



CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

4:00 P.M.

Council Chambers-City Hall

PRESENT

Mayor Anthony P. Scully

Mayor Pro-Tem Laurel M. Parks

Councilmember Walter M. Long, Jr.

Councilmember Alfred Mae Drakeford

Councilmember X. Willard Polk

City Clerk Brenda Davis

City Manager Mel Pearson

Finance Director Debra Courtney

Chronicle-Independent Editor Martin Cahn
and interested Citizens

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Anthony P. Scully called the Camden City Council Work Session to order at 4:00 p.m.

WELCOME – City Manager Mel Pearson welcomed Council to the August 12, 2014, Camden City Council Work Session and presented council with a summary of plans to begin construction on the Commerce Alley Project. Council and media received a handout in reference to the Commerce Alley project.

UPDATE ON HISTORIC GUIDELINES – Winter and Company

Abe Barge of Winter and Company was in attendance at the Camden City Council work session to present an update on the Camden Design Guidelines. Mr. Barge spoke during Council’s work session giving an overview of the guidelines and detailing plans to update the historic guidelines. Mr. Barge lengthy PowerPoint presentation included information on the purpose of the historic guidelines, community participation, the projects schedule and information on how to understand and interpret the guidelines.

After Mr. Barge’s presentation council expressed concerns on the following: community “buy-in”, the absence of no guidelines for commercial properties, window replacements and the fact that CHLC decisions can only be appealed by circuit court. Councilmember Parks along with City Planner Shawn Putnam confirmed that state law requires decision of boards and commission similar to the CHLC must go directly to circuit court for appeal. Councilmember Willard Polk suggested staff address this matter with the city’s attorney.

Winter and Company will host an open house on Wednesday, August 13, 2014, to receive public input. The next steps in the revision of the historic guidelines include adding more Camden-specific illustrations to the guidelines, presenting a third and final draft in September and assisting staff and council with final adoption.



For additional information on Draft2b of the Camden Design Guidelines dated August 1, 2014, please refer to city clerk's files.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – Suzi Sale

Suzi Sale, Tourism Director presented a brief summary on recent and future tourism events in Camden. During Ms. Sale's presentation she expressed concern on the need for more hotel space to accommodate visitors.

After Ms. Sale's presentation, council expressed some concerns regarding this matter. Councilmember Polk requested information regarding the status on the Tourism Board. Staff will present council with board recommendations at an upcoming work session.

CITIZENS PLANNING COLLEGE –Shawn Putnam

The city of Camden Planning Department will offer a new program called Citizens Planning College. The Citizens Planning College will consist of 10 classes and will be taught by the Planning Department with occasional guest instructors. The first semester will be held in the fall of 2014 and the second semester will begin spring of 2015. The first five classes will begin in October and the second set of classes will begin February of 2015. The classes will meet weekly in the Training Room at City Hall from 5:30pm – 7:30pm on Thursdays.

For additional information on the course curriculum, please refer to Memo dated August 5, 2014
RE: Citizens Planning College.

OTHER BUSINESS

COUNCILMEMBER LONG suggested staff along with council form a committee to discuss usage of the property located at 950 Broad Street and known as the King Haigler Tower. Council will discuss this matter at an upcoming work session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Council on motion by Councilmember Parks, seconded by Councilmember Polk, voted unanimously to adjourn the Work Session at 5:25 p.m.

Mayor Anthony P. Scully

Attest:

Brenda Davis, City Clerk