

Official Copy

SPECIAL MEETING OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

NUMBER 10

March 22, 1974

PRESENTMAYOR HARRY KELLEY
PRESIDENT ROLAND POWELLCOUNCILMAN PURNELL
COUNCILMAN SHOWELL
COUNCILMAN FRAME
COUNCILMAN TRIMPER
COUNCILMAN RICHARDSON
COUNCILMAN CROPPERIN ATTENDANCE

Attorney Dale Cathell, City Solicitor

This Special Meeting of the Mayor and City Council was called to order at 9:30 a.m. in the Mayor's Office at 3rd Street and Baltimore Avenue, in Ocean City, Maryland.

President Powell stated the purpose of the special meeting was to announce the purchase of various parcels of land to be used as parking lots in the southern part of the Town of Ocean City.

Dale Cathell stated that these parcels that have been negotiated are the Parker House parcel from Mr. Musselman and the building called the Gables from S&S Hardware, Inc. All negotiations have been concluded. The only thing that remains is a motion from the City Council and a second, and the signing of the contract. So, a motion will be needed from one of the councilmen moving to purchase the property known as the Parker House, purchase price of which is \$42,000 with terms; and the purchase price of the S&S Hardware Inc. property is \$65,000 with terms. Councilman Frame made the motion to purchase the properties. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous by a show of hands, Councilman Showell asking to abstain from voting because he is a partner in S&S Hardware. Dale Cathell wished to make a further announcement that Bill Purnell and himself handled all negotiations for both pieces of property or through other real estate agents. And with reference to S&S Hardware, no contact was made by either of them with Mr. Showell, who in every instance always removed himself from any negotiations with reference to that property. It was our idea to get it, not their idea to sell it.

President Powell asked if there were any comments or questions on this matter. Councilman Cropper asked how many spaces this land would provide for parking. Councilman Purnell answered that the Parker House would give maybe 10 parking spaces and the Gables property, possibly 24 parking spaces. Attorney Cathell commented that other negotiations are continuing on other parcels of property. President Powell wanted to make sure these will be meter parking lots and Councilman Purnell assured him that they will be.

The Mayor then turned the council's attention to the energy crisis.

Mayor Kelley: I want the council to know, people were on the telephone yesterday, I have no assurance that any gasoline stations will be open at this point. But the people want to come here, and the Mayor has promised to get them home, so you know what that necessitates.

Councilman Purnell: I can't understand why these station owners don't want to open, they are opening everywhere else over the State.

Councilman Cropper: They don't have the gas.

Councilman Purnell: They've got the gas to sell on every other day of the week, why can't they close up on a Wednesday or Thursday, instead of Sunday? They're just being stubborn.

President Powell: We've asked them to do this very thing.

Mayor Kelley: I worked six hours last Friday and I will tell you what it

SPECIAL MEETING OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL NUMBER 10 MARCH 22, 1974 PAGE 2

did do, they're hot with me, you'd better believe it. They are some kind of mad.

Councilman Purnell: It's just being unreasonable.

President Powell: Catherine Massey got a load of gas.

Mayor Kelley: I know she did.

President Powell: I'll bet if we went to her, I think she would.

Mayor Kelley: Well, she's our only hope if the Governor doesn't come through today.

Councilman Purnell: There was an Exxon truck this morning out here at the Bridge Esso, or Exxon, and I know they've got gas.

Councilman Showell: A man told me that if you can get him the gas, he'll stay open every Sunday, if you can get him the gas.

Mayor Kelley: Who, Irv? Irv McCabe? He told me that.

Councilman Showell: No, it was another man.

President Powell: I think Warren will be open, but I can't guarantee it.

Mayor Kelley: What's that fellow's name, Tom Downs?

Councilman Cropper: Who?

Mayor Kelley: The Energy Chief of Maryland?

Councilman Frame: I don't think so.

Mayor Kelley: Tom is the Governor's man, isn't he?

President Powell: Well, Catherine's got some gas in, but she's not been open.

Councilman Cropper: What do they tell you when you ask them why they won't close one day and open up on Sunday?

Councilman Purnell: They don't tell you anything, they just don't want to open.

Mayor Kelley: Newt, I think the Eastern Shore Times, see this thing is probably, they went down to the County Commissioners, they didn't get anything done, they've been to the Governor's office, they didn't get anything done. I think the thing is in plain English we're talking, I don't want the press to print this, Irv sort of headed things up, right? Irv McCabe. I think they resent him, they won't organize, they won't get a president...

At this point the Mayor stops to take a call with Tom Downs regarding the gas situation.

Attorney Cathell begins speaking.

Attorney Cathell: ...the National, Federal Energy Legislation and the State Energy Legislation, so long as it doesn't conflict with either one, they might be able to give you some power in reference to closing down stations, I do not think that anybody has the power to force one open. And I don't think you can pass a law to force one to open.

Councilman Trimper: But if you had an ordinance where we could do this, they might cooperate a little better.

Mayor Kelley: Well, let's wait and see what they come back with because if we get the gasoline in here and it doesn't bother our allocation program, you see, you know, we could use our emergency, but I don't want to use those, that's how I feel, we might need that in the summer.

Councilman Purnell: But gasoline isn't that short right now, I know up and down wherever I go, they have plenty of gas.

Councilman Showell: We were up around Baltimore yesterday, you can't get gas up there.

Councilman Trimper: There's a service station over past Salisbury, they have plenty of gas over there.

Councilman Showell: Somebody told me, I don't know where, that every closed station that there is anywhere that have got tanks in the ground, those tanks are full.

Mayor Kelley: A lot of places. You know, I was so frustrated last Friday, now I'm serious, that I felt like calling the Attorney General, now I'm serious, and getting him down here with his deputies and making these gas stations some way or another let us put a stick down there to see how much gas they had. I'm serious, I don't know whether I could have gotten the job done or not.

SPECIAL MEETING OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL NUMBER 10 MARCH 22, 1974 PAGE 3

Councilman Trimper: I think a little bit of our problem is right here with the station owners.

Mayor Kelley: Oh, it is. I found that out last Friday. Granville, I stayed in my house until 7:30. Mrs. Thomas and I tried until after 4:00, we didn't get anything done, I went home and kept right on until 7:30 at night, and I don't get one station open. I get a busy signal, well we're sorry, we're sorry, we've got to take care of next week. That's a pretty bad attitude boys, and I would just like for you to read some of the letters that I get. One guy says I'm not even going to open the letter if you answer, and here we come Myrtle Beach. And the personality of Ocean City has changed, you know, you don't care, this is what I've got.

Councilman Showell: You know, in all fairness to him, this one station I've just been speaking about has got less than 3,000 gallons for the whole month of March, that's all he's gotten, 3,000 gallons. That doesn't last one day.

Councilman Trimper: There's some of them that aren't getting much, but there are some that I believe are getting it too.

Attorney Cathell: I think the philosophy of the local filling stations is if they can precipitate a crisis on a weekend, if they can have a weekend where 10,000 people all were getting stranded in the middle of Philadelphia Avenue, that the publicity will be so great that their allotments will be increased.

Councilman Trimper: I think that's what they're trying to do, they're trying to make it look so bad so they can get more gas, I really do.

President Powell: You could be right.

Councilman Purnell: You don't believe that do you Granville?

Councilman Trimper: Yes, I do.

Mayor Kelley: Well, there's something up, and you can believe it because let me tell you something, when you pay somebody to open and you can't get them open, it's not, you know, Mrs. Thomas felt and I felt that maybe one of them would give us a call back, but we're...

Attorney Cathell: Another serious possibility, Mayor, is that it had appeared to me from that meeting and from what I've heard from you, that they are operating in concert as far as closing on Sunday. They are getting together, with 2 or 3 exceptions, and you're getting the same response from anybody, which may very well be in restraint of trade, and it raises some serious implications.

Mayor Kelley: Well, I think the important thing is that they got very irate at the Mayor, you know, and called him up and blistered him. And I think this is good, that I did stir somebody. I have no qualms about it, I'm tickled to death that I made somebody mad. Maybe we'll get some action.

Councilman Trimper: I think that by staying closed on Sundays they think they are going to make you do just what we're doing right now. Keep calling the Governor and everybody to get more gas down here.

Mayor Kelley: Listen, Granville, do you know that last weekend was one of the best, I talked to the merchants, the restaurants and this is good, if we get this back to the city. But we've got a responsibility as a city council and Mayor to represent all peoples, just not those filling stations. We're looking at the whole picture, but the filling stations, I guess, they have been really, they've been, some of them really don't know what's going on and that's the truth. They don't know that it's an allocation and distribution, they say why don't the gas companies tell us more. It isn't their distributor's fault, it is the government and State's fault the way it is happening. It is allocation and distribution. But they have been so disillusioned not knowing what they are going to get and what's going to happen to them. Maybe this is part of the problem, Granville.

Councilman Showell: You're right, because, the distributor that I talked to said they have all the gas that they needed, but the Federal Government told them what they could put...

Mayor Kelley: Right, that's their problem.

This page shall be put on page 32-9 when book is broken down.

SPECIAL MEETING OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL NUMBER 10 MARCH 22, 1974 PAGE 4

Councilman Cropper: Here's another problem, if you really want to be honest about it. Everybody kind of really looks out after their own business, they would be fools if they didn't.

Mayor Kelley: But they realize that that is only 5% of their business, see. 95% of it has got to be from the visitors who come here and if we don't get them, they can forget this other 5% of workmen and you and me, because we won't have the money to buy it with.

Councilman Cropper: Before you go enacting legislation to force anything, I think you ought to keep all the lines of communication open, until you can really find out if we are going to get gas or not.

Mayor Kelley: Well, I sure wish you would help me. You're doing all the talk now. We'll call you on this.

Councilman Frame: Why don't you try asking them for their cooperation, asking them to stay open because of these people coming in?

Councilman Cropper: Right, Warren.

Mayor Kelley: What are you going to tell them?

Councilman Trimper: What did we actually call this meeting for, I'm not going to be here all day.

President Powell: This will only take us ten minutes.

Councilman Trimper: I've never seen anything we've done yet only take us ten minutes. If this is something else, it should be brought up at another meeting or something.

After some personal discussions and conversations, President Powell adjourned this Special Meeting of the Mayor and City Council.

Transcribed by (Mrs.) Patricia Adams
for (Mrs.) Viola S. Thomas

Patricia Adams

Approved meeting as dated above.