APPROVED: Meeting No. 26-95

ATTEST: Paula J. Jewell

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 12-95

February 21, 1995

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Public Hearing in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on February 21, 1995, at 7:40 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor James F. Coyle

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember Nina A. Weisbroth

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, City Clerk Paula Jewell and City Attorney Paul Glasgow.

Re: Public Hearing: Exploratory Application for Residential Townhouse Development RTH94-0013, TTC/Veirs Associates Limited Partnership, Applicant.

The Mayor and Council conducted a public hearing on an Exploratory Application for 40 residential townhouse units and retention of the existing dwelling at 1603 Aintree Drive. The Mayor and Council heard all those persons whose names can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to testify, Mayor Coyle declared the public hearing closed at 10:57 p.m., with the record to remain open until March 25, 1995.

(Following a brief recess, the Mayor and Council reconvened)

Re: Citizens Forum (There were no citizens who wished to address the Mayor and Council.)

Re: FYI/Correspondence

1. Councilmember Dorsey remarked that on February 20, he attended the legislative party sponsored by Rockville's Delegates in Annapolis. Last week, Mr. Dorsey said that he had an opportunity to "shadow" Senator Jennie Forehand; he was able to see each of the City's Legislators at work and he was also officially announced on the floor of the Senate.

2. Councilmember Marrinan noted F.Y.I. Item #6 regarding the Courthouse Square demolition and he asked Mr. Kuckkahn to report on the gas main rupture that occurred. Mr. Kuckkahn reported that early this afternoon, the construction crew in Courthouse Square struck a 3-inch gas main that was located under an old trolley track. Apparently, the backhoe operator felt some resistance and thought it was caused by the trolley track when it was actually the gas line. Mr. Kuckkahn said the situation was quite serious; the City's Police had to secure the perimeter, a number of roads were closed, and Town Center businesses and other agencies had to be evacuated, including City Hall, because of concerns about the condition of the air inside the building. By 2 p.m., the gas main was stabilized and is in the process of being repaired.

Mayor Coyle asked if this type of incident was going to be an ongoing problem with all of the construction taking place around Town Center. He asked if there were any precautions that could be taken by Rockville Center, Inc. and the construction companies in

order to avoid having to shut down businesses. Mr. Kuckkahn said that while the gas main was clearly shown on the plan, future occurrences would probably be avoided as everyone became increasingly familiar with the site and where the utility lines were located. Mayor Coyle asked if any reparations were made to the businesses as a result of the costs associated with the incident. Mr. Kuckkahn said that the developer was fully insured and bonded and although there was the potential for this, none was anticipated. Mayor Coyle also suggested staff look at this issue and let the Mayor and Council know if any such action should be taken to restore some of the costs incurred by the community.

In response to a question from Councilmember Krasnow regarding jurisdiction, Mr. Kuckkahn said that the County fire operations determined which buildings needed to be evacuated. He said that at approximately 12:15 p.m., staff called the Command Vehicle and asked for direction and the response was to evacuate immediately. Ms. Krasnow suggested that the City may want to follow up with the appropriate jurisdiction to try and minimize impact from future occurrences. Ms. Krasnow said she was distressed that the issue was lack of site familiarity, and she said since the site was marked, the gas main should not have been hit. Mayor Coyle suggested that the Mayor and Council and staff may want to re-review the City/County Emergency Response Plan.

Re: Next meeting

The Mayor and Council will meet in General Session on February 27, 1995.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 p.m. to reconvene in General Session on February 27, 1995 at 7:30 p.m., or at the call of the Mayor.