager recommended a zero percent increase. According to that trend, Dr. Parker should request nothing in FY 2021, NNPS would be in the negative, and end up owing the City. Ms. Wagner indicated that education cost money, particularly a quality education.

Ms. Louise Farrar, 92 Miller Road, Newport News, commented on parks, which helped keep youth out of trouble when doing fun things. She hoped the former City Farm property was high on City Council's list. She shared that her children grew up on the Warwick River, and thanked her continually for the peaceful quietness they enjoyed. She shared that she observed a pair of eagles flying. She wanted all of the youth and the citizens to observe the same at the park on the former City Farm property.

Ms. Donna DeSarro-Raynal, 201 Hurley Avenue, Newport News, a parent of three NNPS children, extended thanks to City Manager Rohlf. Ms. DeSarro-Raynal communicated with the City Manager Rohlf, and Ms. Lisa Cipriano, Director, Department of Budget and Evaluation, who responded to her questions after reading the 544-page budget. She expressed concern regarding education via construction of the Brooks Crossing office building (Brooks Crossing Innovation & Opportunity Center). The budget proposed including \$348,420 for rent, for the year (lease and occupancy expenses). She advised this amounted to \$29,035 per month. Ms. DeSarro-Raynal indicated the City would pay this amount to rent the first floor of the building for community workforce development and STEM opportunities when a middle school had been shut down for children in school. She stated that was a great deal of money for rent at the expense of other things, specifically schools, and the teachers. Regarding the programs that

II. Public Hearing for the City Manager's Fiscal Year 2020 Recommended Operating Budget Continued

a. Public Comments to City Council Continued

would occur in the building, she questioned the number of individuals to be served. She further indicated it would have to be a large number of people to justify \$29,035 per month, instead of investing directly in the NNPS, particularly Huntington Middle School. Ms. DeSarro-Raynal advised that she was present at the April 9, 2019 Regular Meeting of City Council and attended the 2018 Budget Public Hearing. She indicated that she was embarrassed for the City of Newport News when the teachers had to beg for a cost of living raise. She was dismayed by City Council's demeanor, discord, and the tension – except Councilman Jenkins. Ms. DeSarro-Raynal questioned why City Council casted blame – this was not leadership.

Ms. Frederica Hill 121 Grove Heights Avenue, Williamsburg, advised that she was Treasurer of the Newport News Education Association, and an Instructional Assistant making less than \$30,000 per year, struggling to make ends meet. She worked a part-time job to be able to pay medical bills. She asked that City Council consider Dr. Parker's Proposed FY 2020 NNPS Operating Budget. She indicated it made no sense to construct a parking garage over the teachers, and it made no sense that the custodians and cafeteria workers were not being paid the money they needed or deserved. She asked that City Council re-think the budget and give NNPS the amount requested because people would not re-elect them if they did not help the NNPS.

Mr. Garry Hunter, 2313 Roanoke Avenue, Newport News, a member of Virginia Organizing. He expressed thanks for the funds budgeted for transportation. He advised that he would like to see better oversight of HRT, on which he depended as a disabled veteran, five times each week to get to the Veterans Hospital in Hampton was a travesty. He indicated that travelling from Newport News to the Hampton bus station, to make an appointment in a timely manner, was next to impossible. Several times, he ended up calling for a taxicab. Missed appointments often times called for an eight-month wait. He reiterated that City Council did a good job in providing the funds, but wanted to ensure that veterans and handicapped individuals were able to meet their timely appointments via HRT. Mr. Hunter volunteered to work with anyone in any way to get it done. He stated he served, and wanted to be served, as tax money was at stake.

Ms. Jayne DiVincenzo, 302 Park Place, Newport News, advised that she was President of Lionsbridge Financial Advisors, Vice Chair of the Newport News Education Association, and served on other Council-appointed boards. She shared that she loved the City of Newport News and had a vested interest in the City and its success. She was also a NNPS student, having attended B. C. Charles Elementary School, and Menchville High School. She left the area for college, but could not resist returning to Newport News. She indicated that she built a successful business, but was saddened that City Council did not realize that schools were the cornerstone and magnet of attraction for employees, to her business, to real estate agents, to property values, advising if there were rock star schools, there would be a rock star economy. She expressed concern that the NNPS was given a one-day notice about their budget. As a financial planner, doing vision planning for individuals, Ms. DiVincenzo indicated that the City needed to dream big and envisioning how big and spectacular the City on the sea could be, which meant putting ones money where ones values were, which says what is important. She wanted Newport

II. Public Hearing for the City Manager's Fiscal Year 2020 Recommended Operating Budget Continued

a. Public Comments to City Council Continued

News to be the envy of York County. People think York County Schools are better, which was false. Newport News had great schools. Ms. DiVincenzo presented a 30-year study, which showed that 15,000 students studied, born between 1955 and 1985. The common denominator - schools - the more money spent on schools, the better the City; e.g., lower poverty; a 20% increase in per pupil spending could lead to an additional year of completed education, 25% higher earnings (a copy of the study from the National Bureau of Economic Research is attached and made a part of these minutes). She asked that City Council pay attention to data, put their money where their mouth is, plan for school budgets in advance, and respect the NNPS.

Mr. Phil Harris, 13 Minton Drive, Newport News, indicated that he continued to hear that there was a problem with the data shared and shown. He referenced the breakdown of the one dollar bill, and advised the way it looked for the NNPS was sad. In 2014, it showed \$0.27 cents on a dollar to the NNPS; in 2016, the diagram would have depicted \$0.26 cents on a dollar to the NNPS; in 2018, the diagram would have depicted \$0.25 cents on a dollar to the NNPS; and in 2020, the diagram would have depicted \$0.24 cents on a dollar to education. Mr. Harris observed the frustration from Council members, with Mayor Price advising that he valued education and hated hearing that he did not value education, and did not want to doubt the Mayor's words, but noticed the published the amount given to education from the tax dollars taken, continued to drop. Mr. Harris indicated it was scary to think that every two years, the amount given to schools would drop by one cent out of new money. He referenced from the City Manager's Recommended FY 2020 Operating Budget, there had been approximately two percent (2.2%) more revenue predicted, or \$10,728,000. With regard to flat funding for the NNPS, but it was disingenuous. If the City had given 24.6% of the new money expected, which was the amount given in FY 2019, there would still be a decrease in funds, but would have been \$2,639,000.88. Mr. Harris indicated had City Council reviewed the budget presented by NNPS, it was less than if the City had given NNPS the same percentage in FY 2020 of the budget given in FY 2019. He stated that NNPS did not request over and above what was expected, but asked for a fair share for the children, for the community, for the 4,000 employees, the 30,000 students, and the thousands of families represented. Mr. Harris referenced an option suggested on how to fund the NNPS, with the burden put on the NNPS to either take the money out of the FY 2020 budget and give it to FY 2021, or take it from the CIP. He asked City Council to consider the CIP, as the City could consider how to fund the fire stations or the replacement or the 911 telephone system, and considering funding out of the CIP, leaving enough money to provide to the NNPS Operating Budget.

Ms. J. E. Johusru, 954-11th Street, Newport News, extended thanks for allowing public input into the City Manager's Recommended FY 2020 Operating Budget. She represented Virginia Organizing, Inc., a non-profit, statewide, non-partisan organization with 16 chapters in the State of Virginia, which challenged injustice by empowering people to address issue that affect the quality of their lives. During the Fall 2018 meeting of Virginia Organizing, the discussion focused on the numerous citizens that rode HRT buses, which was not the most convenient mode of transportation to and from work, as well as other locations. It was discussed

II. Public Hearing for the City Manager's Fiscal Year 2020 Recommended Operating Budget Continued

a. Public Comments to City Council Continued

that the City of Newport News provided \$17.1 million into public transportation, Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) and in FY 2020, would provide \$17.3 million in public transportation. She indicated that meant that citizens were subsidizing public transportation. Virginia Organizing felt that the public transportation system was not as efficient or effective as it should be. With \$17.3 million going to HRT, it was discussed that there would be 3,000 hours less of service, which was unconscionable. A great deal of work was needed around public transportation as HRT ran the same bus routes that were run when Pentran was the operator for the Peninsula. Hampton Roads has grown as a community and a Peninsula, and it seems as though HRT could do better. HRT conducted an on-line survey of bus-riding citizens, but did not advertise the survey. She advised that citizens had not had an opportunity to provide adequate input on how HRT ran its business in the community. As an aging Senior citizen, Ms. Johusru advised to go from her home to HRT, she would be required to change buses three (3) times, and arrive an hour later, and would have to walk ½ mile to the bus stop. To get to the Hampton Coliseum via bus, it would take 1 hour and 23 minutes. This was not good service. There should be a logical way to get citizens from their community to the bus line, which did not occur. On behalf of Virginia Organizing, Ms. Johusru encourage members of City Council to look at the money spent on public transportation and review the services provided, which they felt was inadequate.

Ms. Tanisha Facey, advised that she was a product of NNPS, and taught Special Education for NNPS. She encouraged City Council to vote in favor of full funding for Dr. Parker's Proposed FY 2020 NNPS Operating Budget. She advise that she had worked for NNPS for 10 years and had observed the funds decline, and the staff work harder to compensate for the lost funds. She shared, ten years prior, every school had a school-based substitute teacher to help cover classes. The NNPS once employed both cafeteria and bus monitors, but those positions no longer existed. When an Instructional Assistant was absent, unless the class was self-contained, there was no one to cover the position for that day to help service the students. There were many full-time positions for many necessary jobs throughout the school district, including testing coordinators, which was required, the position was abolished and a full-time teacher must take on the supplemental position, which pays \$5,400 per year, and replaced a \$40,000 job. She stated the workload was not compensatory to \$5,400. Every year, employees were expected to take on more duties to cover the positions that NNPS could no longer afford. Required duties were piecemealed out, and the employees expected to absorb the work. One job position was equivalent to three other positions. There was not enough time in the day to do what was expected or asked, and the students could not be provided with what they needed, resulting in less one-on-one time with students, missed opportunities, and declining test scores. Ms. Facey asked that City Council consider fully funding the NNPS requested Operating Budget, and help NNPS provide funds to cover all of the NNPS students.

Ms. Kim Smith, 103 King Forest Lane, Newport News, advised that she was a High School English Teacher, with three children in NNPS, read the following poem entitled, Cause I Ain't Got a Pencil by Mr. Joshua T. Dickenson: "I woke myself up, Because we ain't got an alarm clock; Dug in the dirty clothes basket, Cause ain't nobody washed my uniform. Brushed by hair and teeth in the dark, Cause the lights ain't on; Even got my baby sister ready, Cause my

II. Public Hearing for the City Manager's Fiscal Year 2020 Recommended Operating Budget Continued

a. Public Comments to City Council Continued

mama wasn't home. Got us both to school on time, To eat us a good breakfast. Then when I got to class the teacher fussed Cause I ain't got a pencil." She advised that she give approximately two dozen pencils away daily, with most not being returned. She purchased pencils because her students should not be afraid to ask for what they need. Ms. Smith figured if the students could not ask for a pencil, they would not ask for help on homework, advice on a breakup, or help with a family emergency. Pencils were \$3.00 for one dozen, and she spent \$30.00 per week for the pencils she gave away, or in 36 weeks, \$1,080, with most coming out of the teacher's pockets. The students were people, and they were worth it. She urged City Council to fully fund the NNPS Budget request.

Ms. Leslie Outlaw, 400 Goose Circle, Apt. F, Newport News, advised that she was a bus driver for the NNPS. She stated what bus drivers faced on a daily basis was horrendous. She shared that some drivers started as early as 5:30 a.m., and got off at 11:00 p.m. to make ends meet. They took students on field trips on Saturday, some take students to Smithfield, Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, and Fox Hill. Ms. Outlaw indicated that bus driver's deserved salary increases. She shared that she personally was threatened by four parents at a bus stop, and was removed from her route as a result. Nothing happened to the parents that threatened her. Bus drivers could not break up fights on the buses, which was a daily occurrence. Drivers took students to football practice, track practice, cheerleading practice, to and from football games. Bus drivers were the first person children saw in the mornings, and the last person they saw in the evenings. Ms. Outlaw shared that she was 40-years old, made \$22,000 per year, which would not buy a house. She acknowledged special needs drivers who were also present, who drove in all types of weather, with all types of medical equipment to assist the students. She invited members of City Council to ride with a bus driver on their run to observe what bus drivers experienced. She asked City Council to take bus drivers into consideration by fully funding the NNPS Budget request.

Ms. Mary Vause, 350 Williamsburg Court, Newport News, advised that she was a Newport News resident, an NNPS graduate, a parent of a child in the NNPS, a member of the Newport News Education Association (NNEA) Executive Board, as well a member of NNPS Superintendent Dr. George Parker's Budget Advisory Committee. She advised that the NNEA issued a Press Release approved by the Virginia Education Association entitled, "NNEA Calls for Full Funding of Superintendent's Budget," with the subtitle, "NNEA Rejects City Manager's Proposals as Not a Solution" (a copy is attached a made a part of these minutes). Ms. Vause indicated, on the back, was a fact sheet that told exactly why stealing from the underfunded NNPS Budget to give to the Underfunded NNPS Operating Budget was fiscally irresponsible and unfair to the children; as well as why stealing from limited difficult-to-predict end-of-year surplus funding to fund the NNPS Operating Budget was likewise fiscally irresponsible and unfair to the NNPS children who had been underfunded for too long. She advised that nothing about the City Manager's record impressed her or convinced her that she cared about Newport News' 29,000 public school children, 67% of whom qualified for free or reduced lunch. During her term as City Manager, and that of Jim Bourey before her, the NNPS had received increasingly less percentage funding year after year. Ms. Vause advised that City Manager Rohlf had continued former City

II. Public Hearing for the City Manager's Fiscal Year 2020 Recommended Operating Budget Continued

a. Public Comments to City Council Continued

Manager Jim Bourey's legacy of underfunding the NNPS. When new revenue came in, since 2013, that could have gone to the NNPS, instead, City Manager Jim Bourey first, and City Manager Rohlf next, instead moved those funds to development projects, such as Tech Center, which was not fair to the children. NNPS children deserved that funding. Ms. Vause advised that City Manager Bourey accomplished this by sowing discord between City Council and the School Board, suggesting that the School Board could not be trusted and had strange budgeting practices, was always asking for too much money, and was probably hiding money, which made it easy to rubberstamp his budget. This practice steadily decreased percentage funding for NNPS since 2013. In 2017, when City Manager was forced to resign, City Council selected Assistant City Manager Cindy Rohlf as his replacement, and she had continued his legacy of steadily shrinking percentage funding for NNPS. Ms. Vause urged City Council to question the City Manager and instruct her to fully fund the NNPS Proposed Operating Budget.

Mr. Santiel Creekmore, 101 West Rexford Drive, Newport News, indicated that he spoke on behalf of Newport News citizens, particularly the families and the seniors. He commented on public transit, reiterating comments from two seniors that the bus routes needed to be improved so that they were more efficient and would provide senior citizens with dignity and respect as they used the public transit system. He advised that public transit was critical to the health and future of the City. Seniors should be safe as they walked ½ mile to bus stops, which was not encouraging. He encouraged City Council to endorse more studies be done to improve the public transportation system.

On behalf of the educators, Mr. Creekmore advised the educators were the key to the City's future. Newport News would not be in the state it was, if the attrition rate with the educators was reviewed. In a world of fake news, and the recurrence of measles because people did not understand the basics about vaccines, or there was violence over something read over the internet. He urged City Council to think about what was valued in education. Teachers were the first line of defense against harm to the children, whether their mental stability or their personal body. He encouraged members of City Council to look at alternatives to not funding infrastructure and salary increases, such as a modest rate increase. The City of the Future was important to all, and urged them to consider a modest salary increase.

Mr. Adrian Whitcomb, 316-54th Street, Newport News, advised when he was in school in the 1950s and 1960s, there was a building spree. In the 1950s, there were eight school buildings constructed. In the 1960s, there were fourteen school buildings constructed. In the 1970s, there were seven school buildings constructed. He inquired where the money came from back then, and questioned why it was difficult to find the money now. The budget was related to the CIP in that eventually, everything would have to be paid for by the Budget – Schools, Parks, etc. He urged City Council to invest in the people of the City, particularly the youth. Mr. Whitcomb referenced an Editorial in the Daily Press about an accounting of the money the City put into the Tech Center, and perhaps City Center, because that was where much of the money had gone. Investing long-term called for an accounting of when the long-term return would be received. He indicated if the children were sacrificed, the City would lose many of the citizens,

II. Public Hearing for the City Manager's Fiscal Year 2020 Recommended Operating Budget Continued

a. Public Comments to City Council Continued

and the youth would be deprived of what they deserved, as far as education, recreation, and a better quality of life.

Ms. Heather Marconi, 425 Nicewood Drive, Newport News, reminded of her remarks at the April 9, 2019 Regular Meeting of City Council regarding the waste of taxpayer money going towards parking garages, and the fact that they did not pay for themselves, and that this was money that could be going to NNPS. She had heard Council members make comments that NNPS should not get the money if some schools did not meet accreditation. She questioned that giving less money was the argument to make the schools better. She advised City Council that their job was to fund the schools properly, and she urged them to do so.

Councilman Harris thanked the citizens for their attendance, participation, and voicing their concerns, and making comments as City Council went through the budget process. For the past few meetings, he reiterated there must be a better way to go through the process without the back and forth dialogue that had been on display for the past two years. He reminded that the back and forth dialogue between the City Council and the NNPS did not make the City look good. There would be continued discussions between City Council and the School Board members. He promised to have conversations and seek what would be in the City's best interest to have the NNPS sufficiently funded along with other resources provided by the City. He stated the process was not over and encouraged citizens to continue to advocate and speak up. There were numerous topics discussed. He hoped that citizens would continue to share their thoughts on how funds should be appropriated. City Council would continue to listen. As a counselor, he was aware of what the employees went through. His first job was a school based substitute teacher, and he held various other jobs in the NNPS, which was a priority, but he still had to do his due diligence as a member of City Council. He felt more could be done for the NNPS and to make it a priority moving forward.

Councilman Jenkins shared that he was invited to Jefferson Laboratory (J-Lab) and sat in on a round-table discussion, hosted by the Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, talked about marketing Jefferson Lab and remain competitive for the Ion Collider – important new technology for the State of Virginia. He shared that J-Lab was competing with Brookhaven in New York. One topic raised was about the NNPS. When you have a large number of nuclear physicists, they wanted to be where there were good schools. He shared that he attended a Gala in Richmond, sponsored by the Sorenson Institute, and was with leaders from all across the State – Republicans, Democrats and people of different political parties, as well as State Delegates, and they spoke about schools in Newport News, and why the City Council and the School Board could not get this right. Schools was not just a local issue. What City Council decides to do with the NNPS Budget would have major consequences for the future of the City. Councilman Jenkins advised that the City needed to fund its schools, put in place a reasonable revenue sharing program. The City had great leadership in the NNPS. He expressed his support for Dr. George Parker, and believed he should be given the resources needed to improve NNPS and to hold him accountable, which was City Council's mission. He stated this situation would get worse until the City Council – the City leaders, made a conscious effort to make it better.

II. Public Hearing for the City Manager's Fiscal Year 2020 Recommended Operating Budget Continued

a. Public Comments to City Council Continued

Councilwoman Cherry thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation and voicing their concerns, particularly Mr. Hunter, and Ms. Johusru for speaking up about HRT. City Council was aware of the issues with regard to HRT's efficiency and effectiveness and were working to manage the situation.

Councilwoman Scott thanked the citizens for their attendance and participation and voicing their concerns. She had hoped more citizens would be present to show support for having meetings in the North District. She advised that City Council heard their concerns. She further indicated that she was pro-education, as her son and granddaughters were raised in the NNPS, and she saw the value in funding the NNPS budget. She believed as City Council continued to speak with the School Board, a solution would be found that would be of benefit for all NNPS teachers and staff. She asked that the citizens be patient as they worked through the process. She further advised that she had spoken in length with Dr. Parker, and was sure everyone had the best interest at heart. She looked forward to continued dialogue and a positive outcome. Councilwoman Scott promised to speak with Mr. Hunter about his HRT concerns following the meeting. There had been a great deal of dialogue about how HRT spent the City's investment. She stated that the Council would continue to be good stewards of the City's dollars.

b. A Request for a Motion of City Council to Close the Public Hearing

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

Mayor Price, 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 City Council Work Session Agenda of April 9, 2019 and April 23, 2019, for Public Hearings on April 9, 2019 and April 11, 2019, and for action at the City Council Agenda of May 14, 2019 (i) the City Manager recommended to the Newport News City Council adoption of a City Operating Budget for FY 2020 (the transaction); (ii) the said Operating Budget includes, in small part, funds for organizations, including the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), and such Operating Budget includes charitable contributions to various organizations; (iii) that he represented Newport News on the board of directors of HRCAP, for which he received no or minimal remuneration, well below the Conflict of Interest Act threshold; (iv) that he was able to participate in the transactions 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 – April 9, 2019; and is attached and made a part of these minutes).

b. A Request for a Motion of City Council to Close the Public Hearing Continued

Councilman Marcellus L. Harris, III, a member of the Newport News City Council, filed a declaration in accord with Section 2.2-3115H of the Virginia Code. He declared, pursuant to subdivision A.3 of §2.2-3112.B and §2.2-3115.H of the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act, that for discussion at the City Council Work Session Agenda of April 9, 2019 and April 23, 2019, for Public Hearings on April 9, 2019 and April 11, 2019, and for action at the City Council Agenda of May 14, 2019 (i) the City Manager recommended to the Newport News City Council adoption of a City Operating Budget for FY 2020 (the transaction);(ii) the said Operating Budget includes, in small part, funds to pay the salaries of persons employed by the Newport News School Board, which was a group of three or more persons the members of which were affected by the transaction; (iii) that he was employed as a Counselor for the Newport News School Board; (iv) that he was on the board of directors of Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP), which was a charitable organization providing services to Newport News residents, for which he received no remuneration, and which would be a recipient of monies designated to it in the City Operating Budget for FY 2020; (v) that his wife was on the board of directors for the Peninsula Agency on Aging, which was a charitable organization and for which she received no remuneration, and which would be a recipient of monies designated to it in the City Operating Budget for FY 2020; and (vi) that he was able to participate in the transactions 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 – April 9, 2019; and is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Councilman David H. Jenkins, 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 City Council Work Session Agenda of April 9, 2019 and April 23, 2019, for Public Hearings on April 9, 2019 and April 11, 2019, and for action at the City Council Agenda of May 14, 2019 (i) the City Manager recommended to the Newport News City Council adoption of a City Operating Budget for FY 2020 (the transaction);(ii) the said Operating Budget includes, in part, funds for organizations, including the Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) and Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), and such Operating Budget includes charitable contributions to various organizations, including the Peninsula Agency on Aging; (iii) that he represented Newport news on the board of Directors of HRCAP, for which he received no or minimal remuneration, well below the Conflict of Interest Act threshold; (iv) that he was an alternate representing Newport News on the board of directors of HRPDC, for which he received no or minimal remuneration; (v) that he served on the Advisory Council for the Peninsula Agency on Aging, for which he received no remuneration; and (vi) that he was able to participate in the transactions 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 – April 9, 2019; and is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Councilwoman Scott, a member of the Newport News City Council, filed a declaration in accord with Section 2.2-3115H of the Virginia Code. She 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 City Council Work Session Agenda of April 9, 2019 and April 23, 2019, for Public Hearings on April 9, 2019 and April 11, 2019, and for action at the City Council Agenda

b. A Request for a Motion of City Council to Close the Public Hearing Continued

of May 14, 2019 (i) the City Manager recommended to the Newport News City Council adoption of a City Operating Budget for FY 2020 (the transaction); (ii) the said Operating Budget includes, in small part, funds for charitable organization, including the Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads, also known as Hampton Roads Transit (HRT), and such Operating Budget includes charitable contributions to various organizations; (iii) that she was an alternate representing Newport News on the board of directors of HRT, for which she received no remuneration; and (iv) that she was able to participate in the transactions 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 – April 9, 2019; and is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Councilwoman Woodbury, a member of the Newport News City Council, filed a declaration in accord with Section 2.2-3115H of the Virginia Code. She 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 City Council Work Session Agenda of April 9, 2019 and April 23, 2019, for Public Hearings on April 9, 2019 and April 11, 2019, and for action at the City Council Agenda of May 14, 2019 (i) the City Manager recommended to the Newport News City Council adoption of a City Operating Budget for FY 2020 (the transaction) (ii) the said Operating Budget includes, in small part, funds for organizations, including the Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads, also known as Hampton Roads Transit (HRT), and such Operating Budget includes charitable contributions to various organizations; (iii) that she represented Newport News on the board of directors of HRT, for which she received no remuneration; and (iv) that she was able to participate in the transactions 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 – April 9, 2019; and is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Councilwoman Cherry, a member of the Newport News City Council, filed a declaration in accord with Section 2.2-3115H of the Virginia Code. She 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 City Council Work Session Agenda of April 9, 2019 and April 23, 2019, for Public Hearings on April 9, 2019 and April 11, 2019, and for action at the City Council Agenda of May 14, 2019 (i) the City Manager recommended to the Newport News City Council adoption of a City Operating Budget for FY 2020 (the transaction); (ii) the said Operating Budget includes, in small part, funds for charitable organizations; (iii) that she was on the board of directors of Community Free Clinic, for which she had received no remuneration; and (iv) that she was able to participate in the transactions 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 – April 9, 2019; and is attached and made a part of these minutes).

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Harris, Jenkins, Price, Scott, Cherry

Nays: None

b. A Request for a Motion of City Council to Close the Public Hearing Continued

Mayor Price reminded there would be a City Council Work Session on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at which time City Council would have an opportunity to respond and reflect on comments heard at the public hearings, and deliberate among themselves as to what changes, if any, would be made to the City's Recommended FY 2020 Operating Budget. A motion would be entertained at the Regular Meeting of City Council scheduled for May 14, 2019 to adopt the City's FY 2020 Recommended Operating Budget for all annual operating funds, including the Schools Division, as scheduled.

III. Adjourn

Mayor Price adjourned the meeting by addressing the citizens. He stated, "May what you say and do uplift the City of Newport News."

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS,
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 8:02 P.M.



Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC
City Clerk

McKinley L. Price, DDS
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste: