

# **NORFOLK, VIRGINIA**

## **MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 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.

Mayor Alexander announced that today, Standard & Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings recognized Norfolk's strong fiscal management commitment to economic and environmental resilience and efficient delivery of services by elevating the rating of our long-term general obligation bonds to AAA. This upgrade is a historic moment for Norfolk because for the first time in our history we have received the highest possible credit rating from S&P. Our city joins just 16 of Virginia's municipalities that have earned S&P's highest credit rating.

### **RECYCLING INFORMATION CAMPAIGN**

#### **Recycling Information Campaign**

Ms. Alana Smith, Management Analyst III, Department of Public Works, stated the main goal is to reduce waste and reduce recycling contamination through clear and concise messaging. This initiative will help residents better understand how to properly recycle through using simple graphics.

Ms. Smith briefly reviewed one of three categories on the web site "Bottles and Cans" and how citizens can access information. The web site will go live by February 7<sup>th</sup>. When an image is selected, it will expand and there will be a more comprehensive image of what can be recycled under that category. There is also detailed information for each category such as how to wash items out, etc.

Councilwoman McClellan stated that providing a graphic of what can't be recycled would be better than having what can be. Councilman Smigiel suggested the words "no plastic bags" could be added under the image, as well.

## **Major Improvement Projects Dashboard**

Ms. Alana Smith, Management Analyst III, Public Works, stated Smith stated a dashboard highlighting current major projects in the city has been created for Council. The dashboard shows an image of the project, title of the project, project location, project overview, current status, estimated completion, and budget. A link for Citywide Improvement Projects and Map is also provided that has the project sheet with the expanded scope of work and details. The dashboard will be kept updated.

## **BUDGET WORK SESSION CALENDAR (TENTATIVE)**

Dr. Larry H. Filer, II, City Manager, Filer reviewed the Budget Work Session Calendar.

February 10,11- City Council Mid-Year Retreat

February 19- Norfolk Public Schools Superintendent's Proposed Budget (Tentative)

March 18- Adoption of School Board's Proposed FY 2021 Budget (Tentative)

March 24- City Manager's Budget Proposal

April 1- Submission of School Board's Proposed FY 2021 Operating Budget to City Council

April 7- Budget Work Session 1 (regularly scheduled meeting)

April 9- Public Hearing: Operating, CIP, Tax Increase (if needed), and HUD Annual Plan

April 14- Budget Work Session 2 (regularly scheduled meeting)

April 28- Budget Work Session 3 (regularly scheduled meeting)

April 28- Public hearing: Real Estate Reassessment (if needed)

May 7- Budget Work Session 4 (Thursday if needed)

May 12: City Council Budget Adoption (regularly scheduled meeting)

Councilman Smigiel asked if the April 9<sup>th</sup> public hearing could be held on April 7<sup>th</sup> after the work session instead of having two meetings in the same week.

## **COMMISSIONING OF USNS HERSHEL “WOODY” WILLIAMS**

Mr. Leonard Remias, Captain, US Navy (Ret.), Military Affairs Liaison.

Ms. Maryellen Baldwin, President and CEO, Navy League of the United States, Hampton Roads.

Mr. Remias announced the USNS Hershel “Woody” Williams, one of the Navy’s newest Expeditionary Sea Base ships, will be commissioned in downtown Norfolk at the Half Moon Cruise Terminal on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. He added that Hershel “Woody” Williams played a critical role in the battle of Iwo Jima. His actions resulted in his receiving the Medal of Honor at the young age of 22. This year we will also celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Ms. Baldwin stated that the Navy League is approximately 100 years old and was started by President Theodore Roosevelt, who wanted the civilian community to be strong advocates for a strong maritime defense. The Navy League has been in Hampton Roads for approximately 55 years, and this is an opportunity for the city to be part of Navy history. She thanked Mr. Stephen Kirkland, the Nauticus staff, and Mr. Wayne Callis with the Visit Norfolk.

### 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:

## **HAMPTON ROADS BRIDGE TUNNEL BRIEFING**

Mr. Pete Riley, HRBT Deputy Project Director, Virginia Department of Transportation, stated in terms of project status, they are still in the permitting stages and moving quickly towards construction. The design/build team is working on the engineering necessary to work on the launching pit for the tunnel boring machine will be launched on the south island. The contractor is currently doing geological and technical surveys to support their design.

The contractor is expected to begin construction at the launch pit later this spring. The construction phase will take approximately 55 months to complete. The tunnel boring will take a little over two years. Final completion of both the tunneling and the roadway improvements is scheduled for November 2025. There will be monthly and weekly meetings to update city departments on project activities and traffic concerns. The project director is establishing a quarterly meeting with the City Managers of Norfolk and Hampton.

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Small, Women and Minority-owned businesses (SWaM) Goals are 12 percent and 20 percent respectively. To date, there have been 77 DBE/SWaM contracts awarded totaling more than \$22 million and a significant number of those subcontracts have been awarded to over 30 Firms from Hampton Roads.

A map was presented, and Mr. Riley gave a quick update on the corridor. He showed the locations for: the trestles that will be replaced just beyond the two tunnels, which connect Hampton and Norfolk to the islands; and the widening of the Willoughby Bay bridges and four miles of roadway widening improvement in Norfolk, and one mile in Hampton.

- This is the fourth bored roadway tunnel project in the U.S.
- Twin two-lane tunnels to be built west of existing eastbound tunnel (Navy side) to carry all eastbound traffic.
- Existing eastbound tunnel and current westbound tunnel will accommodate all westbound traffic upon project completion.
- Diameter of each new tunnel: approximately 45 feet; second largest tunnel opening for a Tunnel Boring Machine in North America.

The new tunnels will be approximately 50 feet deeper than the existing tunnels. The existing tunnels will both be repurposed to serve westbound traffic when the project is complete, so there will be two tunnels in each direction.

- Two lanes of traffic to be maintained in both eastbound and westbound directions throughout the entire construction period.
- Pre-positioned wrecker service along the project 24 hours/day.
- Active public outreach campaigns during construction.

#### Funding:

- Hampton Roads Transportation Fund is expected to fund 95% of the project.
- Monies raised through regional gas and sales taxes.
- Other project funding includes \$200 million from the Commonwealth's SMART SCALE Program.
- \$108 million from VDOT to fund replacement of the Norfolk Side Trestle Bridges in Norfolk.

A community outreach contest to name the tunnel boring machine is planned. The winning entry will receive a U.S. Savings Bond and will be invited to a future project event with the Secretary of Transportation and/or the Governor. VDOT will use all available social media platforms to keep the community informed and engaged.

Vice Mayor Thomas reiterated his concern about the hot lanes and the ability of tractor trailers to get through the tunnels westbound due to

height limitations. Mr. Riley stated they are still looking into an engineering solution at this time.

## **MULTIMODAL PLAN UPDATE**

Ms. Amy M. Inman, Director of Transit, stated they are now in the planning process of the Multimodal Master Transportation Plan and ready to meet with citizens. The first phase of developing goals and objectives is having the plan reflect the values of the community in our city.

The number one goal is safety for all users and having zero fatalities or major accidents as relates to traffic and pedestrians. This includes thinking about how people access their bus stops and how they're navigating sidewalks. We want to make sure we're thinking about all modes and how that fits within our public rights-of-way. We also have policies in place that have been established by City Council, such as Complete Streets and Vision Zero.

As the plan is developed, the entire system will be considered: biking, walking, transit, E-bikes, E-scooters, etc. We can start to transform rights-of-way by adding pedestrian crossings, better striping, and bike lanes. Other modes of transit to consider are E-scooters and E-bikes and how we accommodate them in our public rights-of-way. We also want to have dedicated space for their parking. Other technologies such as autonomous vehicles are something to consider as well as on-demand Uber and Lyft services and having appropriate space so people can be safely dropped off and picked up.

Moving forward, we can add and incorporate public transportation in a meaningful fashion and start to consider land use and how we prioritize our emphasis on land use and what it will be in the future. Richmond Virginia is the most notable example that has gone through this process and they did a complete redesign of their transit system which now has an 18% increase in ridership.

Mobility choices are a key element to economic development strategies. Businesses are looking to locate in areas that have skilled workforce but they're also looking to locate in places that have a mobile workforce. They want a workforce who can access their jobs reliably and safely.

Traffic management is also an important piece to consider with mobility, GPS fleet trafficking, technology support for essential services during emergency events, integration of crowd-sourced data, electric vehicle charging stations, Smart Grid enabled LED streetlights, etc.

A needs assessment at the end of the process will give us an understanding of where we are. Knowing that we won't be able to do everything, we want to develop a program of projects that will be tied and associated with reasonable sources of funding such as state and federal funding as well as local sources.

#### Project Phases:

- Vision, Goals & Assessment (where we are at present)
- Transit System Redesign
- Transit Service Plan
- Multimodal Transportation Master Plan
- Needs Assessment & Program of Projects

There will be citizen engagement and public meetings through all phases. Other engagement opportunities include questionnaires, events, stakeholder outreach, etc. A Multimodal Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee will meet regularly. Council will be updated on a regular basis.

#### Upcoming Public Meetings:

Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Jordan-Newby Branch Library.

Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Southside Aquatic Center.

Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Pretlow Branch Library

Councilwoman Johnson asked that the Light Rail hours be extended during the upcoming MEAC tournament dates because last year many visitors were left stranded in parts of our city.

Councilwoman McClellan stated that the information needs to get to the citizens early and continuously through civic league meetings, task force meetings, and all forms of social media.

Councilwoman Doyle asked that measurable outcomes and goals be imbedded into this plan.

Councilman Smigiel asked to revisit bike lanes as part of the plan and to include input from those citizens that were not engaged previously.

## **USA BOXING EASTERN REGIONAL BOXING QUALIFIER TOURNAMENT**

Mr. Darrell Crittendon, Director, Recreation Parks and Open Space, announced that Norfolk will host the 2020 USA Boxing Eastern Elite Qualifier Tournament. There will be approximately 1,200 boxers participating in amateur boxing including boxers from Hampton Roads. The estimated economic impact for this tournament is \$1.7 million. Dates: September 26<sup>th</sup> - October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

How did Norfolk qualify for this event?

- The Department of RPOS in collaboration with Seven Venues, Communications, General Services, and Visit Norfolk partnered to submit a competitive proposal to USA Boxing to host this tournament.
- RPOS and Visit Norfolk conducted a site visit with USA Boxing representatives of:
  - Downtown Norfolk Council
  - Norfolk Scope (Tournament Venue)
  - Pernel “Sweet Pea” Whitaker Boxing Center (training facility for all participants)
- The City of Norfolk was selected to host the event topping Valley Forge, Pennsylvania and Cincinnati, Ohio.

## **CITY PLANNING UPDATES**

Mr. George M. Homewood, Director of Planning, briefed Council on future docket items:

- Conditional Use Permits (CUP) for Commercial Recreation Centers (games of skill).
  - CPC continued two requests for CUP requests for games of skill at their January meeting.
  - Request that staff explore parking issues and that further information be provided on proposed legislation.
- Upcoming Broad Creek Refresh Community Meeting - Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., Broad Creek Library.

#### Costco Expansion (currently)

- Costco (850 Glenrock Road)
    - 118,000 + square feet
  - Operating since 1984
    - Retail sales
    - Gas sales
    - Tire sales
  - Plans submitted Jan. 14 for proposed expansion
  - 13,131 square-foot building addition
  - 52-space parking lot addition
  - Associated improvements: Landscaping and Stormwater BMP
- Next Steps
- First round site plan comments due Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Conditional Use Permits will be required
    - Retail goods establishment larger than 50,000 square feet
    - Alcohol sales
    - Tobacco sales
    - Gas sales
    - Tire sales

### **COUNCIL INTERESTS**

Councilwoman Doyle referred to an earlier request by Vice Mayor Thomas regarding repairs to the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center pool. She asked to strategize its funding in the upcoming budget.

Councilwoman Doyle asked cited the new and existing businesses and residential along 25<sup>th</sup> Street and asked appropriate staff to check the conditions of lighting, sidewalks, etc. She also asked we get input from the residents and business owners there.

Councilwoman McClellan invited Council members to the Engage Norfolk event on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Smigiel thanked Ms. Inman and Mr. Stevenson for addressing broken streetlights. He added that Dominion Power will be repairing approximately 58 lights. And once a streetlight has been tagged, Dominion Power has a set amount of time to replace it, or the city gets a credit.

Councilman Smigiel asked that trash throughout the City be addressed and suggested that appropriate staff prepare an inventory of the entire city and where the most violations occur. He also suggested that there needs to be better communication with residents and retail business owners about keeping their areas clean. He added that VDOT also needs to be accountable for the exit and entry ramps, too.

Councilman Smigiel asked to look at the \$80 fee for emergency services. He stated that the fee was originally put in place for citizens who abused the 911 and ambulance service, not for citizens who rarely call.

Councilwoman Graves expressed concern about a Human Services issue involving an infant. She stated that a family trying to adopt a child has contacted Council members. She asked that Council members not get involved and to let Human Services and the Court system do their jobs.

Councilwoman Graves thanked everyone who attended the Census kickoff event.

With regard to the Norfolk Fitness & Wellness Center, Councilwoman Johnson reiterated a request by Council for an inventory of all existing recreational facilities. A full report should include infrastructure conditions, maintenance, technology, and citizen attendance.

Councilwoman Johnson asked to address safety issues along Cromwell Road and Cromwell Drive and at the intersections with Chesapeake Boulevard and Tidewater Drive.

**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 acquisition of real property in the Broad Creek area where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating strategy of the public body.

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

No: None.