

MILFORD CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 22, 2013

The Milford City Council held a Public Hearing on Monday, April 22, 2013 in the Joseph Ronnie Rogers Council Chambers at Milford City Hall, 201 South Walnut Street, Milford, Delaware.

PRESIDING: Mayor Joseph Ronnie Rogers

IN ATTENDANCE: Councilpersons Steve Johnson, Garrett Grier III, S. Allen Pikus, Dirk Gleysteen, Owen Brooks, Jr., Douglas Morrow, Sr., James Starling, Sr. and Katrina Wilson  
City Manager Richard Carmean, Police Chief Keith Hudson and City Clerk/Recorder Terri Hudson

COUNSEL: City Solicitor David Rutt, Esquire

Mayor Rogers called the Public Hearing to order at 7:01 p.m.

A hearing was scheduled for the purpose of taking public comment and to make a determination on the following matter:

*Annexation/Lands belonging to Louis J. & Shirley L. Renzi  
Tax Parcel No. 3-30-15.00-059.00; 3-30-15.00-059.01*

*Adoption of Ordinance 2013-3/Change of Zone/Louis & Shirley Renzi Properties/Cedar Creek Road*

*Adoption of Resolution 2013-11/Annexation of Louis & Shirley Renzi Properties*

City Planner Norris said he was present to report on the Planning Commission's recommendation for the Renzi property as it relates to the zoning. Their recommendation was to zone the property highway commercial, C-3, by a vote of 6-0.

Mayor Rogers asked if council had any questions.

City Manager Carmean then asked Mr. Norris if the annexation and zoning is consistent with the City of Milford Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Norris stated yes and explained the area to the rear and across the street is zoned C-3 and confirmed it is consistent with the comp plan.

When asked if anyone from the public wished to comment, no one responded.

Mr. Gleysteen moved to adopt Resolution 2013-11, seconded by Mr. Starling:

*Annexation/Lands belonging to Louis J. & Shirley L. Renzi  
Tax Parcel No. 3-30-15.00-059.00  
3-30-15.00-059.01  
3.00 +/- Acres  
Current Zone AR-1/Proposed Zone C-3*

*Whereas, the Milford City Council having considered the advantages and disadvantages of annexing into the City the following described lands, to wit:*

*Tax Parcel 3-30-15-059.00*

*ALL that piece or parcel of land, hereinafter described, situate, lying and being on the westerly side of Cedar Creek Road and being located in Cedar Creek Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, as shown on a plat entitled "Property to be conveyed to Louis J. & Shirley L. Renzi," completed by Charles D. Murphy Associates, Inc., dated October 2004; said piece or parcel*

*being more particularly described as follows:*

*COMMENCING at an iron pipe found at a point formed by the intersection of the westerly right-of-way line of Cedar Creek Road, 60 feet wide, with the northerly line of lands of, now or formerly, James H. Vreeland et al, thence running,*

*1) leaving said right-of-way line of Cedar Creek Road and running by and with said James H. Vreeland lands, South 87 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds West 288.00 feet to an iron pipe found at the point of BEGINNING; thence running,*

*2) running by and with said James H. Vreeland lands, the following 3 courses and distances, South 87 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds West 196.00 feet to a capped rebar set at a point, thence running,*

*3) North 02 degrees 45 minutes 00 seconds West 270.00 feet to a capped rebar set at a point, thence running,*

*4) North 87 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds East 209.00 feet to an iron pipe found at a point on the westerly line of other lands of, Louis J. & Shirley L. Renzi, thence running,*

*5) leaving said James H. Vreeland lands and running by and with said other Renzi lands, South 00 degrees 00 minutes 23 seconds West 270.31 feet to the point and place of beginning;*

*CONTAINING 1.26 acres of land, more or less.*

*and*

*Tax Parcel 3-30-15-059.01*

*ALL that piece or parcel of land, hereinafter described, situate, lying and being on the westerly side of Cedar Creek Road and being located in Cedar Creek Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, being all of Lot 1 as shown on a plat entitled "Minor Subdivision, Mary Louise & Francis A. Webb, IV," completed by AKS Associates, Inc., dated January 2001; said piece or parcel being more particularly described as follows:*

*BEGINNING at an iron pipe set at a point formed by the intersection of the westerly right-of-way line of Cedar Creek Road, 60 feet wide, with the northerly line of lands of, now or formerly, James H. Vreeland et al, thence running,*

*1) leaving said right-of-way line of Cedar Creek Road and running by and with said James H. Vreeland lands, South 87 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds West 288.00 feet to an iron pipe set on the easterly line of residue lands of James H. Vreeland, et al; thence running,*

*2) running by and with said James H. Vreeland residue lands, North 00 degrees 00 minutes 23 seconds East 270.31 feet to an iron pipe set at a point on said Vreeland lands, thence running,*

*3) North 87 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds East 275.00 feet to an iron pipe set at a point on the aforementioned right-of-way line of Cedar Creek Road, thence running,*

*4) leaving said Vreeland lands and running by and with said right-of-way line of Cedar Creek Road, South 02 degrees 45 minutes 00 seconds East 270.00 feet to the point and place of beginning;*

*CONTAINING 1.74 acres of land, more or less,*

*and having considered the recommendation of the Annexation Committee appointed to investigate said annexation on whether or not to proceed with said annexation, having considered the zoning recommendation of the Planning Commission subject to compliance with Chapter 230 of the City of Milford Code, having held a Public Hearing on April 22, 2013, having received acknowledgment of the accepted Plan of Services by the State of Delaware as required of Title 22, Section 101, Delaware Code, the City of Milford, hereby determines as follows:*

*Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved,*

*That this land is hereby annexed into the municipal boundaries of the City of Milford and the description and plot of said lands are to be recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in Sussex County, Delaware where said lands are situate.*

*The Petitioner and the City of Milford enter into an annexation agreement for purposes including, but not limited to, the dedication of easements and/or right-of-ways to the City of Milford or State of Delaware for future utility, roads or other public improvements as determined by the City of Milford and/or State of Delaware.*

*That from and after the adoption date of this resolution, the territory annexed will be assessed and taxed at the same rate and basis as other taxable properties within the City of Milford.*

*The annexation area is contiguous to Ward 1 and City Council intends that these parcels become part of and be included within the Ward 1 area upon annexation.*

*That the Official Zoning Map and Boundary/Ward Map(s) of the City of Milford, Delaware be amended to include the herein described property.*

*Now I, Joseph Ronnie Rogers, Mayor of the City of Milford, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all the elected members of the City Council of the City of Milford at a meeting held on April 22, 2013 at which a quorum was present and voting throughout and that the same is still in full force and effect.*

Motion carried.

Ms. Wilson moved to adopt Ordinance 2013-3, seconded by Mr. Morrow:

*Annexation/Lands belonging to Louis J. & Shirley L. Renzi  
Tax Parcel No(s): 3-30-15.00-059.00; 3-30-15.00-059.01  
3.00 +/- Acres  
Current Zone AR-1/Proposed Zone C-3*

*An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Designation of the parcel of land, under the ownership of Louis J. and Shirley L. Renzi, Tax Parcels 3-30-15.00-059.00 and 3-30-15.00-059.01, situated on the west side of Cedar Creek Road (SR 30), approximately 1,500 feet south of the intersection of Wilkins Road (CR 206) and Cedar Creek Road (SR 30), upon its annexation into the City of Milford by resolution as adopted by the City Council of Milford, Delaware.*

*WHEREAS, the land hereinafter described is contiguous and adjacent to the City of Milford and the owner, thereof, has petitioned City Council to annex the same into the City of Milford, and*

*WHEREAS, it appears to the Mayor and City Council of the City of Milford, Delaware, that the hereinafter described property will be annexed and become part of the City of Milford and that a zoning classification is required, and*

*WHEREAS, the land owned by the City of Milford is presently zoned by Sussex County as "AR-1" (Agricultural Residential District), and*

*WHEREAS, the City Council referred the zoning of the affected territory to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a report and recommendation and after a due hearing on April 16, 2013 as provided by law, the Planning and Zoning Commission made its recommendation to City Council, and*

*WHEREAS, following a Public Hearing held on April 22, 2013 and consideration of the recommendation of the City Annexation Committee, City Council has determined the proper classification under the zoning ordinance of the City of*

*Milford for the property to be annexed.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF MILFORD HEREBY ORDAINS:*

*That the following described land situated in Sussex County, Delaware:*

*Tax Parcel 3-30-15-59.00*

*ALL that piece or parcel of land, hereinafter described, situate, lying and being on the westerly side of Cedar Creek Road and being located in Cedar Creek Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, as shown on a plat entitled "Property to be conveyed to Louis J. & Shirley L. Renzi," completed by Charles D. Murphy Associates, Inc., dated October 2004*

*CONTAINING 1.26 acres of land, more or less,*

*and*

*Tax Parcel 3-30-15-59.01*

*ALL that piece or parcel of land, hereinafter described, situate, lying and being on the westerly side of Cedar Creek Road and being located in Cedar Creek Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, being all of Lot 1 as shown on a plat entitled "Minor Subdivision, Mary Louise & Francis A. Webb, IV," completed by AKS Associates, Inc., dated January 2001*

*CONTAINING 1.74 acres of land, more or less,*

*Upon final approval of its annexation into the City of Milford, as classified under the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Milford, shall be zoned henceforth as C-3 (Highway Commercial District).*

*Dates:*

*Adoption Date: April 22, 2013*

*Effective Date: May 2, 2013*

Motion carried.

The Public Hearing adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Terri K. Hudson, MMC  
City Clerk/Recorder

MILFORD CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 22, 2013

A Meeting of Milford City Council was held in the Joseph Ronnie Rogers Council Chambers at Milford City Hall on Monday, April 22, 2013.

PRESIDING: Mayor Joseph Ronnie Rogers

IN ATTENDANCE: Councilpersons Steve Johnson, Garrett Grier III, S. Allen Pikus, Dirk Gleysteen, Owen Brooks, Jr., Douglas Morrow, Sr., James Starling, Sr. and Katrina Wilson  
City Manager Richard Carmean, Police Chief Keith Hudson and City Clerk/  
Recorder Terri Hudson

COUNSEL: City Solicitor David Rutt, Esquire

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rogers called the Council Meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance followed the invocation given by Councilman Johnson.

Councilman Johnson arrived at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

*Pursuant to 29 Del. C. §10004(b)(9) Personnel matters in which the names, competency and abilities of individual employees or students are discussed.*

Mr. Grier moved to go into Executive Session reference personnel matters, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carried.

Mayor Rogers recessed the Council Meeting at 7:15 p.m. for the purpose of an Executive Session as is permitted by Delaware's Freedom of Information Act.

*Open Session*

Council returned to open session at 7:28 p.m.

*Executive Session Matter*

Mr. Pikus made a motion to approve what was discussed in Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Morrow. Motion carried.

RECOGNITION

*Proclamation 2013-4/National Missing Children's Day*

Motion made by Mr. Pikus, seconded by Mr. Morrow to adopt the following proclamation:

*WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, an estimated 800,000 children are reported missing each year; and*

*WHEREAS, on average, approximately 2,000 children are reported missing to law-enforcement agencies daily; and*

*APPROXIMATELY, 58,200 of these children are victims of non-family abductions and more than 200,000 are the victims of family abductions; and*

*WHEREAS, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) exists as a resource to help prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation, help find missing children, and assist victims of child abduction and sexual exploitation, their families, and the professionals who serve them, and*

*WHEREAS, this special day is a time to remember those children who are missing and give hope to their families.*

*WHEREAS, that the City of Milford urges the participation of local government, law enforcement, and communities in the protection of children and educating children about child abduction and sexual exploitation, and how to respond and seek help from law enforcement, social services and NCMEC.*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, in partnership with NCMEC and its supporters, the City of Milford, Delaware proclaims May 25 as National Missing Children's Day.*

*AND THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City of Milford, that May 25, 2013 is set aside as National Missing Children's Day as part of Milford, Delaware's continuing efforts to prevent the abduction and sexual exploitation of children.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Milford to be affixed on this 22nd day of April 2013.*

*s/Mayor Joseph "Ronnie" Rogers*

Motion carried.

*Proclamation 2013-5/Police Week & Peace Officers' Memorial Day*

Mr. Morrow moved to adopt the following proclamation, seconded by Mr. Starling:

*WHEREAS, the Congress and President of the United States have designated May 15, 2013 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and the week in which it falls as National Police week; and*

*WHEREAS, the members of the law enforcement agency of Milford, Delaware play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms in Milford, Delaware; and*

*WHEREAS, it is important that all citizens know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of their law enforcement agency, and that members of our law enforcement agency recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence and disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression; and*

*WHEREAS, the men and women of the Milford Police Department unceasingly provide a vital public service.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joseph Ronnie Rogers, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Milford, Delaware, call upon all citizens of Milford, Delaware, and upon all patriotic, civic and educational*

organizations to observe the week beginning May 12, 2013 as Police Week during which time all of our people may join in commemorating law enforcement officers, past and present, who, by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities, have rendered a dedicated service to their communities and, in so doing, have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens in the City of Milford.

I further call upon all citizens of Milford, Delaware, to observe May 15, 2013 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day in honor of those law enforcement officers who, through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community or have become disabled in the performance of duty, and let us recognize and pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Milford to be affixed this twenty-second day of April in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Thirteen.

s/Mayor Joseph "Ronnie" Rogers

Motion carried.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Rogers announced the May meeting of SCAT will be hosted by the City of Milford on May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Rookery North. Those council members wishing to attend need to RSVP with the receptionist.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### *City Hall-Alarm System*

Mr. Carmean reported the alarm system has been failing at city hall. We are replacing it with an alarm that can be accessed through a computer versus the server system. A copy of both the server and laptop proposals are included in the packet. Though it is \$300 more, our IT Department recommends the computer access system be purchased.

Mr. Pikus moved to approve \$2,691.00 be paid from general fund reserves for the alarm and installation charges, seconded by Mr. Brooks. Motion carried.

##### *City Hall-Door Replacement*

The city manager advised that we are currently only replacing the side door at city hall due to the recommendation of our contractor. He noted that door is coming apart though we continue to have problems with the remaining doors. It was confirmed that all the doors on city hall are the original doors.

Mr. Carmean will get a final price so that funds can be transferred from the reserve accounts to cover the associated costs.

##### *Key Properties LLC/Hearthstone Easement Fee/Approval of Funding*

Solicitor Rutt recalled council discussing this matter in executive session and afterwards approving the easement agreement with Hearthstone. The funding to cover the costs of the agreement was not approved at the time.

Mr. Pikus moved for approval to pay Key Properties \$25,500 as previously agreed, to be funded from sewer reserves, seconded by Mr. Morrow. Motion carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS

MILFORD CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 22, 2013

The City Council of the City of Milford met in Workshop Session on Monday, April 22, 2013 in the Joseph Ronnie Rogers Council Chambers of Milford City Hall, 201 South Walnut Street, Milford, Delaware.

PRESIDING: Mayor Joseph Ronnie Rogers

IN ATTENDANCE: Councilpersons Steve Johnson, Garrett Grier III, S. Allen Pikus, Dirk Gleysteen, Owen Brooks, Jr., Douglas Morrow, Sr., James Starling, Sr. and Katrina Wilson

City Manager Richard Carmean, Police Chief Keith Hudson and City Clerk/  
Recorder Terri Hudson

COUNSEL: City Solicitor David Rutt, Esquire

The Workshop Session convened at 7:47 p.m.

*Planning Commission-Term Limits  
City Council-Term Length & Term Limit*

Councilman Gleysteen reported that Milford has a very large volunteer pool. To encourage more participation in city government, he proposes council institute limits on the length of service a person can serve on the planning commission. He feels this will provide more interest in city government and bring different ideas to the table.

As a result, he proposes three (3) three-year terms. However, they do have to be served consecutively.

Mr. Brooks asked Mr. Gleysteen the average years of service of the current planning commissioners. He noted that the commissioners have not served for long period of times and recalled the difficulty the city had to get people to serve on that commission.

The city manager agreed and recalled previous Planning Commission Chairman Randy Marvel who served more than twenty years. He agreed that over the past ten years, there has been some difficulty in filling those vacancies.

Mr. Morrow recalled several seats that were vacant for several months.

It was noted that any change in the term limits of the planning commission will require an ordinance change.

Mr. Carmean advised that Mr. Gleysteen's other suggestion will require a charter change. In speaking with the mayor, they felt the best approach was to appoint a charter committee of four members of council as was done several years ago. If not, the matter can be placed on the agenda, discussed and a decision made.

Solicitor Rutt reported that the city charter states that the mayor and council members will each serve a term of two years. There is no limit on the number of terms.

Mr. Gleysteen feels that if we institute a nine-year maximum term for the planning commission and the turnover is greater than that, everything will remain as it is today. But if we get to the point where people are staying longer than that, a progressive change in the planning commission membership would be needed.

Ms. Wilson recalled a couple of years ago, there was a change in the way the planning commission was appointed. The city clerk noted that we instituted three year terms which require formal appointments at the end of each term. Three of the nine members are appointed every three years which means someone is appointed or reappointed each year.

Mr. Carmean explained that number of terms is currently unlimited and Mr. Gleysteen is proposing a three-year term limit.

Mr. Brooks stated there were many times we had vacancies and recalled several meetings when there were just enough members to make a quorum. He said that Mr. Gleysteen is proposing that a person who is qualified and wants to do the job should be removed at the end of the three terms, even though there may not be anyone to replace them. In addition, there is a steep learning curve that takes some time for a new commissioner. He pointed out that sometime is needed before a person becomes accustomed to the city ordinances, policies and procedures. All of that is required to make the proper decisions on the matters before the planning commission. He said we risk all of that if there is no one to replace them or they are replaced with someone who has no real interest.

Mr. Carmean agreed there have been a number of times it has been very difficult to fill those seats.

Mr. Johnson asked if there are any cities or towns in the State of Delaware that have term limits for council. Mr. Brooks advised that the City of Dover increased the length of the terms of city council from two to four years. This was the first time in fourteen years they have not had an election. Many residents felt it was very difficult to commit to four years and blamed the uncontested races on that issue.

Mr. Gleysteen said his impression from the article he read was the four-year term limit probably squashed a lot of interest in running for those positions. He feels this is an important topic and stated that he has the deepest respect for everyone serving because there is a lot of dedication and love for the city.

Mr. Gleysteen then read the following written comments he had made to prevent forgetting anything:

“There has been a lot of change in Milford over the past ten, twenty and even thirty years. Whereas, thirty years ago we had an economy heavy in agriculture. Milford has developed a significantly diversified economy. As we continue to pursue sustainable growth, I believe it important to institute term limits. We will continue to need outside investments and wish to attract people to move here. Perception is important and it is through people and businesses we want to attract people who wish to participate in city government. The doors should be open to those interested.

Many see the door only partially opened when seeing council and mayor currently serving with up to thirty years service. We do not want the perception of the good old boys network which may discourage potential interest.

I respectfully request council consider and pass term limits of eight years for council and mayor.”

Mr. Gleysteen said that everyone feels we have a strong council and a strong mayor and are very happy with the way things are going in Milford. We have a thriving downtown, a thriving local economy and we want to keep things going in that direction. He said that he still thinks we need an influx of new ideas which are best supported by a lot of active participation in city government.

He believes the best time to make a change is when things are going well. He feels we are going in the right direction and looking toward the future.

Mr. Brooks recalled that back in the 1990's, council was considering a change in council terms from two to three years. A meeting to discuss the issue was held at Carlisle Fire Company at which time a large crowd attended. The offer was made to the residents. After a very lengthy decision, council decided to keep the terms to two years. The residents felt that council is elected to a two-year term and if the person does a good job, they have the opportunity to be reelected after two years. On the other hand, if a person is elected who does not do a good job, the residents do not want them in that seat for three years or a year longer.

Mr. Brooks referenced Mr. Gleysteen's comment about the good old boys. He also recalled his statement two weeks ago that people feel it is hard to beat someone who has been in office for a long time.

Mr. Brooks said that when Mayor Rogers ran for mayor and Mr. Brooks ran for city council in 1982, they were up against two long-serving veterans. Mr. Brooks knocked on every door in the third ward and Mayor Rogers went to almost every house in the city. They both ended up beating the incumbents.

Mr. Brooks does not feel that a person should be able to walk in and fill a vacant seat simply because the previous councilman can no longer serve. He said if someone wants his seat, they have the opportunity to run against him every two years.

He pointed out that no one ran against Mr. Gleysteen and asked if he was happy about it; Mr. Gleysteen stated he had mixed feelings.

Mr. Morrow reiterated that the current system allows an interested citizen the opportunity to run for council every year. In addition, every year our citizens have the chance to vote for four people. He does not believe we can provide our citizens any better opportunity. He also recalled the hearing when the change in term was considered. The general consensus was that if a bad apple was elected to council, the residents were stuck for a longer period of time.

He believes that if we want more interest in people running, the last thing you should do is make the terms longer. Making them four years cuts the opportunity in half for people to run.

Mr. Gleysteen responded by stating, he agrees with Mr. Morrow about the two year terms but wants a term limit of eight years total. He said right now if council is here for a long period, and many of the council have served for over four years, he feels you may as well have term length of four years and save the city money in election costs. He feels eight years is important because if someone has an agenda when they come to city council, eight years should be plenty of time to accomplish it.

Mr. Brooks noted that Mr. Gleysteen previously stated that things are good right now. By requiring a mandatory change does not guarantee a good or qualified replacement.

Mr. Gleysteen said one does not have to look far for other towns with the same structure as Milford which has resulted in long-term sitting mayors and council that seem to be stuck in the past. He said we do not want that here.

Mr. Brooks and Mr. Morrow both stated they do not believe Milford is stuck in the past; Mr. Gleysteen stated that no, we are not.

Mr. Brooks said he has been on council for thirty-one years and has only missed six meetings and has never been late for one meeting; Mr. Gleysteen said that has nothing to do with term limits.

Mr. Morrow pointed out that the term limits are actually two years. The people in Milford have the right to vote you in or vote you out. He feels if we set false ideas about term limits, it can be a problem. He referred to the election in Dover and feels that this would do the citizens more harm than good.

Mr. Gleysteen feels what happened in Dover was the length of the terms.

Mr. Brooks recalled Mr. Gleysteen saying to Mr. Brooks in the parking lot a year ago when Mayor Rogers was reelected that Ronnie Rogers has been here for thirty years and just got reelected mayor and that we need term limits. In turn, Mr. Brooks said he told Mr. Gleysteen he also got elected in 1982.

Mr. Gleysteen said he does not recall that.

Mr. Brooks emphasized that his seat is up next April and anyone interested is able to run against him. But that person will have to beat him in an election and not because Mr. Brooks leaves the seat vacant for anyone to fill. He said even if Mr. Gleysteen gets this change in term lengths, it will not affect him because he will have eight more years. Mr. Gleysteen agreed.

Mr. Gleysteen said he looks at this as the first eight years you are making a name for the city and after that, you are making a name for yourself. Mr. Brooks, Mr. Morrow, Mr. Starling and Ms. Wilson all disagreed.

Mr. Starling asked why Mr. Gleysteen wants to change something that works. Any citizen in this town has an opportunity to run every year. It is unfortunate that some people are not interested in running. Right now, there are four people up for reelection. He feels that because the system works, it should be left alone.

He also disagrees with Mr. Gleysteen that just because someone has served a longer period of time, does not make incapable of new ideas or change. He also feels that Milford has progressed over the last several years and we are up with the times.

Ms. Wilson added that she agrees with what has been said the majority of those that have spoken. Just because she has been here a long time does not make her incapable. A few years ago, she put feelers out in the community to see if anyone was interested in running in her seat. No one had a serious or genuine interest in running. Some people said to let them know when she wanted to step back; when she approached them, they were uninterested. She did not quit at that point, but did consider that perhaps someone else may want that opportunity.

Ms. Wilson agrees with Mr. Brooks that the residents put them in these seats. It is their right to say who represents them. She feels that is the way it should be. She also feels that the individuals that have stayed the longest have the least hidden agendas. She recalled a few new council members who came with obvious agendas that were loud and clear. It is difficult to get things accomplished working with people under those conditions.

Ms. Wilson also feels it takes a couple years to make big decisions. Through her experience, she became knowledgeable of what was going on. She does not feel you can make sound decisions by new people coming on board all the time. It takes a while to learn as much as possible before you are really confident when deciding your vote. Though you depend on the leadership of your city manager, there can be questions.

She stressed that our residents have a say of whom they want to represent them and they have that opportunity every year right now. She also does not see the advantage of term limits.

Mr. Gleysteen agrees it takes a couple of years to be comfortable on council. He has been here two years and feels more at home today. He also agrees that there are council members that have agendas that can be disruptive to the city. In two years, they can be voted out. However, in eight years, what can those same people bring new to the table? He asked if it is important to have more participation in government or not. He said if you want to bring more participation to city council and term limits are not the way to do it after eight years, then what is the best way; there are only a dozen people here to decide.

Mr. Brooks said the answer is the democratic way which is through an election. It allows a person interested to run against the incumbent each year.

Mr. Gleysteen said it does not appear to be working because the last election was canceled because of the lack of contest. He said it is bad because it did not force him or someone else to knock on doors and see what people are thinking.

Mr. Brooks said that if Mr. Gleysteen wants to know what people think, then he recommends ward meetings. He and Mr. Morrow have had ward meetings off and on for years; Ms. Wilson said they have had them as well.

Mr. Brooks also said that any council member has the ability to get out and talk to their constituents. Go to Walmart, the grocery store or the ballpark and approach people. He said that is a sure way of finding out what people think.

Mr. Pikus said the discussion is good but controversial. Voting cannot occur this evening and the city manager recommended a charter committee be established.

Mr. Starling disagrees with that. He said he is against it and we are only creating another committee that will meet for the next two or three months. He feels that if someone has a problem with their council member, then within a year, they have the opportunity to run or they can get someone to run against them.

Mr. Brooks said he is confused because Mr. Gleysteen says we have a good city government and it is working. But he

wants it changed.

City Solicitor Rutt then explained that the planning commission is established by statute and states you can have five to nine members. It indicates how the commissioners are staggered in term appointment/reappointments. Initially, the appointments are for one, two and three years. On the fourth year, everyone is on a three-year rotation.

The city ordinance states we have nine members and establishes three years terms with the initial terms staggered. Because that is an ordinance, council has the right to adjust the ordinance but only for the planning commission.

City council terms fall under the charter. To do a charter amendment, there are two options. One is a resolution that comes out of council which must be passed by three-quarters majority (super majority) or six votes. It then goes through an election process of the electorate. That amendment must then be acted upon by the General Assembly.

The other way is for 10% of the eligible voters of the city to sign a petition to establish a charter commission. Once a charter commission is established, a general election is required where the voters would elect seven people to a charter commission. The charter commission then comes up with recommendations on the charter. That would then go to a general election.

He added that to get it from council or from the charter commission, a resolution is still required. If adopted, that goes to the General Assembly for legislative action.

Mr. Rutt emphasized that three-quarters of the members of council, or six council members must vote in favor of starting the process to amend the charter.

Mr. Brooks recalled we had many meetings for more than a year when the last charter amendment was proposed. It was a very long time before it was finally presented to the legislators.

Mr. Gleysteen confirmed that six votes are needed to proceed with the change; Mr. Rutt stated yes. Mr. Gleysteen said it is obvious there are not six votes and suggests the matter be dropped for now.

Mr. Pikus said that would be the appropriate thing to do at this time.

Mayor Rogers agreed that hearing the comments from council it does not believe there are six votes in favor of the change.

With no further business, the Workshop Session concluded at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Terri K. Hudson, MMC  
City Clerk/Recorder