

**City of Harrington  
MINUTES  
City Council Workshop  
September 8, 2015**

**Open Forum**

There were no comments from the public.

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A workshop with the Harrington City Council was held at Harrington City Hall, 106 Dorman Street, on September 8, 2015 and was attended by the following: Mayor Anthony R. Moyer; Vice Mayor Duane E. Bivans; Council Member Fonda Coleman; Council Member Eric Marquis; Council Member Amy Minner; Council Member Charles W. Porter; Council Member Kenneth W. Stubbs; Norman Barlow, Chief of Police; William Pepper, City Solicitor; Teresa Tieman, City Manager; Dean Gary, Accountant; and Kelly Blanchies, Clerk of Council.

Also present: Barbara Bullock and Jennifer Antonik.

Mayor Moyer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Curfew**

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that the hours proposed for the curfew are too late; most people are in favor of the curfew. The City Solicitor stated that the hours are the standard ones used in Dover and Milford. Council Member Minner stated that she agrees the hours should be changed to an earlier time.

Council Member Coleman asked about documentation supporting why the curfew is needed. The Chief of Police stated that there have not been many incidents during the time that the curfew would be. Council Member Coleman stated that people that she spoke to are against the curfew.

Council Member Porter asked about enforcement. The City Solicitor stated that the police will use the curfew to deter petty crime. The documentation problem is that the way the State Bureau of Instigation codes incidents does not coincide well with the times of a curfew, and when criminal mischief occurs during the night, it is hard to determine if it was during the hours of a curfew.

Council Member Coleman stated that another issue is giving kids something to do instead of just telling them what they cannot do.

Council Member Coleman stated that when a curfew was discussed previously, there was not enough documentation to support it. People believe that the curfew

is in response to one incident that occurred. A lot of the people that are causing problems are over eighteen years old.

The Chief of Police stated that the community police officer will be more involved in youth activities, but parents need to know where their children are. Council Member Coleman stated that some parents cannot control their children.

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that a police officer instructing a juvenile to go home may not be effective. The City Solicitor stated that the alternative is to take the juvenile into custody and tie up the police officer for a significant amount of time.

Council Member Marquis stated that the ordinance includes steps to follow and checks and balances. Council Member Coleman stated that the City Council needs to look at the whole picture before adopting a curfew.

Council Member Porter suggested a sixty (60) day trial period.

Vice Mayor Bivans suggested a town hall meeting to discuss a curfew.

Council Member Minner stated that the certificate of employment needs to be on a separate page from the ordinance.

Council Member Coleman stated that she disagrees with a curfew without hard evidence.

The City Solicitor asked if there is a consensus to change the times of the curfew.

Discussion occurred regarding the hours of the curfew. A majority of the Council Members agreed to change the start of all curfew hours listed on the ordinance by one hour earlier.

### **Council chambers**

The City Manager stated that the solution the staff has come up with is to add a dais to one wall, and she is waiting on an estimate.

### **Ordinance 15-11 – Amending Chapter 440, Zoning, related to signage**

The City Manager stated that this ordinance clarifies the current code. The City Planner will do more research and make a presentation to the City Council about allowing more signage for multiple frontages.

Council Member Marquis asked if the City should know where the utilities are. Mayor Moyer stated that the City would know only up to the tap.

### **Library Fundraising Committee**

Mayor Moyer asked that the Council Members submit names for volunteers for the Library Fundraising Committee by the end of November. The City Manager stated that the library district extends beyond city limits too.

### **Mill Street parking on one side only**

The Chief of Police stated that he spoke with the Fire Chief, and it would be challenging to get an emergency vehicle down Mill Street with cars parked on both sides. There is off street parking available on the north side of the street. Letters will be sent out, and the police will talk to the residents.

### **Discussion of filling vacant full time position**

The City Manager stated that there was a resignation from the full time position that was created this year. The City Manager stated that she and the Chief of Police have agreed on the most efficient way to fill the vacancy. The City Manager stated that the employee agreed to continue to work four (4) hours per week to finish the police accreditation; the part time City Hall Administrative Assistant would be changed to full time and will help with administrative work at Public Works; and a part time Public Works employee will be added. It will not cost the City any additional money. The Public Works employee can focus on building maintenance; the Public Works employees are constantly pulled away from their regular duties to handle water leaks and sewer backups.

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that he is concerned about adding a person to Public Works. Work is being done to improve the infrastructure. Although Public Works does great work on a whole, there appears to be a lot of down time, and prisoners can be used to help. The City Manager stated that she does see the need for the additional employee. Prisoners cannot use equipment and do not do quality work. The City Manager stated that Public Works does a fantastic job and needs support.

Mayor Moyer stated that he would like to wait six (6) months and see if a full time employee needs to be added. Council Member Coleman suggested trying a temporary employee.

Mayor Moyer stated that Public Works does a great job but are not efficient. Council Member Porter stated that the City Manager knows better what Public Works needs.

### **Update on railroad station**

The City Manager stated that an email was received from Wade Sexton stating that the bids have been received and that he is waiting for approval. The City

Manager stated that she sent a letter to the president of Norfolk Southern but has not received a response yet.

**City Council Comments**

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that he thought only the Council Meetings were to have the open forum and not the Workshops.

Council Member Porter congratulated the City Manager on being selected as the Delaware League of Local Government's City Manager of the Year.

There being no further business, the City Council Workshop adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Blanchies  
Clerk of Council