

**HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING
OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE**

August 4, 2009

3:45 P.M.

Councilwoman Robinson, Chairman, called the meeting of the Health, Human Services and Housing Opportunities Committee to order with Councilmen Benson, Gilbert, Scott, Ladd, Berz, Rico and McGary present. City Attorney Michael McMahan and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

ZONING AND CONDITIONS PLACED ON PROPERTIES

Chairman Robinson explained that this discussion was precipitated by people believing they had bought property in an R-2 Zone and finding it was actually R-1, and they were out of zone for the purpose they wished.

Barry Bennett of RPA responded to this concern, stating that it was more far-reaching than just an RPA issue and also involved GIS, Public Works, and the County; that the problem basically was incompatibility with our information systems and the fact that 99% of zoning cases have conditions that do not translate from one system to another. He noted that our equipment is outdated, making it difficult to get critical correct information to the public, which is critical with VW coming to town and new housing. He turned the meeting over to Greg Haynes for a video presentation.

Mr. Haynes explained that prior to 2002, we used paper copies, which are still kept up to date and the public can see zoning maps. Since 2002, everything has gone to computers, which is more efficient. He mentioned the desk-top base for RPA updates that the public can view and also the GIS website. Cases older than 2002 are not in the system, and we have to go back to the paper system. The main two needs are the manpower to put the old cases (3,000 or more) into the system, which would take 6-8 months and a new software system to integrate. He asked Greg Butler with Hamilton County GIS to speak.

Mr. Butler explained that we needed to update the desk-top GIS and put it into a format to enable us to move from one data base to another and put all on one data base.

Councilman McGary expressed dissatisfaction with the “disclaimer”, with Mr. Haynes noting that conditions are the problem, prompting Councilman McGary to ask if we implemented a new software system if the conditions would be more visible, which they would be.

Dickie Hutsell and Debie Mikel also expressed the need for a new system.

Mr. Bennett expressed the desire to bring the seriousness of this problem to the Council's attention from the public's standpoint; that if this was something the Council was interested in, they would try to assign some figures of cost to it. Mr. Butler stated that initially it would be expensive but the maintenance would be cheaper.

Councilwoman Robinson was in favor of adopting this system with Councilwoman Berz wanting a cost analysis to see the cost savings—not just the cost of the software but the savings in people. Councilwoman Ladd looked at this from the standpoint of annexation and the help we might get in this transition and the need to prepare for growth. It was noted that this was not as great an issue in the County and their participation might not be as great. Councilman Benson suggested looking at raising our user fees to sustain the cost. The timeframe was discussed, with Mr. Butler explaining that a customized program to meet our needs, which was the route recommended, would take longer and cost more—that a ballpark time figure would be 250 hours. It was determined that the need exists and Mr. Bennett is to come up with some figures.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.