

**City of Harrington  
MINUTES  
City Council Workshop  
October 5, 2015**

**Open Forum**

Barbara Bullock asked if the Council will continue with the open forum and stated that she liked having public comments at the beginning and end of the meeting: Mayor Moyer stated that there has not been a big turnout for the open forum and that the City Council will discuss adding public comments at the end of a meeting.

Sandi Holloway stated that the American Legion had to pay a fifteen dollar (\$15) permit fee for a banner and that is a lot for a nonprofit organization.

Jason Dean stated that the site plan requirements for a sign building permit should be reduced and that the City is not consistent in what is being asked for. The applicant should not have to locate the utility lines.

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A workshop with the Harrington City Council was held at Harrington City Hall, 106 Dorman Street, on October 5, 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: Joe Perna, Harrington Police Department; Barb Bullock; Sandi Holloway; Jason Dean; and Charlie Towers.

Mayor Moyer called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**Discussion of signage regulations**

Council Member Marquis stated that the City should not push to limit signage unless it is a safety issue. The City needs to encourage businesses to come to Harrington and should mirror Kent County's signage regulations.

Council Member Porter stated that the City Council should listen to the advice of the City's consultants.

The City Manager stated that the City's regulations are comparable to other municipalities and that some other municipalities do allow for additional signage

for properties with extra street frontages. A county is not as densely populated as a city, so the regulations may not apply. Using a percentage of wall space to determine the square footage for a sign would add to the cost of applying for and verifying a building permit.

Discussion occurred regarding possible wording to allow additional signage for business that have multiple street frontages and the amount of square footage to allow.

Charlie Towers from Tower Signs stated that most businesses would be happy with a four (4) foot by eight (8) foot sign, which is thirty-two (32) square feet.

Mayor Moyer stated that he spoke with multiple sign companies that stated that the permitting process in Harrington was no more difficult than other municipalities. Council Member Stubbs stated that no comments were received from sign companies with the Zoning Code was being rewritten.

Discussion occurred regarding the site plan requirements for building permits for signs.

#### **Fall clean up**

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that he would like there to be two Saturdays for residents to drop off bulk items for the clean up week. Mayor Moyer stated that he would rather there be more evening times available.

Council Member Marquis suggested that a truck go around the town to collect items. Council Member Porter stated that the City used to do that, but there were people from out of town dumping items on resident's curbs for the City to collect.

#### **Term limit survey results**

Mayor Moyer stated that a survey asking about term limits was conducted during the special election on September 15, 2015. There were eight (8) votes against and fifty-nine (59) votes in favor of term limits for the Mayor and Council Members.

Mayor Moyer stated that he would like the City Council to consider instituting term limits and will bring it up again at a future date.

#### **No Shave November fundraiser**

Sgt. Joe Pema stated that the Harrington Police Department has participated in various fundraisers and likes to give back to the community. The No Shave November fundraiser will allow officers to pay a fee to be able to not shave for the month. Donations from the community are welcome as well. The proceeds

will benefit DE C.O.P.S., which helps families of fallen police officers throughout Delaware.

**City Council Comments**

Council Member Minner stated that based on the voter turnout per district for the special election, it seems that going door to door worked as a method to communicate with residents and get people out to vote.

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that public comments should be added to the end of meetings and that the open forum should be removed.

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that the directors of Code Purple would like to meet with the City regarding establishing shelters for the homeless during cold weather. Donations of food and clothing are also needed.

There being no further business, the City Council Workshop adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Blanchies  
Clerk of Council