

City of Harrington
MINUTES
City Council Meeting
February 6, 2012

A meeting of the Harrington City Council was held on February 6, 2012 and was attended by the following: Mayor Robert E. Price, Jr.; Vice Mayor Cheryl Lahman; Council Member Duane E. Bivans; Council Member Fonda Coleman; Council Member Wayne Porter; Council Member Jack Stewart; Council Member Kenneth Stubbs; Norman Barlow, Chief of Police; Teresa Tieman, City Manager; and Kelly Blanchies, Clerk of Council.

Noel Primos attended in place of William Pepper, City Solicitor.

Also in attendance: Dan Logan from the Attorney General's Office; Leonard T. Englehart; and R. Wayne Collison.

Mayor Price called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Free training for rental property owners – Dan Logan from the Attorney General's Office

Mr. Logan stated that he is a Deputy Attorney General assigned to the criminal nuisance abatement law. Anytime there is a property that attracts a criminal element, the State of Delaware may be able to file a lawsuit against the property and the owner. The lack of an owner attached to a property is causing problems. The Attorney General's Office is being proactive in avoiding problems by offering crime free multi-housing training. It is free training on landlord basics, being a responsible neighbor in the community, how to evict, and screening applicants. Mr. Logan stated that his office currently offers classes in Wilmington but is willing to hold one in the area as well.

Mayor Price stated that he thinks this is a good program and asked if the program is piggybacked to any municipal ordinances making it mandatory. Mr. Logan stated that Wilmington tried to mandate it about ten years ago but did not pass. He stated that in Tucson, Arizona, where this program started, cost for services on properties was reduced about 75% on average. Right now the enforcement is the nuisance abatement law.

Mr. Logan stated that there is not just the training. The second part is crime prevention through environmental design; a trained officer visits the property to make recommendations to make it reasonably safe. It could be to add lights or security cameras, and that is an annual certification.

Mayor Price asked what the next step would be. Mr. Logan replied that once the landlords are identified then they can be invited to a training session. Council Member Porter stated that he would like to look at the rental property ordinance at the April Workshop. Council Member Stewart stated that many property owners do not educate themselves about renting properties and could see the program as a positive, educational tool.

Minutes

City Council Meeting January 17, 2012

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to accept the January 17, 2012 City Council Meeting Minutes as presented. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

Comprehensive Plan costs

The City Manager stated that the Council had previously asked her about the status of the Comprehensive Plan. The total amount that Council has approved for the Comprehensive Plan is \$47,500. So far the City has paid RVB \$5,998, URS \$38,358.97, and Kent County \$15 for a total of \$44,371.97. She has met with the City Planner who provided a draft of the Plan and a calendar for completion in August. Council Member Stubbs stated that we have never had a Comprehensive Plan 100% complete. The City Manager stated that what is left to do requires public input, which is critical, and a lot of time to complete.

Public Comments

Leonard T. Englehart asked if there was anything formally done with the conclusion of the lawsuit. It is still on his credit report. Mayor Price stated that it is not on his credit report, and it is dismissed. Council Member Porter stated that he got a letter. Mayor Price stated he would take care of it.

Executive Session

Clerk of Council's Performance Review

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to go to Executive Session. The MOTION passed unanimously.

The City Council Meeting recessed.

Mayor Price called the City Council Meeting back to order. Those still present: Mayor Robert E. Price, Jr.; Vice Mayor Cheryl Lahman; Council Member Duane E. Bivans; Council Member Fonda Coleman; Council Member Wayne Porter; Council Member Jack Stewart; Council Member Kenneth Stubbs; Noel Primos; and Teresa Tieman, City Manager.

There being no further business, a MOTION was made by Council Member Stubbs, seconded by Vice Mayor Lahman, to adjourn the City Council Meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Blanchies
Clerk of Council