

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON Monday, October 2, 2006 AT 6:00 p.m. IN THE Second Floor Conference Room.

THE PROPOSED AGENDA IS AS FOLLOWS:

Closed session as provided by Section 2.2-3712 of the Virginia Code

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR

BY Jeanne Cox

SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM – October 2, 2006

Council met in special session on this date with the following members present: Dr. Brown, Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Norris, Mr. Taliaferro.

On motion by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Norris, Council voted (Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Norris, Mr. Taliaferro. Noes: None) to meet in closed session for discussion of the annual performance evaluation of the City Manager, and for discussion and consideration of prospective candidates for appointment to the City Planning Commission, as authorized by Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Virginia Code; and for discussion and consideration of the disposition of publicly held real property on Allied Street where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position of the City, as authorized by Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Virginia Code.

On motion by Ms. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Lynch, Council certified by the following vote (Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Norris, Mr. Taliaferro. Noes: None) that to the best of each Council Member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered in the closed session.

COUNCIL CHAMBER – October 2, 2006

Council met in regular session on this date with the following members present: Dr. Brown, Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Norris, Mr. Taliaferro.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Taliaferro announced upcoming Fire Prevention Week

Dr. Brown said that the work session tentatively scheduled for October 5th has been cancelled and the October 16th meeting has been cancelled due to the Virginia Municipal League Conference.

Dr. Brown announced that the official sister city signing ceremony with Besançon, France will take place on October 20th.

**AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS: EXECUTIVE FIRE OFFICER PROGRAM
CERTIFICATE FOR CHIEF WERNER; DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS
MONTH PROCLAMATION**

Dr. Brown presented the Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation.

Dr. Brown presented Fire Chief Charles Werner with the Executive Fire Officer Program Certificate.

Mr. Taliaferro said receipt of the Fire Officer Program Certificate is a real milestone for Chief Werner.

PUBLIC

Mr. Jock Yellott, 311 E. Market Street, expressed concern that the proposed parking ordinance, which will plug a loophole, does not allow people to protest a ticket by mail.

Mr. Rauzelle Smith, 1508 Trailridge Road, expressed concern that the vacuum method for leaf collection is slow, ineffective and spreads debris. He said the published collection schedule is also unreliable. He recommended that the ordinance be changed to require bagging of leaves.

Ma. Alia Anderson, 1517 Broad Avenue, Executive Director of ACCT, invited Council and the public to the 2006 Bike Summit on October 4th. She said there has been a lull in City projects and projects need to be prioritized in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. She said October is International Walk to School month and she invited Councilors to join schools in this effort.

Mr. Glenn Short, 1510 Burnham Drive, representing Charlottesville Peak Oil, listed trends in dealing with future oil shortages: conservation, smaller houses, more energy efficient; relocalization (becoming more self-sufficient); and the development of sustainable technology. He asked Council to create an energy task force.

Ms. Ann Mercer, 1200 E. Jefferson Street, representing Charlottesville Peak Oil, discussed a community in Ireland that is addressing the issue.

Ms. Kelly Neher, 1596 Cool Spring Road, representing Peak Oil, discussed resolutions passed in other communities.

Ms. Nancy Hurrelbrinck, 1020 St. Clair Avenue, discussed relocalization plans in Tompkins County, New York.

Mr. Stephen Bach, 1208 Meriwether Street, representing Charlottesville Peak Oil, said our oil based way of life is not sustainable. He asked Council to bring the issue to the attention of citizens by creating a task force to assess the situation and make recommendations.

Mr. Karl Ackerman, 1611 E. Market Street, said that H. T. Ferron may be violating environmental laws by illegal washing of their trucks. He asked Council to find out why City staff are not doing their job in monitoring the situation.

Mr. Peter Kleeman, 407 Hedge Street, expressed concern about the late hour for Planning Commission public hearings. He urged Council to give a fair opportunity to the public to attend public hearings and to board members who have to deliberate late into the night by setting limits at Planning Commission and Council meetings.

COUNCIL RESPONSES TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Mr. Lynch said that perhaps Council should talk to the Planning Commission about having such full agendas.

Dr. Brown said he hopes the representatives of Charlottesville Peak Oil are bringing the issue before the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors as well as City Council.

Dr. Brown, referring to comments made by Mr. Ackerman, said he feels it is unfair to make such accusations without giving H. T. Ferron a chance to respond.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Brown removed the ordinance dealing with multiple parking violations from the consent agenda as requested by staff.

On motion by Mr. Taliaferro, seconded by Mr. Norris, Council approved the following consent agenda items by the following vote. Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Norris, Mr. Taliaferro (except that Mr. Lynch voted no on the Grove Street rezoning as the density is further than he is willing to support). Noes: None (except Mr. Lynch voted no on the Grove Street rezoning).

- a. Minutes of September 18
- b. **APPROPRIATION**: \$12,390.38 – Insurance Remittance (carried over)
- c. **APPROPRIATION**: \$37,053 – Domestic Violence Service Coordinator Grant (carried over)
- d. **RESOLUTION**: Special Use Permit for Boarding/Rooming House at 322 14th Street, N.W.

- e. **RESOLUTION**: Approving Regional Transit Authority Mission
- f. **ORDINANCE**: “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REENACTING THE ZONING DISTRICT MAP INCORPORATED IN SECTION 34-1 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, 1990, AS AMENDED, BY THE REZONING OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1000 AND 1002 GROVE STREET FROM R-1(S) (RESIDENTIAL) TO PUD, SUBJECT TO PROFFERS” (2nd reading)
- g. **ORDINANCE**: “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 34 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE (1990), AS AMENDED” (DEFINITION OF MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT) (carried over)
- h. **ORDINANCE**: “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 34 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE (1990) AS AMENDED” (ALLOWING RESTAURANTS IN M-1 ZONES) (carried over)

REPORT: STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Mr. O’Connell explained that Council appointed a committee that was charged with drafting the first Strategic Plan for the City. He said a community forum is proposed to give the public another opportunity for input prior to finalizing the plan.

Members of the Strategic Plan Committee presented draft vision statements in the following areas: Thriving Economy; World Class Quality of Life; Multi-Model Transportation; Excellence in Education; Diverse Affordable Housing; Regionalism; and Funding Our Future Needs.

Ms. Hamilton thanked the Committee for its work and for taking a regional approach.

Dr. Brown said he thinks a community forum would be a good idea, and suggested October 24th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Lynch said he appreciates the committee’s work, and feels it is important to hear from a wider segment of the public.

Dr. Brown thanked Mr. Lynch for serving as Council’s representative on the committee.

PUBLIC HEARING/RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF \$15,500,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BONDS

Mr. Bernard Wray, Director of Finance, explained that the \$15,500,000 bond issuance is part of the financial plan for the 2006/2007 capital budget. He said staff will

meet with rating agencies next week and the sale is expected to take place around November 1. He said he is assuming that the City will maintain its AAA bond rating.

Responding to a question from Dr. Brown, Mr. Wray said that the City has maintained its AAA bond rating primarily because of its low debt burden compared to other cities. He said the 12% fund balance is another reason for the high bond rating.

Responding to a question from Dr. Brown, Mr. O'Connell said that the first phase will include detailed engineering work for replacing bricks on the mall as well as undergrounding and lighting changes.

Ms. Hamilton asked if repair of the aging infrastructure as was presented to Council last year is addressed in this bond issue.

Mr. O'Connell said that last year's budget for paving and repairs was increased. He said many buildings are not covered in this plan and there is still a need for a major replacement plan for water and sewer infrastructure.

Mr. Taliaferro said we have to find a way to put more money into City buildings as many are in bad shape and it will only become more costly over time.

The public hearing was opened.

Mr. Leroy Morris, Carlton Avenue, speaking about the Franklin Street issue, said he appreciates the concern shown to his neighborhood.

Ms. Alison Ruffner, 735 Graves Street, expressed concern that money may not be there to pay the debt for the bonds. She said she hopes there is a real effort made to look at the City's total indebtedness. She also asked about the bonding agencies.

As there were no further speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Lynch said one of the rating agencies is Mooney, and Mr. Wray said the other rating agency is Standard and Poor's.

Mr. Lynch said he has also been skeptical about borrowing, but said the cost of borrowing is less than the cost of the deterioration. He said all of the projects in the plan are ones that future taxpayers will be taking advantage of, and the amount of the bonds is well within our capacity to pay the debt on.

Mr. Taliaferro said our average debt is about 50% of the average for Virginia cities, and he feels that speaks well for the operation of the City.

On motion by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, Council approved the \$15,500,000 bond issuance resolution by the following vote. Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Norris, Mr. Taliaferro. Noes: None.

ORDINANCE: RESTRICTING THROUGH TRUCK TRAFFIC ON FRANKLIN STREET (2nd reading)

Mr. O'Connell said that a meeting was held with neighborhood representatives and businesses today, and he feels that an alternative solution was identified that may be as effective as restricting through truck traffic.

Ms. Angela Tucker, Development Services Manager in Neighborhood Development Services, said that a consensus was reached on a voluntary plan, including: tractor trailers accessing the self-storage business will be directed to avoid the Franklin Street/East Market intersection and enter by way of Carlton Avenue; H. T. Ferron will voluntarily reroute their truck traffic by dispatching trucks via Carlton Avenue except when a train is visible when they will route to Franklin Street. She said that all present at the meeting expressed concern about shifting the problem to other neighborhood areas, especially if Franklin is made one-way. She said residents, particularly south of the railroad overpass, continue to voice concern about the impact of future development. She said various signs will be installed to enhance traffic operations. She recommended that these measures be tried and then reassessed after a period of time.

Ms. Hamilton said two issues remain from the last discussion, and she asked if there had been any discussion of the pedestrian issue and adding a small sidewalk and barrier. She said Mr. Alex Wright said he and other business owners are interested in contributing to a solution to protect Mrs. Scruggs' house.

Ms. Tucker said staff is meeting with Mrs. Scruggs tomorrow. She said the group acknowledged that the pedestrian issue is a challenge and staff can assess if a sidewalk will work.

Responding to a question from Dr. Brown, Ms. Tucker said 409 trucks used Franklin Street in a seven day period, half of which were greater than two axles.

Mr. Lynch said he would guess that one quarter of the other half of the trucks are local.

Mr. Norris asked if part of the plan is to approach other businesses, and Ms. Tucker said that can be done.

Mr. O'Connell suggested that a discussion be held with the neighborhood at the end of the month to talk about the concern about speed on the underpass and the possibility of speed humps or other ways to slow traffic down.

Mr. Taliaferro said he would like to see a 90 day test period of time, and Ms. Hamilton suggested a 60 day period.

Ms. Tucker said a quarterly assessment can be done. She said it is best to give people time to adjust to the new signs and voluntary measures.

Responding to a question from Ms. Hamilton, Mr. O'Connell said a planner in Neighborhood Development Services is trying to get Franklin Street removed from directions on MapQuest.

Mr. Lynch thanked the residents and businesses who got together. He said having heard the real issues, he thinks we have a solution without negatively impacting so many people.

Mr. Taliaferro also thanked those who participated in the meeting.

Dr. Brown said he wants this to be successful and said the item will be put back on Council's agenda in January or February. He said this will not be the final outcome until we see that it is successful.

Ms. Hamilton said she thinks it is a good idea to have more meetings to see if concerns are being addressed.

Dr. Brown suggested that other businesses be identified who can contribute to the effort, and that the businesses talked to and those who made voluntary efforts be part of the report.

Mr. Norris said one glaring omission is participation of residents from the other side of the tracks, and he encouraged them to stay involved.

On motion by Ms. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Lynch, the ordinance restricting truck traffic on Franklin Street was deferred until early 2007, and the recommendation as outlined by Ms. Tucker were approved by the following vote. Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Norris, Mr. Taliaferro. Noes: None.

RESOLUTION: ENDORSING THOMAS JEFFERSON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

RESOLUTION: ENDORSING CITY'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Mr. David Blount, Legislative Liaison with the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, said that legislators have requested an earlier timetable for the regional legislative program. He said there is more focus on high priority items in the program, including transportation, local and state revenues, Comprehensive Services Act, public education, and land use and growth management. He said there is also an area of continuing concerns.

Ms. Lisa Kelley, Deputy City Attorney, listed the draft legislative action items: sponsorship of a bill authorizing cities to establish different tax rates for residential and commercial properties; sponsorship of legislation for governmental affordable housing initiatives; sponsorship of legislation requiring physical fitness facilities to provide on-site automated external defibrillators; sponsorship of legislation to prohibit operation of toy vehicles on public highway; and sponsorship of legislation that would allow the

restoration of voting rights to a greater number of persons disqualified due to felony convictions. She said also included by reference is support for the legislative programs of Virginia First Cities, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, Commission on Children and Families, and Virginia Municipal League and for transportation funding.

Mr. Norris said there are dramatically different approaches between the Planning District's legislative program and the City's, wide ranging versus specific bills. He asked how the TJPDC's program translates into specific legislation.

Mr. Blount said that localities, not the TJPDC tend to request that specific bills be introduced.

Dr. Brown noted that Mr. Blount keeps track of legislation that touches on items in the City's packet and notifies us.

Ms. Hamilton asked why the wine distribution issue under economic development is not under the action plan, and Mr. Blount said it is not a broad issue.

Ms. Hamilton said we might want to consider adding that to the City's legislative program.

Mr. Taliaferro said he supports and applauds the idea of requiring defibrillators, but also thinks we need to have them in City and school facilities. He said we should lead by example.

Mr. Lynch agreed.

Mr. Norris said it is unrealistic to think that all five of the City's items will be given equal attention, and he suggested that we prioritize and decide which ones to run with.

Mr. Lynch said he believes that the General Assembly puts more stock in comments made by interested citizens than Councilors when considering legislation.

Referring to the TJPDC legislative program, Mr. Lynch said we have had the same transportation policy for five years and that has not worked out so well. He said there is movement and discussion in the General Assembly about kicking it back to localities. He said the question is should we change our tact, and said if the State is not going to provide the funds, they should give us the ability to do that.

Mr. Blount referred to the statement saying the State should not shift the burden to localities, and said he thinks counties feel strongly about that statement.

Mr. Lynch said we could differentiate ourselves from the TJPDC statement. He said we have pressing infrastructure needs.

On motion by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Norris, Council approved the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission Legislative Program by the following vote. Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Norris, Mr. Taliaferro. Noes: None.

Referring to the City's Legislative Program, Mr. Norris expressed concern that the current Council as a group has not discussed any of the issues.

Ms. Hamilton noted that items two and five were carried over from last year. Ms. Hamilton said Mr. Norris makes a good point about prioritizing, but she said she thinks it is also good to have some small things that can get passed and some bigger issues.

Ms. Kelley said the affordable housing request is likely to meet with opposition in the General Assembly.

Mr. Lynch said there is a good chance that the establishment of differential tax rates will get debated this year.

Dr. Brown asked if it would be simpler to say that Council supports the bill that was carried over, and Ms. Kelley agreed that should be the first request.

There was agreement that the affordable housing legislation will be top priority.

Mr. Lynch said he thinks it has the best chance of succeeding if we stick with the Arlington ordinance.

Councilors agreed with the legislation requiring defibrillators, and to having the City install them as well.

Councilors supported the legislation prohibiting operation of toy vehicles on public highways.

Ms. Hamilton said she does not think the legislation restoring voting rights to felons is going to happen, but that does not mean we should not stand up for the principle. She said she would put this legislation ahead the toy vehicles in priority.

Councilors agreed, and also expressed agreement with inclusion of Virginia First Cities, Commission on Children and Families, Virginia Municipal League, and the TJPDC legislative programs.

Dr. Brown said we discussed not moving forward regarding transportation unless we go together with the County.

Ms. Hamilton said we should make sure this is on the County's legislative agenda and said our language should be harmonized with their.

Dr. Brown said he would favor the middle ground, and if bills are introduced in the House to allow localities to have it as an option we can ask to be included.

Councilors expressed agreement with Dr. Brown's suggestion.

Councilors agreed to keep the transportation funding policy position.

Mr. Norris, referring to the affordable housing piece, said he feels there was a strategic error in the City adopting wholesale the Alexandria ordinance last year, and we should avoid similar problems as we model after the Arlington program. He noted that the issue of eminent domain became a distraction last year .

On motion by Ms. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Norris, the City's Legislative Program, as amended, was approved by the following vote. Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Norris, Mr. Taliaferro. Noes: None.

REPORT: SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION TASK FORCE REPORT

Ms. Sheri Iachetta, Voter Registrar, said that Council appointed a Task Force to study different options for School Board elections. She said the Task Force reported its recommendations to Council on August 7th: 1) keep the current method until after the November 2007 elections; 2) change to a residential district model where members would be elected from districts, but would be elected by all voters, which would require a Charter change; and 3) change to a method of four ward members and three at large, which would require a Charter change. She noted that options two and three would require pre-clearance from the Justice Department. Ms. Iachetta also asked Council to have staff look at realigning the wards as certain precincts are in danger of being overloaded. She noted that new legislation is likely that will require a certain number of voting machines per registered voter in a district, a move that could make it impossible to continue to use Tonsler Park.

Mr. Lynch asked what the goals are for changing boundaries, and Ms. Iachetta said it would equalize numbers and would also expand the boundaries for facilities that could be used.

Dr. Brown expressed concern about being asked to do this tonight.

Ms. Hamilton asked how much lead time is needed if boundaries are change, and Ms. Iachetta said it takes 60 days for Justice Department clearance and it would also need to be included in the City's legislative packet.

Dr. Brown asked if pre-clearance from the Justice Department would be needed if Council approves option #1.

Ms. Iachetta said no Charter change would be needed, but pre-clearance would be needed of precinct boundaries are changed. She suggested that this be done in time for the 2008 election if Council wants to pursue it.

Mr. Norris said he has been agnostic on the idea of wards versus keeping it as it is. He said he feels that Charlottesville is too small to carve up. He said the problem he sees is that we do not have supports in place to educate the public on candidates. He said he wants every member of the School Board to be accountable to every child, and said he favors keeping the current system until the November 2007 election.

Mr. Lynch agreed with Mr. Norris. He said there is value in diversity of many types on the School Board, including cultural, philosophical, capabilities, and professional. He said geographic diversity is one thing we may want, but it would not be in his top three or four. He said at large comes down to candidate recruitment, but geographic diversity should not be the overriding concern. He said if we look at the challenges facing the schools, he does not think any of them would be addressed by neighborhood or ward based elections. He said he thinks ward politics bring out the worst in both parties. He said he would hope to give the League of Women Voters more support in their education efforts, or otherwise build on the efforts of community groups.

Mr. Taliaferro said he supports comments made by Mr. Norris and Mr. Lynch. He said he does not think we need ward elections because of our size. He said his experience over the years is that there are horror stories from ward based politics and that does not work for the best interest of the community as people trade for things they want.

Ms. Hamilton said she is not seeing the level of passion about the issue that she expected. She said the current system does not appear to be broken, and diversity was achieved in the last election. She said if we are not satisfied with the 2007 election we can look at the issue again. She said she favors looking at boundaries for the 2008 election.

Dr. Brown said he does not like true wards especially when there are often uncontested elections. He said he thinks competition is healthy. He said he agrees with the comments about the size of the City, and likes the idea of candidates having to appeal to the entire electorate. With that said, he said there should be the opportunity for people to feel they know candidates. He said because of that he is attracted to the residential model, but is in no hurry to get there. He said if the 2007 election does not attract south side applicants he would consider looking at the residential district model.

On motion by Mr. Norris, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, Council voted to approve option #1, maintaining the current at large system until after the November 2007 by the following vote. Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Norris, Mr. Taliaferro. Noes: None.

Dr. Brown asked that Council be given more information regarding realigning the boundaries, including public involvement.

ORDINANCE: AMENDING PARKING ORDINANCE RE: PEOPLE WITH MULTIPLE OUTSTANDING VIOLATIONS

Ms. Kelley said she has amended language in the ordinance which addressed concerns raised by Mr. Yellott.

Responding to a question from Mr. Norris, Ms. Kelley said that Virginia law allows people to be tried in absentia providing they have received notice. She said the issue raised by Mr. Yellott was whether a person has to appear at the Treasurer's office to appeal. She said forms can be made available, and language has been changed, to allow people to pay by mail or appeal. She also recommended that language regarding unlawfully parked vehicles be deleted as it is not required by State law.

Mr. Joe Platania, representing the Commonwealth's Attorney office, said that General District Judge Downer has indicated that the proposed ordinance amendments make sense.

Mr. Taliaferro made a motion to approve the ordinance, as amended by staff, Mr. Lynch seconded the motion, and the ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE (1990), CHAPTER 15 (MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), SECTIONS 15-149, 15-301 AND 15-302, AS AMENDED, TO SPECIFY THE PROCESS FOR REVIEW OF PARKIGN VIOLATION NOTICES, TO SPECIFY THE PROCESS FOR APPEAL OF PARKING VIOLATONS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISPOSITION OF VEHICLES WITH THREE (3) OR MORE UNSETTLED PARKING VIOLATIONS" was offered and carried over to the next meeting for consideration.

PUBLIC

Ms. Lisa Woolfork, Stribling Avenue, said she was opposed to the idea of an elected School Board. She said there are inequities in the elementary schools and we need to ensure accountability at the elementary school level. She said she supports whichever method will make that happen.

Mr. Peter Kleeman, 407 Hedge Street, said if we have at large elections there is the potential for there to be many candidates and for someone to be elected by less than 10% of the vote. He recommended that we look at alternative styles of voting, such as having automatic run off voting.

OTHER BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS: PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Norris thanked all applicants for the Planning Commission, and said there were no weak candidates.

On motion by Mr. Norris, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, Mr. Jon Fink was reappointed to a four-year term on the Planning Commission, Mr. Hosea L. Mitchell was appointed to an unexpired term on the Planning Commission, and Mr. Jason Pearson and Mr. Michael Osteen were appointed to four-year terms on the Planning Commission by the following vote. Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Norris, Mr. Taliaferro. Noes: None. Mr. Mitchell's term will expire on August 31, 2008. Mr. Fink's, Mr. Pearson, and Mr. Osteen's terms will expire on August 31, 2010.

Dr. Brown agreed that there were very strong candidates for the Planning Commission.

Ms. Hamilton asked if there is any additional information about the allegations made by PETA about treated of circus elephants, and Dr. Brown said he has seen no independent information.

Ms. Hamilton said we should make sure all animals are well treated.

Mr. Norris said the Committee that looked at the animal control ordinance could be asked to look at PETA's recommendations.

Mr. Lynch suggested that we ask the circus to respond to the allegations.

Dr. Brown announced that there is an exhibit at the Historical Society about the history of the Woolen Mills.

Mr. Norris said we would be remiss in not mentioning the issue of inequities in schools, and thanked Ms. Woolfork for bring the issue up.

Mr. Taliaferro expressed concern about a veteran who has not been able to find housing, and said we ought to be able to give people like him high priority for housing.

Mr. Norris agreed that is an issue.

Ms. Hamilton noted that the issue has been raised about residents having to pay for lighting of pilot lights. She said people used to get one free light, but now have to pay \$30, or \$48 if after hours. She said she realizes there were many reasons to do this, but noted that we encourage people to turn off their heat in the summer to conserve energy. She said the burden is falling on elderly people on fixed incomes. She said we need to address this issue, but also need to realize it is a burden on staff.

Mr. Taliaferro said he would like us to revisit this issue.

The meeting was adjourned.