

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 3, 2013

In Attendance

Councilman Chris Anderson, Committee Chair; Council Chairman Yusuf Hakeem; Vice Chairman Chip Henderson; Council members: Carol Berz, Moses Freeman, Russell Gilbert, Larry Grohn, Jerry Mitchell and Ken Smith; City Attorney Wade Hinton

Others in Attendance

Mayor's Office: Travis McDonough, Chief of Staff, and Andrew Kean, Chief Operating Officer; Council Clerk's Office: Randy Burns, Management Analyst, and Nicole Gwyn, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order & Agenda

Councilman Anderson called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. and stated that there would be two items on the committee's agenda: the American Plastics PILOT and the "Sprinkler Ordinance."

Agenda Item #1: American Plastics PILOT

He introduced Steve Hiatt of the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce to make a presentation on the American Plastics PILOT. Mr. Hiatt introduced Tom Spur of WNA American Plastics and Attorney Mark Smith of Miller & Martin PLLC (representing WNA American Plastics) and then proceeded with a brief presentation.

A discussion ensued after the presentation. Vice Chairman Henderson suggested an education session on PILOT agreements in general. Councilman Anderson consulted with Mr. Kean on Administration's ability to participate in an education session. Upon further discussion, the Council came to a consensus to hold an education session next week, September 10, at 2:00 p.m. on PILOTs.

Agenda Item #2: Amendment to "Sprinkler Ordinance"

Councilman Anderson discussed Ordinance 12618, which goes into effect on December 31, 2013 regarding sprinklers at venues of live entertainment. Business owners and operators have expressed concerns about the ordinance and would like to see revisions to it. The following amendment to Ordinance 12618 had been placed on tonight's Council agenda:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 12618, CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, CHAPTER 17, ARTICLE I, SECTION 17-1, RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE 2006 NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA) 101 LIFE SAFETY CODE, AS AMENDED, FOR CERTAIN SPECIFIED OCCUPANCIES, INCLUDING EXISTING BUILDINGS.

Councilman Anderson asked for a show of hands of those wishing to address the Council on the economic impact of this ordinance. He recognized the following speakers:

Speakers in Opposition

- John Kinsey (on behalf of the Chattanooga Choo Choo)
- Michael Alphonso (Owner, Comedy Catch)
- Sharon Kelley (Owner, Mocha Restaurant & Lounge)
- Lamar Partridge (Owner, Lamar's Restaurant & Lounge)

A discussion ensued. Mr. McDonough joined the discussion and noted that there were changes in the national standards that would affect the existing ordinance. He indicated that the Fire Chief and Fire Marshall had met with Attorney Noblett to discuss those changes. Councilwoman Berz had concerns about the city's liability by reversing its previous decision. She requested that the Fire Chief and Fire Marshall "go on record" tonight to discuss their stance on the ordinance in light of changes in the national standards. Mr. McDonough indicated that he would check on the availability of the Fire Chief and Fire Marshall, but assured the Council that both individuals had been consulted regarding the proposed amendment.

Adjournment

Upon no further business, Councilman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.