

SPECIAL MEETING
ERLANGER COUNCIL
January 5, 2015

Mayor Tyson Hermes called the special meeting of the Erlanger City Council to order in the City of Erlanger Council Chambers at 6:30 P.M., Tuesday, January 5, 2015.

The following Members of Council were present: Randy Blankenship, Kathy Cahill, Tom Cahill, John Dunhoft, Bill Howard, Vicki Kyle, Corine Pitts, Renee Skidmore, and Patty Suedkamp. Council members Gary Meyer and Renee Skidmore were absent. Council Members Kevin Burke and Don Skidmore arrived after roll call was taken.

Also present were: Mayor Tyson Hermes, City Administrator Marc Fields, City Clerk/Director of Administration Missy Andress, Director of Economic Development Dave Hahn, Chief of Police Bob Arens, Fire/EMS Chief Todd Whitaker, Community Liaison Becky Hopkins, Director of Public Works Rick Bogard, Assistant Director of Technology Matt Allen, Assistant City Clerk Sherry Hoffman, City Engineer Jim Viox, and City Attorney Frank Wichmann.

COMMONWEALTH STATION - Mayor Hermes discussed the Commonwealth Station Hearing scheduled for January 6, 2015 by the Kenton County Planning Commission. He stated that he called the Special Meeting to ask Council to withdraw the application from the Planning Commission's Hearing for the following reasons:

- The Commonwealth Station project does not have the support of the majority of the residents and businesses.
- The project has not been examined by a professional, someone who has the means to invest.
- The improvement of any area is not driven by zoning but by return of investments.
- It is borderline abuse of authority.

Mayor Hermes recommended withdrawing the application from the Planning Commission until the City got developers and outsiders to invest.

Council stated the following reasons why they did not want to withdraw the application:

- Time had been invested in this project by many people. (Ms. Suedkamp)
- Money and a lot of hours had been spent on the project. (Mr. Dunhoft)
- The committee had made changes to accommodate those involved. (Mr. Dunhoft)
- The Planning Commission will come back with recommendations and the City will have (90) ninety days to accept the plan or make changes. (Mr. Dunhoft)
- The committee has listened to people and that is why the process has taken so long. (Mr. Blankenship)

Ms. Kyle asked for clarification on the following:

- Are the homeowner's rights protected by the City until the property was sold?
- Mr. Wichmann responded that the text amendment did not require the current owners to make changes.

Mayor Hermes asked for a motion from Council to withdraw the application from the Planning Commission. No motion was made. Mayor Hermes stated that he felt that he had done his duty and wanted to make it known that Council did not agree with his decision.

STANDING COMMITTEES – Suggestions were presented by Mayor Hermes and Mr. Dunhoft and discussed among Council.

The following committees were recommended and would be voted upon at the Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, January 6, 2015:

- Administration (Howard, K. Cahill)
- Economic Development & Finance (Blankenship, Pitts)
- Police (Suedkamp, Kyle)
- Codes/Building & Zoning (Dunhoft, Burke)
- Fire/EMS (R. Skidmore, Meyer)
- Public Works (T. Cahill, D. Skidmore)
- Clean-up Erlanger with name being changed to Mayor's choice and Council Members being assigned

ADJOURNMENT – M/S, Kyle-Pitts, to adjourn from the special meeting at 7:28 p.m. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Approved:

Tyson Hermes
Mayor

Respectfully Submitted:

Sherry Hoffman
Assistant City Clerk

ATTEST:

Melissa Andress
Director of Administration/City Clerk