

# NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

## MEETING OF COUNCIL

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020**

Dr. Alexander, Mayor, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mrs. Courtney R. Doyle, Mrs. Angelia Williams Graves, Mrs. Mamie B. Johnson, Mrs. Andria P. McClellan, Mr. Paul R. Riddick, Mr. Tommy Smigiel, and Mr. Martin Thomas Jr.

He then called on the City Manager to proceed with the agenda.

### **A. NAVY INSTALLATION TRAFFIC UPDATE**

Presenter: Mr. Leonard Remias, Military Affairs Liaison

Mr. Steve Jones, Community Plans Liaison Officer, Naval Station Norfolk

Mr. Remias stated traditionally, after the holidays, there are increased traffic volumes throughout Hampton Roads and due to the number of ships in port, as well. Exacerbating that condition are increased security measures just announced by the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Jones addressed specific actions and mitigations that Naval Station Norfolk has implemented.

- Gate hours extended. Seven gates open with 39 lanes (two gates open 24-hours), double-stacking lanes during peak hours.
- Some outbound lanes reversed to in-bound lanes during peak hours.
- Operating hours extended; opening earlier and closing later.
- Tele-working has been encouraged for those staff members able to do so.
- Staggering of shift and reporting times has been encouraged where possible.
- Notified Hampton Roads Transit, VDOT, and working with city Transportation staff and Norfolk Police Department.

- Encouraged ride share/van pools and prime parking offered as incentive.

Mr. Jones added that sponsoring guests has been suspended for the foreseeable future. One hundred percent (100%) ID checks will take place at the gates. Additional questions can be answered by North Command Public Affairs.

Councilman Smigiel asked for additional police presence and enforcement at strategic intersections such as Little Creed Road and Shore Drive and Bayview Boulevard and Granby Street. Ms. Inman stated they are monitoring the situation closely and ensuring traffic signals are working properly. They will continue to work closely with Norfolk Police Department.

## **B. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT**

Dr. Larry H. Filer, City Manager, announced two new staff positions:

Mr. Fraser Picard, Chief Information Officer

Ms. Esi N. Langston, Environmental Sustainability Manager

## **C. RISE UPDATE**

Presenter: Dr. Paul A. Robinson, Executive Director, RISE

Dr. Robinson stated that RISE is a regional organization based in Norfolk. Norfolk has focused resilience needs and we are looking for solutions like other coastal communities around the nation and around the world. Norfolk has a strong requirement for economic growth and diversification and RISE's role is to bring the two together. RISE is turning climate change challenges into job opportunities and economic growth. Funding for companies is primarily offered so they can bring their ideas to this region. Some of these companies are local and some come from outside the area. Businesses must build and demonstrate their solutions and must have a viable working business plan.

RISE Resources include:

- Resilience Innovation Fund
- Resilience Innovation Accelerator
- Resilience Innovation Hub & Testbed

## 2019 Winners' Pilot Programs

- Building Resilient Solutions - Alternative flood resilience retrofit methods for older and historic structures. Four pilot locations in Norfolk.
- Constructis Energy - Roadway energy harvesting. Pilot program at Virginia Beach Schools Bus depot.
- GROW Oyster Reefs - A novel concept of oyster reef restoration and fabrication. Pilot locations in rivers around Hampton Roads and beyond.
- Landscape Resilience - Training a cadre of landscape professionals. Pilot training sessions around Hampton Roads.
- Resilient Enterprise Solutions - Single-source financing, insurance, and home raising. Establishing a Home Raising Academy. Location to be determined.
- InfraSGA - Innovative urban retrofit bio-retention system to reduce nuisance flooding. Pilot(s) in Norfolk.

New set of challenges launched in November 2019 and applications are now open:

### RISE Coastal Community Resilience Challenges

- Flood Management
- Re-Establishing Critical Utilities
- Data Analytics
- Reconnecting Neighborhoods
- Protection of Buildings
  
- Urban Mobility
  - Apply by April 1, 2020. This challenge seeks solutions to bring automated real-time flooding information into mobile apps and route guidance platforms. The winner will demonstrate their system in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia.

Future challenges launching in 2020

- First floor elevation mapping
- Lower-cost backflow prevention
- Circular economy

For additional information: [Riseresilience.org](https://riseresilience.org)

Councilwoman Johnson asked where are the pilot programs located for Building Resilient Solutions and InfraSGA?

## D. CITY PLANNING UPDATE

Presenter: Mr. George M. Homewood, Director of Planning, gave an update on the St. Paul's project and presented site plans and elevations.

St. Paul's Blocks 19 and 20

Rezoning, Conditional Use Permit, Development Certificate

- Block 19: 70 senior units with some first-floor nonresidential uses
- Block 20: mixed use building with 120 dwelling units and commercial on the first floor

The Architectural Review Board and the City Planning Commission recommend approval. This is scheduled for City Council Public Hearing on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Upcoming Planning Item

Curtis Bay Medical Waste Services Virginia, LLC

- Experienced company currently operating in North Carolina seeking to locate a facility for storage/transfer of medical waste at 3634 Village Avenue.
- Zoned Business and Commerce Park - Industrial (BC-I) which requires a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for this type of use.
- Facility will receive biohazardous and pharmaceutical waste from hospitals, medical schools, laboratories, nursing facilities, clinics, and physician offices.
- Warehouse will be used to store and transfer medical waste to autoclave (steam sterilization) facilities in Petersburg and Atlanta.
- Will employ approximately 15 people.
- January 23<sup>rd</sup> City Planning Commission Public Hearing.

Regarding the St. Paul's project, Councilman Riddick asked why Brinshore Development is not purchasing the property and is there a way to get them to purchase it? He added he is also concerned about the lack of employment opportunities for minority contractors and subcontractors. Councilwoman Graves stated she thought that as part of the CNI Grant the developer doesn't have to pay for the property, but there will be some type of lease that will be negotiated after the project is completed. Dr. Filer will provide more information at the Retreat for discussion.

## **E. CITY COUNCIL RETREAT**

Presenter: Ms. Trista Pope, Sr. Assistant to the City Manager

Mr. Filer stated this presentation is postponed until January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Dates for the Retreat are February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

Councilman Smigiel asked for a time certain for adjournment on the second day.

## **F. COUNCIL INTERESTS**

Councilwoman Doyle expressed concern about the significant homeless population specifically around 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets in Ghent. She asked the Administration to look at compassionate solutions and noted that there have been complaints about dangerous activities.

Councilwoman McClellan stated after talking with TFC Recycling, there is money available for marketing and education. She asked to see a plan on how that's being implemented. She stated that are citizens still do not know what can and can't be recycled. Councilwoman Johnson echoed Councilwoman McClellan and she added that we are still waiting on a plan and partnership with Norfolk Public Schools and our scholars.

Councilwoman McClellan asked for an update on the Commercial Property-Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE) financing.

Councilwoman McClellan announced that the fourth annual Engage Norfolk 2020 will be held on February 9<sup>th</sup> at Norview High School from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Councilman Riddick asked to include committees on the Retreat agenda. He expressed concern about Norfolk Public Schools and the School Board.

Councilman Riddick reiterated concerns about the St. Paul's project and Brinshore Development. He suggested auditing city departments to see what and how many minority companies are being hired for projects in the city: Utilities, Public Works, Economic Development, Budget, etc. Councilwoman McClellan expressed concern as it relates to the casino and employing minority and Norfolk citizens. She suggested we look at the MGM National Harbor contract which has an employment agreement. Councilman Riddick expressed concern that the region may become over-saturated with casinos.

**G. CLOSED SESSION**

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

- (3) Discussion of the disposition of publicly held property in the Princess Anne and Ingleside Roads area.

Yes: Doyle, Johnson, Graves, McClellan, Riddick, Smigiel, and Thomas and Alexander.

No: None.