

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE 10TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
August 25, 2009
10:00 A.M.**

PRESENT: Sharon P. Scott; Tina L. Vick; Joseph C. Whitaker; Dr. Patricia P. Woodbury; Herbert H. Bateman, Jr.; Joe S. Frank; and Madeline McMillan-----7

ABSENT: None-----0

OTHERS PRESENT: Neil Morgan; Stuart E. Katz; Mabel Washington Jenkins; Jennifer Walker; Lottie Vincent; Cleder Jones; Allen Jackson; Randy W. Hildebrandt; and Numerous Citizens and Business Leaders

I. Call to Order

After ascertaining that proper meeting notice had been provided to each member of City Council, and pursuant to Section 4.13 of the Newport News City Charter, Mayor Frank called the meeting to order, and stated the meeting was being held for the following purposes:

(1) The opportunity for City Manager Randy W. Hildebrandt to be heard on the grounds for removal, contained in the written notice of the intention of the Council to remove him from office, served on him on August 11, 2009; and

(2) Decision of the Council with regard to Mr. Hildebrandt's removal, pursuant to Section 4.13 of the Newport News City Charter.

Mayor Frank requested that all petitions for presentation to City Council be turned in to the City Clerk (a copy of the petitions delivered to City Council are attached and made a part of these minutes).

Mayor Frank advised that the Special Meeting was being held pursuant to Section 4.13 of the Newport News City Charter. He advised, at its meeting on August 11, 2009, City Council determined to provide written notice to the intent of the City Council to remove the City Manager, Randy W. Hildebrandt, from his office. He further advised that written grounds for such removal were served on Mr. Hildebrandt that day, together with notice that he would have the opportunity to be heard by Council on August 25, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. The City Manager elected to exercise his right to be heard in public. Mayor Frank announced that the rules applicable to Special Meetings of City Council did not permit citizen comments. He stated, upon conclusion of Mr. Hildebrandt's presentation, a motion from the City Council would be entertained. Mayor Frank invited Mr. Hildebrandt to make such presentation to Council he deemed appropriate.

II. Response by Randy W. Hildebrandt

Mr. Randy W. Hildebrandt stated the purpose of this hearing allowed him to address the grounds for his dismissal, as stipulated in the notice delivered to him on August 11, 2009. He thanked Council for the opportunity to speak about his performance as City Manager, and the accomplishments of this City government since he became City Manager on

II. Response by Randy W. Hildebrandt Continued

February 1, 2006. He advised that his presentation would focus on three points: (1) his performance as City Manager over 42 months, and the accomplishments of the staff organization he led. City Manager Hildebrandt's accomplishments were organized in four areas: financial management; enhancing organizational infrastructure; community development and redevelopment; and other significant accomplishments; (2) his vision for the City and this City government; and (3) the six grounds for his removal.

He explained that he opted for an open hearing, which was afforded to him under the City Charter, because he felt it was important for the citizens of Newport News and the employees of this City government to be privy of the discussions and the deliberations to make their informed judgment about the outcome of the process. It was his understanding that four members of City Council could dismiss the City Manager for whatever reason deemed appropriate, which was the basis for the Council-Manager form of government. He quoted the words of Dr. Lizaraburu from the August 11, 2009 Regular Meeting of City Council, "Having the power to act is one thing - using that power wisely is another."

A copy of Mr. Hildebrandt's remarks are attached, in full, and made a part of these minutes.

III. Action by City Council

Councilwoman Vick moved that Randy W. Hildebrandt be removed from the position of City Manager, that his employment with the City of Newport News, Virginia, be hereby terminated effective August 25, 2009, and that he be accorded all rights and privileges provided to him by his contract of employment dated February 1, 2006, as amended on July 1, 2007 and July 1, 2008; seconded by Councilwoman McMillan.

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Scott, Vick, Woodbury, McMillan

Nays: Whitaker, Bateman, Frank

IV. Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS,
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 10:59 A.M.

Mabel Washington Jenkins, CMC
City Clerk

Joe S. Frank
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk