# NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

# REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

# TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015

President Fraim called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m. with the following members present: Mrs. Graves, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, Dr. Whibley, Mr. Winn and Mr. Protogyrou.

He then asked the City manager to review the work session agenda. The manager offered an overview of the agenda. That done, President Fraim called for the first item of business.

## A. ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION – 100 RESILIENT CITIES

Andrew Salkin, Chief Operating Officer, reported as follows:

Mr. Salkin stated that they are very proud and excited to be partnering with the city of Norfolk. In 2013, the Rockefeller Foundation first began looking at cities around the world and they found that the world is becoming more urban and that more than 50 percent of the world lived in a city. They also found that cities are not safe places from natural disasters and storms which are happening with more frequency and greater severity. After studying how to best help cities they came up with this initiative called 100 Resilient Cities.

This initiative was created and charged with working with 100 cities around the world to help them build their resilience. Four core services are offered:

- **Chief resilience officer (Christine Morris)**
  Funding will be provided to every city in the network to hire a chief resilience officer for a minimum of two years
- **Strategic help**
  Helping the city to create a resilience strategy
- **Presentation of the strategy 10/28/15**
  Continuing with 50 different partners offering 70 plus different services worth over $100 million to the cities in the network.
- **Great network of cities**

Approximately 66 cities are in the network and soon there will be 100;
Leadership committed to finding solutions and using resources in new ways and sharing this information.

## B. COUNCIL INTERESTS

1. Councilman Protogyrou asked: **1)** why Norfolk citizens cannot obtain a food handler's card within 30 days and noted that a citizen was told he had to wait until January 2016 for the next class, **2)** when will the storm pump at Little Bay will be restored and will the platform be raised or will a new platform be installed, **3)** to have an answer about the outfall at 12th View by Friday, October 30th, **4)** for a briefing concerning short-term rentals in Ocean View and Willoughby, **5)** for a solution to the continuing problems at the Pretlow Library and suggested having security cameras or police presence. With regard to R-9, and specifically "Granby Street Bike Lanes," Councilman Protogyrou asked for a briefing on the plan for connecting Bayview Boulevard to Wards Corner. He also, cited a recent article about economic development in the Wall Street Journal and reiterated that we need to do more to attract new business to Norfolk. He suggested pairing an economic development officer with new businesses, corporations and builders to help them through the process and assist with administration issues.

2. Councilman Winn stated that while long-term flooding issues are studied, we need to come up with short-term fixes and ways to finance them. He asked to have a timeline for putting short-term relief initiatives in place for highly-impacted areas. Councilwoman Whibley also asked for data to support the short-term measures. Councilman Smigiel asked if flood gates are installed, will flood insurance rates be reduced or eliminated, and also, will there have to be a major flood event to show that the flood gates work before rates are reduced or eliminated. In addition, Councilman Smigiel stated that if a tax increase is needed then that information needs to be relayed to citizens. Councilwoman Whibley asked for a response from Mr. Ricks on short-term fixes that were brought up at the Hampton University and Old Dominion forum held last week.

3. Councilwoman Whibley asked: **1)** for an update concerning recent complaints by citizens about their increased water bills, and **2)** for an update on the meeting with the D'Art Center. With regard to the recent charrette with Denby Park, Councilwoman Whibley suggested looking at innovative ways to utilize the green space while studying how much of this property will be built upon and if other properties will be purchased. She reiterated her concerns about crime, blight, code violations, illegal parking and out-of-control parties in neighborhoods surrounding Old Dominion University. She suggested establishing a task force to study the issues.

4. Vice-Mayor Williams Graves asked: **1)** for a briefing on the city's technology security, and **2)** suggested that Council meetings begin earlier so that they are not rushed through the agenda. Mayor Fraim suggested that Council concerns should be addressed first on the agenda.
5. Councilman Smigiel: Noted a correction to Council's memo minutes. His comments were about stop signs on West Bay Avenue and Ocean Avenue, not West Ocean View Avenue and asked: **1)** for a status report on how the area of beach between Greenies and Thirsty Camel will be addressed. He added that a citizen attended the meeting and reported back that the area had been left off of the emergency plan, and **2)** for an update concerning the recent criminal activity at Mariners Watch Apartments. In addition, he asked how are these properties being managed and what security measures are in place.

## C. SIGN REGULATIONS

George Homewood, Director of City Planning, reported as follows:

- Sign Regulations - No substantive changes are being made to the ordinance. This is simply to comply with a recent Supreme Court decision which said that we cannot regulate signage by content. Some temporary signs were, in fact, regulated by content. There is no change to billboards and no substantive change to permanent signage.

## D. CHANGE OF ZONING 3210-3214 HERBERT STREET

- Change of zoning, 3210-3214 Herbert Street - Planning staff and the Planning Commission recommended denial because the proposal is out of character with the neighborhood both in terms of the size of the lots being proposed and the design of the houses to be constructed. He added that the developer was unwilling to go through the city's design review process. Vice-Mayor Williams stated that she had talked with the developer and the civic league president. She relayed that the developer had spent an enormous amount of time working closely with the civic league in addition to taking plans door-to-door and that the civic league supports the project.

## E. LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE UPDATE

Bryan Pennington, Director of Intergovernmental Relations reported as follows:

The recommended 2016 Legislative priorities, timelines and key dates were presented.

Mr. Pennington highlighted a number of priorities. He noted that the Commonwealth's highest priorities are flood mitigation and resiliency and we are asking the General Assembly subcommittee on recurrent flooding to continue on with their important work. We are also supporting what is hoped to be the subcommittee's recommendation for a $3 million appropriation to advance the 3x3x3 regional studies with the first one being Hampton Roads.

Funding for public education and law enforcement are also priorities. We are pushing for the HB599 funding which is important to our local law enforcement. We are also encouraging enhanced funding for the housing trust fund which is important to the Community Services Board as relates to mental health. We are continuing to ask for additional state resources as relates to water, waste water and storm water.

On the federal side we are continuing to encourage our congressional delegation to advocate for our progress of flood mitigation and resiliency. We are asking that congress move forward to pass the transportation funding bills so that we can proceed with important projects. We are renewing our push for additional funding as it relates to concerns with hosting one of the largest military bases as well as the port. Harbor Park has been identified as our remediation site and through state and federal grants we will be able to accomplish phase 1 and phase 2 of the remediation plan.

Councilman Protogyrou asked that Council be provided with a copy of Virginia Beach's legislative priorities. Mayor Fraim suggested creating a citizen panel to examine Council salaries which are determined by state code. He added that the last time the code was amended was approximately 12 years ago.

## F. CLOSED SESSION

Motion for closed session was approved for purposes which are set out in **Clause (s) 3 and 29 of subsection (A) of Section 2.2-3711** of the **Virginia Freedom of Information Act**, as amended:

(3) Discussion of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose in the areas of Northampton Boulevard and Wesleyan Drive, Wards Corner, Riverview and downtown.

(29) Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract.

Yes: Graves, Johnson, Protogyrou, Riddick, Smigiel, Whibley, Winn and Fraim.

No: None.