

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE 1ST FLOOR TRAINING ROOM
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS POLICE HEADQUARTERS
9710 Jefferson Avenue
October 13, 2009
3:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None ----- 0

OTHERS PRESENT: Neil Morgan; Stuart E. Katz; Mabel Washington Jenkins; Alan Archer;
Cynthia Rohlf; Wanda Pierre; Allen Jackson; Chief James Fox; Chief Lorenzo Shepard; Harold
Roach; Florence Kingston; Lisa Cipriano; Steve Carpenter; Robert Pealo; Michelle Iezzi; Janell
H. Gregory; Debra Ritger; Greg Williams; Mark Calhoon; Carl Cespedes; Cathy Grimes; and
Jennifer Walker

I. Newport News Police Department Crime Fighting Presentation

Mr. Neil Morgan, Acting City Manager, stated the presentation would provide City Council with an in depth overview of the technology and analogy methods used by the Police Department to fight crime. He introduced Mr. James D. Fox, Chief of Police, Newport News Police Department, to report on the mechanics of modern police work to fight crime.

Chief Fox stated, as of Monday, October 12, 2009, crime, in Newport News, had decreased by 5.5% from the same period in 2008. For three consecutive years crime had decreased by 7%, which was due to the hard work of the Police Department and staff. The main strategies used to fight crime in the past were community policing, and problem-oriented policing; however, intelligence-based policing was the new strategy. Intelligence-Based Policing allowed the Police Department to gather a huge amount of information. He introduced Mr. Greg Williams, Crime Analyst, Newport News Police Department Headquarters; Ms. Michele Iezzi, Crime Analyst, Central Precinct; Ms. Debra Ritger, Crime Analyst, South Precinct; and Ms. Janell Gregory, Crime Analyst, North Precinct; to report on crime occurring citywide and in the three Precincts. Chief Fox introduced Master Police Officer Carl Cespedes, Technical Analyst, and Mark Calhoon, Director of Technology and Planning, Newport News Police Department Headquarters, to report on how technology was used to fight crime and solve major cases.

Mr. Williams introduced Master Police Officer Cespedes to provide an overview of the technology used to deter and prevent crime.

Officer Cespedes noted the surveillance camera technology the Police Department utilized through Verizon, Cox Communications and Fiber Optics. He explained the Police Department also used GPS tracking and I/Net viewer technology.

Chief Fox stated technology was helping the Police Department work smarter. When he became a Police Officer 40 years ago there were seven to eight people assigned to one case. The Police Department now had devices that allowed Police Officers to continually track a suspect's travel and whereabouts.

Officer Cespedes stated the Police Department worked in cooperation with other City entities by tapping into camera systems deployed throughout the City. If a camera was embedded in an environment and the Police needed video surveillance, they could tap onto one of the available cameras. The Police Department was working on an initiative to tap into school surveillance equipment. Surveillance camera technology was just in its beginning stages.

Chief Fox pointed out that camera surveillance systems were a big part of crime prevention.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired whether the surveillance cameras were stationary and what type of security was used to ensure they would remain intact. Officer Cespedes replied that the surveillance cameras were at stationary locations and were equipped with pan-tilt zoom camera lenses. The cameras were located in bullet persistent canisters and there had been no security issues.

Councilwoman Scott inquired whether the surveillance cameras were monitored 24-hours per day. Officer Cespedes replied that no one was assigned to specifically monitor the cameras 24-hours per day.

Mr. Williams reported I/NET viewer software technology was an intranet accessible representation of CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) data which noted: 1) the last location reported to dispatch; 2) the current status of a patrol unit [AM – Available on Mobile; ER – En Route; and AR – Arrived]); and 3) information recorded for further analysis. All I/NET viewer information was recorded and could be retrieved for future analysis.

Mr. Williams explained the teamwork that took place to solve the Case Study of the Corey Voss homicide case. He noted the case history which involved the: 1) Dispatch Center; 2) Patrol Units; 3) Major Crimes Investigations Homicide Unit; 4) Forensic Services Unit; and 5) Criminal Intelligence Unit.

Officer Cespedes noted some of the Investigative Tools used to solve the Corey Voss homicide included: 1) Physical Surveillance Operations; 2) Vehicle Tracking Equipment; 3) Camera Equipment; 4) a Camcorder; 5) Recording Equipment; 6) Mobile Phone Cell Tower Data; 7) Suspects Mobile Phone Data; 8) Text Messages Analysis; and 9) Wire taps. He stated regional support to solve the case included the: 1) Virginia State Police; 2) FBI; 3) the Naval Criminal Investigative Services [NCIS]; 4) Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives [ATF]; 5) U.S. Attorney's Office; and 6) Regional Crime Analysis Units.

Officer Cespedes noted a comparison of citywide violent crime and property crime in the North, South, and Central Precincts from 1997 to 2008. He stated each of the precincts, with the exception of the Central Precinct, were experiencing a reduction in offenses. The Central Precinct had experienced the greatest increase in property crime. Violent crime included homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crime included burglary and robbery.

Ms. Janell Gregory, Crime Analyst, North Precinct, stated issues most affecting the North Precinct dealt with: 1) burglaries; 2) vehicle larcenies; and 3) gangs. She reported Newport News was broken down into three precincts, which were comprised of smaller geographic and recording areas. She noted the North District recording areas (Woodcreek Drive, Courthouse Green, Warwick Lawn, Savage Drive and Sharon Drive and Thorncliff Drive) and indicated the number of violent crimes, property (burglaries) crimes, and vehicle larcenies in each area from January 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009. Both violent and property crime had decreased in the North Precinct.

Councilwoman McMillan stated the Warwick Lawn subdivision area should include the Pocahontas subdivision, Mariner's Landing apartments, and Timberwood apartments. Ms. Gregory replied the map in the presentation (attached to these minutes) only noted a point of reference.

Councilwoman McMillan stated the reason for her concern was that one centralized location of a particular neighborhood was used, when crime statistics represented a broader area. She did not want anyone to get the impression that it was just the Warwick Lawn subdivision; there were more subdivisions included than what was shown.

Ms. Gregory stated burglaries in the North Precinct were down by 17%. She stated the decrease could be attributed to several initiatives: 1) Bike patrols; 2) Truancy Patrols by working with School Resource Officers; 3) Development of an Apartment Coalition with several apartment complexes that had experienced an onset of burglaries; and 4) the Door Knocker Program.

Councilwoman Vick inquired whether apartment complexes, such as River Mews, had an active neighborhood watch. Ms. Gregory replied they were part of the Apartment Coalition. The Police Department's Community Resource Officers were working to educate them to include door knockers on their property.

Councilwoman Scott stated she attended a meeting in the North District, during the week of October 5 – 9, 2009, where individuals complained about drugs and violent activity at various bus stops. She inquired how such an incident would be handled once it was reported

to the Police Department. Chief Fox replied the Police Department would institute a surveillance of the bus stop if specific information was received.

Ms. Gregory reported vehicle larcenies in the North District had decreased by 9% during 2008 and 2009. Some of the decrease could be attributed to: 1) Directed Patrols/Bike Patrols; 2) Public Education; 3) Apartment Coalition Meetings; and 4) Concentrated Community Patrols.

Ms. Gregory reported that the North Precinct had the highest number of active gangs in the City. She stated a gang initiative unit was created, the High Impact Patrol Unit [HIP], for the specific purpose of gathering gang intelligence in known gang areas. The North Precinct also had a Gang Liaison Officer who was a part of the HIP Unit. The Gang Liaison Officer and Ms. Gregory met on a regular basis, and educated School and Community Resource Officers on gang signs to look for in the schools and throughout the community. They were able to identify numerous gangs and gang members in the North Precincts, through such an effort.

Ms. Gregory stated there were 201 documented gangs in Newport News which included: 1) 38 sets in the South Precinct (12 Active); 2) 20 sets in the Central Precinct (Two active); 3) 71 sets in the North Precinct (16 active); and 67 sets citywide (33 active). Active membership consisted of 855 adults, 259 juveniles and 318 unknowns (ages were undetermined) for a total of 1,432 active members. Inactive members consisted of 463 adults, 83 juveniles and 89 unknowns, for a total of 635 inactive members. Total combined gang membership totaled 2,067 active and non-active members.

Ms. Michelle Iezzi, Crime Analyst, Central Precinct, stated three issues most affecting the Central Precinct were: 1) Vehicle Larcenies; 2) Prostitution; and 3) Juvenile Crime. She noted the Central Precinct recording areas (Pilot House Drive corridor and Jefferson East Apartments, Kingstowne and Deer Park, Ivy Farms, Riverwalk Apartments, and Wal-Mart and Chatham Drive Shopping corridor) and indicated the number of violent crimes, property (burglaries) crimes, and vehicle larcenies in each area from January 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009. Both violent and property crimes had decreased in the Central Precinct.

Ms. Iezzi noted issues that affected vehicle larcenies included; 1) Lack of recorded serial numbers; 2) Unlocked vehicles; and 3) Valuables left in plain sight. She stated prevention initiatives included: 1) Public education; 2) Direct contact with Neighborhood Watch Coordinators; Management; and Business owners; 3) Cooperation with the media; and 4) Prevention information in City department newsletters.

Ms. Iezzi reported there were 260 subjects arrested or summonsed for prostitution in the Central Precinct since January 1, 2007, and 87% of those subjects had more than one arrest or summons in Newport News. Two main locations for prostitution activity were the Midtown

Motel and Colonial Courts Motel along the Jefferson Avenue corridor. Prevention initiatives for prostitution included: 1) Increased undercover prostitution operations; and 2) Mapping a restricted area for convicted prostitutes through the Court system.

Ms. Iezzi stated, in 2008, there were 672 juveniles arrested in the Central Precinct, which accounted for 26% of all subjects arrested. In 2009, there were a total of 555 juveniles arrested on 785 charges, which amounted to 23% of all persons arrested in the Central Precinct. She noted juvenile arrests compared to adult arrests from January 2008 to August 2009.

Ms. Debra Ritger, Crime Analyst, South Precinct, reported the three issues most affecting the South Precinct were: 1) Larcenies from vehicles in the Shipyard area; 2) Robberies in the Shipyard area; and 3) Gun Violence. She noted the South Precinct recording areas (Brookridge Apartments, West Avenue and Warwick Boulevard, 18th Street and Jefferson Avenue, and Ridley Circle and Harbor Homes). She indicated the number of violent crimes, and property (burglaries) crimes in each area from January 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009.

Ms. Ritger reported the Shipyard area had experienced an increase in vehicle-related offenses and robberies that had targeted Navy and Shipyard personnel. Since mid-July 2009, five robberies targeting Shipyard and Navy personnel had occurred in a five block area near the shipyard. The first four occurred in the early morning hours. The most recent occurred at 2000 hours and went unreported for three days. Suspects had been identified, but the investigation was on-going.

Ms. Ritger explained there was a collaborative effort made to address the issue of vehicle related offenses on the part of the South Precinct Investigations, South Patrol and HIP, NCIS, and Northrop Grumman Investigators. A surveillance operation was conducted in the area for several days, with subjects on the street and on rooftops. Efforts were on-going and future actions could involve further aid and equipment from NCIS.

Ms. Ritger reported violent crime was another issue for the South Precinct, and gun violence was one particular aspect of violent crime. Newport News had 62 recorded shootings (with injuries) as of October 9, 2009. Thirty-seven shootings had been in the South Precinct. Of the 37 victims, 12 were under 18 and 25 victims were 20 years of age or below. The South Precinct was also experiencing shots fired into dwellings and vehicles; however tracking such offenses was difficult.

Ms. Ritger stated the capture of the Dump Squad Gang was a gang success. The Dump Squad had been on the South Precinct's radar for many years. One of the catalyst events that finally got them off the street was their setting fire to a Police satellite office. All of the subjects of the Dump Squad had been convicted in federal court. They were charged with numerous offenses to include: 1) Murder; 2) Drug Conspiracy; 3) Conspiracy to Commit Rob-

bery; 4) Use of a Firearm; 5) Assault with a Dangerous Weapon; 6) Murder in Aid of Racketeering; 7) Use of a Firearm Resulting in Death; and 8) Accessory after the fact to Murder. In 2008, defendants charged by the Safe Street Peninsula Task Force received 3,814 months (317 years), which included some of the Dump Squad members. Defendants received an average sentence of 15 years. (A copy of the presentation, "Newport News Police Department, Council Work Session, October 13, 2009," is attached and made a part of these minutes.)

Chief Fox thanked City Council for their attention to the presentation. He stated he received reports such as this on a daily basis. The Police Department saw negative as well as positive stories every day. They were making some headway in reducing crime, and were committed to making Newport News a safer community. Chief Fox cautioned everyone about the upcoming Christmas season and stated the Police Department had begun strategizing how to make the City's retail and shopping areas safer. He was pleased to announce, since becoming the Police Chief of Newport News, he had only knew of one robbery during the Christmas season, that took place at Patrick Henry Mall, which included a shooting. The assailant was convicted. Chief Fox stated the Police Department was committed to making Newport News a great City, and indicated they have had numerous successes.

Councilwoman Scott applauded Police Chief Fox and his department for their hard work. She wondered how they slept at night, with knowing about all the crime in the City. The little she had heard was amazing. What disturbed her most, and was troubling, was that young people had no hope. There seemed to be an undercurrent that the City did not have the resources or means to deal with.

Police Chief Fox stated some of the youth who got involved with gangs could not get out. The gang issue concerned him, because they were increasing violent crime statistics.

Councilwoman Scott inquired whether the youth that were involved in gangs were born and raised in Newport News or were coming from other areas. Chief Fox personally felt they were dealing with youth born and raised in Newport News.

Councilwoman McMillan stated, as was brought up previously many years ago, she recalled an incident in the schools that the Chief referred to as gang-related; however, the School Board Chairman stated there were no gangs in Newport News Schools. She stated the Chief obviously managed to overcome that negativity and moved on to address the gangs and where they were. She was curious to know how the Police Department aggressively addressed the gang issue to dissolve gangs when they were so mobile. She stated gangs moved to different parts of the City and moved from outside the City into the City. She wondered how the Police Department tackled such a problem to make gangs non-existent or whether it was possible. Chief Fox replied they worked with the Schools, the Boys and Girls Clubs and youth organizations on the prevention side. They had to be vigilant in gathering intelligence. They

were using multiple strategies, including the federal system to combat the problem. He felt that society had to change and he did not know whether he could change it. He did not have the right answer.

Councilwoman McMillan inquired whether the drug raid in Port Warwick was gang-related. She indicated the only reason she mentioned this incident was because people tended to think that such things only happened in poor neighborhoods. Chief Fox stated the Port Warwick drug raid was a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) drug case. He stated crime was everywhere; it did not just occur in poor neighborhoods. Drugs pushed crime into the City. The Police Department had to police smart. The purpose of the presentation was to show what the Police Department had and what they needed in order to police smart.

Councilwoman Woodbury commended Chief Fox and all members of his staff. She indicated she slept much better at night because the Police Department was doing their job.

Mayor Frank thanked Chief Fox and his staff for an outstanding presentation.

II. Noise Ordinance

Acting City Manager Morgan reminded, in April 2009, the Virginia Supreme Court determined that the Noise Ordinance for the City of Virginia Beach was vague, because it did not establish clear standards for identifying unacceptable noise, and thus was unconstitutional. The ruling surprised many localities that had successfully defended law suits that challenged its Noise Ordinance, which utilized standards similar to the City of Virginia Beach. After reviewing the Supreme Court's opinion, the City Attorney concluded that the Supreme Court's ruling would also apply to Newport News' Noise Ordinance. Staff was advised to suspend enforcement of the existing noise ordinance.

Acting City Manager Morgan stated an amended Noise Ordinance was drafted with input from the Newport News Police Department (NNPD) and the Department of Codes Compliance, as well as considerable research by the City Attorney's Office. The amended draft ordinance contained a clear standard for identifying certain types of unacceptable noise. He, along with the staff of the Police Department and the Department of Codes Compliance had reviewed the draft ordinance. While future amendments could be necessary, as refinements were identified, all staff involved believed that it was desirable to promptly approve an enforceable ordinance, which could be ready for adoption by the October 27, 2009 Regular Meeting of City Council.

Councilwoman McMillan inquired about examples of situations where the draft ordinance would deal with a noise complaint. Acting City Manager Morgan replied the draft ordinance would deal with noise from late night parties and extended dog barking.

Councilwoman McMillan inquired how the new ordinance differed from the previous ordinance. Mr. Stuart Katz, City Attorney, replied the difference was the standard that the City was now using, which was clear “audible sound.” Previously, the City used the reasonable person standard, which the Court found fault with. The Court argued that people had different sensitivities to sound and noise. Mr. Katz introduced Mr. Robert E. Pealo, Assistant City Attorney, who had been working on the draft ordinance.

Councilwoman McMillan inquired whether the draft ordinance included a change in verbiage. As she recalled, by reading the City’s ordinance, the sound had to be audible off of a person’s property. A Police Officer had to hear the noise when they arrived at the scene of a noise complaint. She inquired whether it meant that the officer was not judged as a reasonable person if he heard the noise. City Attorney Katz replied the City had eliminated the language that the Virginia Supreme Court had ruled against and had come up with the “audible sound” standard. He stated Assistant Attorney Pealo worked with the Police Department, who identified the biggest source of noise complaints they received involved noise from animals and amplified sound.

Assistant City Attorney Pealo stated the largest number of noise complaints received by the Police Department involved noise from loud music during a party and loud music from an automobile stereo as it drove through a residential neighborhood. Staff and the City Attorney tried to address noise from parties and car stereos in Section 28-36 of the draft ordinance. (A copy of the draft ordinance is attached and made a part of these minutes.) Another issue that had been identified in the City Code included noise from barking dogs. The Supreme Court stated the City could not use the reasonable person standard anymore. The draft ordinance would address noise from a loud television or stereo.

Mayor Frank inquired whether the ordinance addressed loud car stereo noise as individuals drove in traffic. He inquired whether it was covered in Section 28-36(a) of the draft ordinance that noted “50 feet or more in any direction from the device.” Mayor Frank felt the ordinance did not address loud stereo noise from a car traveling through traffic. He stated City Council received complaints from citizens who were offended by automobile noise while driving. City Attorney Katz replied the ordinance would not help in such a situation. The draft ordinance was a starting point to address major concerns of the Police Department. The City could build on the ordinance, but the City had been without a noise ordinance since April 2009. He felt the City administration had a tool that could help the Police Department respond to citizen complaints from noise.

Acting City Manager Morgan felt it would not hurt to put the draft ordinance in place as proposed. He and staff felt the ordinance covered 90% of noise issues that were addressed by the Police Department.

Mayor Frank stated he did not object to the proposal; however, he felt there was something missing. The ability to go after people driving down the street with blaring car stereos was missing. He asked staff to look into the matter.

Mayor Frank inquired whether Section 28-36(b) noting "other health care facility," was too broad to be enforceable. He inquired whether "other health care facility" included nursing homes, homes for the elderly, assisted living facilities, and whether "health care facility" was defined. City Attorney Katz replied that had not yet been resolved.

Mayor Frank felt "health care facility" was an undefined term, and should be clearly defined. He appreciated the efforts made by staff.

III. Council Ideas/Suggestions/Concerns

Mayor Frank stated, pursuant to Section 4.06 of the City Charter and Section 2.22 of the Newport News City Code, the notice of this meeting, which was timely provided to each member of the City Council, was required to contain the specific items or items of business to be transacted during this portion of the meeting. He asked for a motion of City Council, by unanimous consent, to waive the requirement. Mayor Frank pointed out that Vice Mayor Whitaker would be departing the meeting early.

Councilwoman Woodbury moved to waive the requirement; seconded by Councilwoman Scott.

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Woodbury, Bateman, Frank, McMillan, Scott, Vick, Whitaker,

Nays: None

Councilwoman Scott stated that she had received a number of anonymous letters from the staff the Department of Human Services. She inquired how the Acting City Manager would investigate the concerns raised in the letters without pointing fingers. Acting City Manager Morgan replied that he and Assistant City Manager Alan Archer planned to meet with Mr. Glen Butler, Director of Human Services, to review the matter during the week of October 19 – 23, 2009. He would advise City Council of the outcome and whether further action was required.

Councilwoman Scott stated employees indicated it was a morale issue and were afraid to speak out about the matter for fear of retaliation. Acting City Manager Morgan stated he could not publicly speak about personnel matters, and indicated he and the other City Managers took the complaints seriously. He stated he and Assistant City Manager Archer had an open door policy. He suggested that the employees contact him or Mr. Archer to voice their concerns.

Mr. Archer suggested that those who contacted Councilwoman Scott, and wished to remain anonymous, meet with the City Manager through a third party. Such employees would, perhaps, feel better with a mediator. He would be happy to arrange another type of environment to include a mediator. Councilwoman Scott stated she would share that information with those employees that voiced concerns.

Mayor Frank recalled suggesting that the City establish a variety of gardens in Newport News Park that could be developed, an acre, at a time. He stated, over time, the City would have a garden facility that would attract tourists from Williamsburg, Virginia Beach and other places. Mr. Carlton Abbott, a Williamsburg Architect, had previously drawn up a preliminary design for such a facility. He felt such a garden facility would be an enhancement to the City. Garden Clubs and various companies could help sponsor the gardens, i.e. a Japanese company could sponsor a Japanese Garden or an English company could sponsor an English garden. He felt grants could be obtained to help with the development. He was inspired by a garden facility (Butchart Gardens) in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, that included a variety of gardens and a facility for weddings and family events and brought people in by the bus loads. Mayor Frank stated, given the centrality of where Newport News was in this huge tourist market, it seemed that something, such as this, could be done gradually, over time, and in phases. He raised this as an idea that he has had on his mind for a number of years.

Councilwoman Woodbury felt it was a great idea and indicated the City could get help from the Master Gardener's Association.

Councilwoman McMillan voiced concern about the number of complaints she had received about increased panhandling in shopping centers. There were at least four people, at the last Warwick-Denbigh Business Association meeting, who discussed instances at their businesses and major shopping areas, where they, their family and friends were approached by people asking for money and begging for assistance. Councilwoman McMillan voiced very deep concerns about panhandlers, because Newport News was the major retail center for the Peninsula. Newport News drew a customer base from Hampton and Williamsburg; however, they were building their own retail markets. Once those establishments were built, Hampton and Williamsburg residents would not be shopping in Newport News as much. She feared that Newport News would get a reputation as a dangerous place to shop and Hampton and Williamsburg residents would completely avoid coming to Newport News. She urged members of City Council to express their disappointment to store managers about the matter during their travels throughout in the community. Newport News could not afford bad publicity.

Councilwoman McMillan recalled bringing up an idea that she encountered in Delaware, which designated areas throughout the City for landscaping. She stated the City could identify various areas for landscaping and draw up a landscaping plan that included drought

resistant plants that were easy to maintain. The City could offer such areas to individuals, commercial entities and/or organizations to sponsor. The individual, entity and/or organization would be required to pay for the plants and shrubbery for placement in the area, and the City would implement and maintain the landscaping. In return, the sponsor would receive a monument sign to be displayed in the area. She felt it was a wonderful idea. The City had areas where something such as this could be done. She spoke to Michael Poplawski, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, several years ago about the project and he indicated there would be no problem with getting someone who was qualified to draw up the landscaping plan. She asked members of City Council to think about the matter.

Mayor Frank stated there was an enormous proliferation of signs in the City's medians, and right-of-ways that popped-up on the weekends when individuals knew there was no enforcement. He felt it was visual clutter. City Council made a commitment to try to keep the City as attractive as possible. He asked staff to look into a way to remove some of the signage by either an ordinance or by fining persons, based on the phone number or business name on the sign. If signs were in the right-of-way they should be dealt with. Acting City Manager Morgan stated he and members of his staff were working on the issue of signs, in collaboration with landscaping. He agreed it was a problem throughout the City. He would make this issue a higher priority.

Mayor Frank noted there were many people who came in the community over the weekends to sell items who did not have business licenses. He felt this was not fair to those businesses that were in the City full-time, who paid their taxes and license fees. He asked the City Manager to look into the matter.

Councilman Bateman expressed concern that the Warwick Boulevard widening project hurt retailers along the corridor. He hoped the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) would complete the road project by the end of November 2009. This would help the retailers during the holiday season and into the New Year. Acting City Manager Morgan understood VDOT was going to put the final coat of asphalt down within the next couple of weeks. They had almost finalized the concrete projects. They would finalize the project by the end of November 2009, if the weather cooperated.

Councilman Bateman asked the Acting City Manager to ensure that VDOT would return in the spring of 2010 to finalize the landscaping of the Warwick Boulevard widening project.

Councilman Bateman stated he would like to see the intersection of Warwick Boulevard and Route 17, which was used as a staging area for VDOT, become a green space. This would ensure a nice entryway into the City.

Councilman Bateman asked the Acting City Manager to manage expectations in the upcoming budget negotiations with regards to Community Support. He sensed the City was entering a fiscally difficult time and wanted to ensure the process was continued.

Councilman Bateman thanked Chief Fox for the presentation and asked that he never hesitate to ask City Council for assistance.

Councilwoman Scott stated the corner of Richneck Road that VDOT used as a dump site had become an eyesore. She stated Mr. Fred Carter, owner of Carter Funeral Home, requested that the City relocate the dump site down the road when construction on Richneck Road began. She asked that the site be put someplace out of sight.

Mayor Frank asked for a motion by City Council to appoint Acting City Manager Neil Morgan to the Cable Television Advisory Commission, the Commemoration Advisory Commission, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, the Hampton Roads Regional Jail Authority, and the Newport News Planning Commission for an unlimited term.

Councilman Bateman moved to appoint Acting City Manager Morgan to the above mentioned Commissions and Authority for an unlimited term of office; seconded by Councilwoman Scott.

Vote on Roll Call:

Ayes: Woodbury, Bateman, Frank, McMillan, Scott, Vick

Nays: None

Absent: Whitaker

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS,
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 5:37 P.M.

Jennifer D. Walker
Chief Deputy City Clerk

Joe S. Frank
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk