

VENDOR'S COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 15, 2002 – 10:30 a.m. – Conference Room A

I. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

Councilor Whitehouse, Chair of the Committee went around the table and asked each individual to state their name and position.

Harold Whitehouse, City Councilor; Kelli L. Barnaby, City Clerk; Jason Page, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer; Dish Athanasiou, Health Officer; Paul Sorli, Downtown Business Association; Deputy Police Chief Magnant; Deputy Fire Chief Achilles; Robert Sullivan, City Attorney; Evelyn Sirrell, Mayor; and John P. Bohenko, City Manager

II. CHAIRMANS REMARKS

Councilor Whitehouse discussed the motions adopted by the City Council at the October 7, 2002 meeting and went over the format for this meeting. He advised the audience that he would allow public comment but each person would have to limit their remarks to three minutes.

III. MAYOR'S STATEMENT

Mayor Sirrell provided the Committee with copies of the current ordinance and the proposed amendment to the Vendors Ordinance listing prohibited vending locations in the City. The City Council will have first reading of the amendment at the October 21, 2002 meeting. She said the purpose of the amendment is to prohibit vendors in front of the North Church to allow tourist to take a picture without a vendor being in it.

V CITY COUNCIL CHARGE

Councilor Whitehouse read the motion passed by the City Council at the October 7, 2002 meeting, which prohibits vendors in front of the North Church. In addition to that the Council voted to have the City Attorney draft an ordinance listing prohibited vending locations in the City. He said the issue of other locations probably will not be brought forward at the October 21, 2002 City Council meeting.

Jason Page reviewed the tax map of the North Church property showing the City owning everything in the front.

Councilor Whitehouse advised the Committee that the North Church owns the portion along the side to the iron fence and beyond that is owned by the City.

Paul Sorli, Downtown Business Association said that vendors play an important part in our history. He said he does not want to see vendors prohibited from the downtown area.

IV. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Bohenko said that we need to be consistent with what ever changes are made to the ordinance. He said that the Committee should consider amending Section 6:1316 – License Suspension or Revocation and Hearing to allow for a hearing to take place in 7 days instead of the current 24 hours. He also requested deleting Section 6:1318 – Enforcement in its entirety. It currently states that the Health Officer shall be empowered to enforce any provision of the ordinance. He said that any City Official should have that power.

City Attorney Sullivan agreed that the section should be deleted.

Councilor Whitehouse discussed the parking regulations for vendors and the possibility of extending the time a vendor can park in a parking spot.

City Clerk Barnaby advised Councilor Whitehouse that the Vendors Ordinance requires vendors to comply with all parking regulations.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Soiett said he has been a vendor in the City for the last six years. He said he would like the Parking Committee to look into expanding the amount of time a vendor can park in a parking spot. He said that out of courtesy he does not vend like products that merchants carry in their stores in the downtown area. He said that there should be a distance established so vendors cannot set up right next to each other. He expressed his concern with dueling hot dog carts and the loss of income he has sustained because of the other hot dog vendor in Market Square.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:30 a.m., Councilor Whitehouse adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kelli L. Barnaby, City Clerk