

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE**

**July 8, 2008
7:30 P.M.**

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

ABSENT: None-----0

Mayor Frank introduced members of City Council that were elected/re-elected (Vick, Woodbury, McMillan) and announced that Councilman Joseph Whitaker was elected to the position of Vice Mayor at the Organizational Meeting of City Council.

1. The invocation was rendered by Father George Chioros, Saint Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Councilwoman Madeline McMillan.
3. Public Hearings
 - (a) First Amendment of Virginia Cooperative Extension Agency Lease – 739 Thimble Shoals Boulevard, Suite 1009

Mayor Frank presented 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 FIRST AMENDMENT TO LEASE BY AND AMONG DCD-EC 1000, L.L.C., THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, AND HAMNER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY DATED THE 5TH DAY OF MAY, 2008, FOR OFFICE SPACE LOCATED AT 739 THIMBLE SHOALS BOULEVARD, SUITE 1009, FOR THE VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AGENCY. He advised this authorized the execution of the First Amendment to a lease of property by the City from DCD-EC 1000, L.L.C., and Hamner Development Company for Suite 1009 located at 739 Thimble Shoals Boulevard. The City leased this office space for the Virginia Cooperative Extension Agency, with the lease expiring on September 30, 2008. This amendment represented a renewal of the lease for the 4,671 square feet of office space in the building complex known as Executive Center, Building 1000. This renewal was for an additional five years, with an annual rent of \$70,394.60, which was 3% above the then current rent of \$68,344.21. The annual 3% escalator would continue through the term of the renewed lease. All other terms and conditions of the lease remained unchanged.

(No Speakers)

Vice Mayor Whitaker moved closure of the public hearing; seconded by Councilwoman Vick.

3. Public Hearings Continued

- (a) First Amendment of Virginia Cooperative Extension Agency Lease – 739
Thimble Shoals Boulevard, Suite 1009 Continued

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Councilman Bateman moved adoption of the above resolution; seconded by Vice
Mayor Whitaker.

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

- (b) Lease of 210 25th Street to Newport News Municipal Employees Credit Union

Mayor Frank presented 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, THAT CERTAIN LEASE BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, AND THE NEWPORT NEWS MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION, INC., DATED THE 1ST DAY OF JULY, 2008. He advised this authorized the execution of a lease of City-owned property located at 210 25th Street by Newport News Municipal Employees Credit Union, Inc. This transaction was a lease for five (5) years and involved 1,900 square feet of office space and grounds that the Credit Union used for years. The annual rent would begin at \$1,900 and increase to \$3,800 in year two; \$4,275 in year three; \$4,750 in year four and \$5,700 in year five. The City would continue to maintain certain building systems as specified in the lease. The Credit Union would maintain all remaining systems.

(No Speakers)

Councilwoman Scott moved closure of the public hearing; seconded by Vice
Mayor Whitaker.

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Councilwoman Vick moved adoption of the above ordinance; seconded by Vice
Mayor Whitaker.

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

4. Consent Agenda

Councilwoman Scott moved adoption of the Consent Agenda, Items A through F, both inclusive, as shown below; seconded by Vice Mayor Whitaker.

(a) Minutes of Work Session of June 24, 2008

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

(b) Minutes of Special Meeting of June 24, 2008

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

(c) Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 24, 2008

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

(d) Fire and Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Williamsburg

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 AGREEMENT FOR MUTUAL AID FOR FIRE AND RESCUE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, AND THE CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA, DATED THE 8TH DAY OF JULY, 2008. This resolution authorized the execution of a fire and rescue, and emergency medical services Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Williamsburg. This agreement was similar to other such agreements that the City had with other surrounding jurisdictions and military installations. The agreement defined responsibilities of each party in providing equipment, personnel and services to any point within the geographical boundaries of the other's jurisdiction. The parties essentially agreed to supplement the fire, rescue and emergency medical services of each other when needed.

(No Speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

(e) State Code Amendments

1. Appeals Process – Chesapeake Bay Protection Act Regulations

4. Consent Agenda Continued

(e) State Code Amendments Continued

1. Appeals Process – Chesapeake Bay Protection Act Regulations Continued

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 37.1, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE V., CHESAPEAKE BAY PRESERVATION, BY ADDING THERETO A NEW SECTION, NAMELY: SECTION 37.1-55.1, APPEALS, LIMITATIONS. This amended the City Code relative to the appeals process for the Chesapeake Bay Protection Act (CBPA) Regulations to conform to a recent change in the State Code. The 2008 Virginia General Assembly made this change in the CBPA, and this ordinance amended the City Code to conform to State Law. The addition of this section to the City Code clarified the appeals process for decisions of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) regarding the CBPA. Such an appeal must be filed in the Circuit Court within 30 days of the BZA decision, which would act as a statute of limitations on such appeals.

(No Speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

2. State Code Amendments

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 26, MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, ARTICLE VIII., PEDESTRIANS, BY ADDING THERETO A NEW SECTION, NAMELY: SECTION 26-212.1, PEDESTRIAN CONTROL SIGNALS. This amended the City Code to add a provision pertaining to pedestrian crosswalks in order to conform the City Code with a change in the State Code. An amendment to the State Code made by the 2008 General Assembly required this amendment to the City Code. This amendment added a provision regarding pedestrian use of crosswalks controlled by pedestrian signals along with the applicable penalties.

(No Speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

(f) Golf Cart Lease/Lease Purchase Agreement – Deer Run Golf Course

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, ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS TO IMPLEMENT A LEASE

4. Consent Agenda Continued

(f) Golf Cart Lease/Lease Purchase Agreement – Deer Run Golf Course Continued

OR A LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING GOLF CARTS FOR THE DEER RUN GOLF COURSE AND PROVIDING FOR THE MAINTENANCE THEREOF. This authorized the execution of a lease or a lease purchase agreement for golf carts for Deer Run Golf Course. The City's Purchasing Department was engaged in the procurement process to select a vendor and negotiate the terms of a lease or lease purchase agreement, along with maintenance provisions. The lease or lease purchase agreement was for a term of five years. Funding was available from the Golf Course Revolving Fund. In FY 2008, \$593,042.00 of revenue was generated at Deer Run from the rental of golf carts.

(No Speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

5. Level III Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Agreement

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 LEVEL III HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY RESPONSE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, DATED THE 1ST DAY OF JULY, 2008. This authorized the execution of a renewal of an agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia for the City to provide Level III Hazardous Materials Emergency Response within a specified area of the Hampton Roads region. This agreement was a renewal and update of an existing agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Emergency Management. This document was a cost-sharing agreement that defined the responsibilities of the State in providing the City with training and funding in exchange for regional hazardous materials response by the City. The City received approximately \$30,000 annually from the State to purchase and maintain personal protective equipment and detection/monitoring instruments in exchange for providing emergency response to hazardous material incidents.

(No speakers)

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

Councilwoman McMillan inquired whether the \$30,000.00 could be used for training. City Manager Hildebrandt responded it could be used for training as long as it were associated with the team that was assigned to the response.

5. Level III Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Agreement Continued

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

6. Design Approval – Phase I of Richneck Road Improvement Project

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DESIGN FOR THE RICHNECK ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE I. This approved the design of Phase I of the Richneck Road Improvement Project. The City previously requested the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to program this project using a State Revenue Sharing Grant, which was approved by the State. Federal Highway and VDOT guidelines required City Council's approval of the location and design. Phase I consisted of widening the existing street to 26 feet, adding concrete curb and gutter and sidewalks, and eliminating the roadside ditches using storm sewers. The project started east of the Jefferson Avenue intersection and terminated to the west of Woodside Lane.

(No Speakers)

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

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the amount of the grant. City Manager Hildebrandt responded the grant was for \$1 million. Councilwoman Scott inquired whether the City saved money or was the money included in the project. City Manager Hildebrandt responded this allowed the City to shift some of the local money that was previously committed to that use in this revenue sharing money.

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

7. Fiscal Year 2009 General Fund and Sheriff's Department Budget Amendments

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6488-08 FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO OPERATE THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2008, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2009, INCLUSIVE. This amended the City's Fiscal Year 2009 General Fund and Sheriff's Department budgets to reflect a reduction in the new Jail Annex positions by the State Compensation Board. Subsequent to approval of the City's FY 2009 General Fund Budget in May 2008, the State Compensation Board (SCB) released its FY 2009 Budget for the Newport News Sheriff's Department that included only 16 of the 28 new positions that had been requested to staff the City's new Jail Annex. Both the reduced number of SCB approved positions, and the change to anticipated State reimbursement, had an impact on the City's projected net cost to operate the new Annex. This reduction reduced the total projected operating cost of the Annex by \$335,000.00.

(No Speakers)

7. Fiscal Year 2009 General Fund and Sheriff's Department Budget Amendments Continued

Vice Mayor Whitaker moved adoption of the above resolution; seconded by Councilwoman Vick.

Mayor Frank apologized on behalf of Sheriff Morgan for his inability to be present.

Councilwoman Woodbury inquired, for clarification, whether this meant the City would be reimbursed, but not until April. City Manager Hildebrandt responded that the State would begin paying their share of the Deputy positions, but not until April 1, 2009 based on the budget that was approved by the General Assembly. Mayor Frank added that the City would be paying the State's share. City Manager Hildebrandt reiterated the State would begin paying for the positions from April 1, 2009 on. Until that point, the City would have to pay the full cost, unless the General Assembly gave more money to move the funding of the positions forward. City Manager Hildebrandt did not feel this would be recouped. Mayor Frank indicated that Sheriff Morgan was committed to try to get an appropriation for that.

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

8. Appropriation of Funding for Court Improvement Projects

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM FY 2007 BONDS AUTHORIZED AND UNISSUED – PUBLIC BUILDINGS (\$750,000.00) AND FY 2008 BONDS AUTHORIZED AND UNISSUED – PUBLIC BUILDINGS (\$3,000,000.00) TO COURT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (\$3,750,000.00). This resolution appropriated \$750,000.00 from FY 2007 Bonds Authorized and Unissued, and \$3,000,000.00 from FY 2008 Bonds Authorized and Unissued for Court Improvement Projects. Funding for these projects was programmed in the City's Capital Improvements Plan. Renovations to the Municipal Building, the Justice Building and the Courthouse Building were underway as a series of planned projects within the downtown courts complex. Prior appropriations for these court improvement projects totaled \$3,500,000.00. A prior appropriation of \$1,325,000.00 remained and would be combined with this appropriation to fund the total estimated \$5,075,000.00 needed to complete these projects.

(No Speakers)

Vice Mayor Whitaker moved adoption of the above resolution; seconded by Councilman Bateman.

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

9. Appropriation of Funding for Public Safety Improvement Projects

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM FY 2008 BONDS AUTHORIZED AND UNISSUED – PUBLIC BUILDINGS (\$2,800,000.00) TO PUBLIC SAFETY RENOVATIONS (\$2,800,000.00). This resolution appropriated \$2,800,000.00 from FY 2008 Bonds Authorized and Unissued for renovations to the Public Safety Building and the Adult Detention Facility. Funding for these projects was programmed in the City's Capital Improvements Plan. Renovations to the Public Safety Building and the Adult Detention Facility were underway as a series of planned projects. Prior appropriations for these court improvement projects totaled \$4,500,305.00. Approximately \$130,000.00 remained from that appropriation and would be combined with this appropriation to continue with the phased construction. An additional \$2,800,000.00 was programmed in the FY 2009 Capital Improvements Plan, and requested at a later time for appropriation when needed for construction of Phase III.

(No Speakers)

Mayor Frank clarified that the Municipal Building was the former Circuit Court building at the corner of 25th Street and Huntington Avenue, where a Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Judge was situated. The Justice Building was the former Community Services Board (CSB) Building on Washington Avenue and 26th Street. The Sheriff's administration offices would be relocated from the jail into the Justice Building, the Law Library would be relocated from the Courthouse to the Justice Building, expanding space for the Commonwealth's Attorney, and providing space for the Juvenile Services Program. The Public Safety Building was a euphemism for the jail. The Sheriff's administrative office was moved, and to that space, more beds would be added in an attempt to reduce the amount of overcrowding in the jail. City Manager Hildebrandt indicated that life safety improvements would also be added to the Public Safety Building, i.e. sprinkler systems in the stairwells.

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

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

10. Appropriations

Councilman Bateman moved adoption of Items A through F, both inclusive, as shown below; seconded by Vice Mayor Whitaker.

(a) Acquisition of Property – 503 Oyster Point Road

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM FY 2007 BONDS AUTHORIZED AND UNISSUED – PUBLIC BUILDINGS (\$26,290.00) TO LAND ACQUISITION – 503 OYSTER POINT ROAD (\$26,290.00). This resolution appropriated \$26,290.00 from Fiscal Year 2007 Bonds Authorized and Unissued for acquisition costs and associated expenses for the property located at 503 Oyster Point Road. On June 10, 2008, City Council authorized an additional \$20,000.00 needed to acquire this property through a voluntary

10. Appropriations Continued

(a) Acquisition of Property – 503 Oyster Point Road Continued

sale by the owner. The seller accepted the City's offer for the agreed upon price, and this funding is now needed to close on the transaction. The proposed appropriation included \$6,290.00 to reimburse the Department of Development for the Phase I Environmental Site assessment for 501 and 503 Oyster Point Road.

(No Speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

(b) Court Appointed Special Advocate Program

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM CASA PROGRAM DONATIONS (\$19,091.00) TO CASA PROGRAM (\$19,091.00). This resolution appropriated \$19,091.00 of private donations for the City's Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. The City's CASA program trained community volunteers to serve as advocates for children who had been found by the court to be abused and/or neglected. The volunteers advocated for the children's placement in safe, permanent and nurturing homes. These private donations would be used to train volunteers, organize special activities, and for fundraising events. No local City match was required.

(No Speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

(c) Newport News Adult Drug Court Program

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM REVENUE FROM THE COMMONWEALTH (\$281,500.00) TO NEWPORT NEWS DRUG COURT PROGRAM (\$281,500.00). This resolution appropriated \$281,500.00 of State Grant Revenue for Newport News Adult Drug Court Program for Fiscal Year 2009. This grant program was administered by the Supreme Court of Virginia, which was established in October 1998, in response to the increasing number of adult offenders with substance abuse problems. The Drug Court is a post-plea program comprised of intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment in a structured and supervised environment. No local grant match was required.

(No Speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

10. Appropriations Continued

(d) Strengthening Families Program

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA – VIRGINIA TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FOUNDATION (\$20,980.00) TO STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM (\$20,980.00). This resolution appropriated \$20,980.00 from the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation for the City to operate a Strengthening Families Program. This program would be administered by the City's Office on Children, Youth and Families. The Strengthening Families Program would provide parent skills training, children's skills training and family life training to parents and their children, ages 10 to 14. This is a nationally recognized evidence-based program that provides critical nurturing and discipline skill training. The local grant match would be met through in-kind contributions.

(No Speakers)

Councilwoman McMillan inquired whether this program had been implemented and whether it was an ongoing program since funding was for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. She had not heard of the program. City Manager Hildebrandt responded this was a new program with the money that was awarded from the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.

Councilwoman Vick inquired whether data was received from the various programs which showed program outcomes and results. City Manager Hildebrandt replied that most of the programs provided data for their funding sources. He indicated specific information could be provided upon request.

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

(e) 100 Best Communities for Young People Grant Program

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM FEDERAL REVENUE – AMERICA'S PROMISE ALLIANCE (\$19,530.00) TO 100 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE GRANT (\$19,530.00). This resolution appropriated \$19,530.00 of Federal Grant Revenue to expand the Newport News Youth Career Café Program. This grant was awarded to the City's Office on Children, Youth and Families to expand the Youth Career Café program by creating two satellite hubs and a mobile Youth Career Café. This expansion would serve 4,400 additional middle school students per year, and an additional 800 middle and high school students over the summer. These grant monies would provide funding for computer equipment, software and marketing supplies. There was no local grant match requirement.

(No Speakers)

Councilwoman McMillan concurred with Councilwoman Vick. She inquired how it was determined, after a program was expanded, specifically the Youth Career Café, if no grant funding would be available. She questioned how a program such as this would be expanded.

10. Appropriations Continued

(e) 100 Best Communities for Young People Grant Program Continued

City Manager Hildebrandt responded that an evaluation would be done to determine whether or not the outcomes were sufficient to consider additional local money.

Mayor Frank was of the belief that this program would be done in the middle schools, with the addition of a mobile unit. Councilwoman McMillan indicated that a mobile unit would be very expensive. She felt the cost needed to be monitored closely.

City Manager Hildebrandt promised a report on how the money was used, how effective the program was, and available prospects.

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

(f) Fiscal Year 2009 Information Technology Investment Fund

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM FY 2009 GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET (\$1,000,000.00) TO HARDWARE REPLACEMENT (\$1,000,000.00). This resolution appropriated \$1,000,000.00 from the approved Fiscal Year 2009 General Fund Operating Budget to the City's Information Technology (IT) Fund. The Information Technology Investment Fund was established with City Council approval in June 2006, along with a procedure requiring City Council's approval of funding for planned IT projects. The funding source for this proposed resolution was funding included in the approved FY 2009 General Fund Operating Budget. This FY 2009 IT funding would be used to replace outdated computer equipment for the Engineering and Real Estate Assessment Departments, as well as the legacy work order system for the City's Radio Shop.

(No Speakers)

Vote on Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

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

Mr. John Procyson, 305 Normandy Lane, Newport News, congratulated the members of Council who were elected or re-elected. It was his hope that the four Councilwomen would affect an enormous much needed change of direction for City Council to care for all of the citizens of the City. Mr. Procyson made the following suggestions for areas to reduce City spending: (1) Extend the hiring freeze for one full year, which should result in a permanent reduction in City staff, saving millions of dollars with little, if any, reduction in services; (2) Freeze all city travel immediately, unless absolutely mandatory; (3) Regarding the FY 2009 Capital Improvement Plan, cancel or delay any project not essential for public safety. He cited the old Waterworks Treatment Plant as an example, asking that millions not be spent to demolish

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

it; (4) Start a City-wide suggestion program. The people doing the job know best where money could be saved. Make sure that suggestions that are adopted are suitably rewarded; (5) Do not govern from the Council chambers. He urged Council members to “get their hands dirty,” to visit the motor pool, visit the old water treatment plant, be prepared and ask hard questions, and finally, to follow the money.

Mr. C. W. Powell, 3 Gay Drive, Newport News, inquired about the whereabouts of the 8 X 10 “Parking for Watermen Only” sign. He further questioned why the public boat ramp had been blocked off. Mr. Powell indicated that he had “Joe Must Go” signs in his possession. He expressed hope that things would change. He further advocated the rebuilding of the Deep Creek Pier.

City Attorney Katz responded that he would research the matter and get back with Mr. Powell.

Ms. Carol Hogge, 3 Gay Drive, Newport News, congratulated Vice Mayor Whitaker on his election to that position, and newly elected and re-elected Councilmembers Woodbury, Vick and McMillan. She responded to an e-mail message sent to City Council, from a citizen, who did not want the Deep Creek Pier re-built. The citizen blamed the watermen for the problems with trash and noise at the Deep Creek Pier. Ms. Hogge reminded that all boats, that have an engine, made noise. She indicated there was once a dumpster at the entrance of the pier for dock use only, but citizens would dump yard clippings, windows, furniture and other bulk waste. It was her feeling that the watermen were misplaced and sent away from the pier which was built for them.

Ms. Pixie Killebrew, 13 Hilton Terrace, Newport News, welcomed the new members of City Council and congratulated Councilwoman McMillan on her re-election. A representative of the Real Estate Tax Organization (RETRO), Ms. Killebrew rebutted remarks made by former Vice Mayor Charles Allen during his farewell remarks at the June 24, 2008 Regular Meeting of City Council. The Vice Mayor indicated that RETRO was a segregationist organization with a “concept of not providing equal opportunity nor equal funding, one that funds a system of superiority – same monster, new name.” Ms. Killebrew submitted the following: (1) RETRO was a non-partisan organization with the objective to get the real estate tax rate to the amount it would have been – to make the revenue stream to be a predictable amount on the same slope of growth as was the case before the spending spree began in 2005; (2) To work with the City to help get the financial house in order; and (3) Peg the real estate tax revenue stream to a predictable growth standard, i.e. the Consumer Price Index (CPI), based on the 2005 revenue stream. Studies by RETRO showed that in 2004-2005, real estate assessments grew dramatically, as did the real estate tax burden. The City’s spending and borrowing grew more and RETRO began as a neighborhood group and grew into a Citywide organization of like-minded people. Ms. Killebrew further reminded that during the previous budget cycle (FY 2008-2009), assessments continued to grow, but City Council chose not to change the tax rate, and the budget was above the CPI growth. That budget ended with a substantial surplus, as was the case in the past several years. Ms. Killebrew stated it was RETRO’s objective to be a progressive organization looking to help build a successful future for the City.

12. New Business and Councilmember Comments

City Clerk, Mabel Washington, welcomed newly elected Council members Vick and Woodbury, as well as Councilwoman McMillan on her re-election. She further congratulated Vice Mayor Whitaker on his election to the position of Vice Mayor.

Councilwoman McMillan announced that the Warwick American Little League won the Little League Virginia District VII Championship. She expressed best wishes to the team headed to the Virginia State tournament in Bowling Green, near Fredericksburg.

Councilwoman Scott thanked the many supporters who were participating in the "Virginia Kids Eat Free" Program. Citizens in the North District were committed to taking a bite out of hunger. The program was scheduled for June 16, 2008 through August 31, 2008. Citizens were encouraged to contact the Newport News City Clerk's Office or visit the website www.kidseatfree.com in an effort to help take a bite out of hunger.

Councilwoman Vick expressed gratitude and thanks to the many supporters during her campaign. She congratulated new and returning Council members and indicated that she looked forward to working with them.

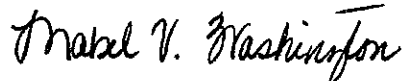
Vice Mayor Whitaker thanked supporters for electing him to the position of Vice Mayor. He pledged his commitment to serve all citizens and work on their behalf for the betterment of the community (a copy of Vice Mayor Whitaker's remarks are attached and made a part of these minutes). He acknowledged the work and support of former Councilmembers William Haskins and Charles Allen, thanking them for their dedication and service. Vice Mayor Whitaker welcomed newly elected Councilmembers Tina Vick and Patricia Woodbury, and pledged to work with them in the best interest of the City of Newport News.

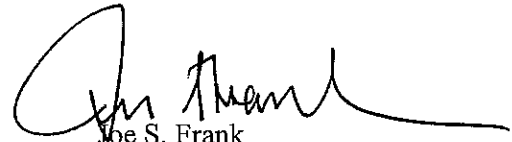
Councilwoman Woodbury thanked those who came to the meetings to speak on behalf of the public. She commended them and encouraged them to continue, as City Council needed the input, help and advice. Councilwoman Woodbury pledged her support to work with her colleagues to make Newport News an even better City.

Councilman Bateman congratulated Councilmembers Patricia Woodbury and Tina Vick on their election to City Council and Councilwoman McMillan on her re-election. He looked forward to working with each. He commended members of RETRO for their comments. He indicated that City Council was cognitive of the tough economic times facing the citizens, and was committed to moving the City forward.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS,
ON MOTION, COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 8:22 P.M.

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Minutes of Regular Meeting
July 8, 2008


Mabel V. Washington, CMC
City Clerk


Joe S. Frank
Mayor
Presiding Officer

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk