

**City of Brunswick**  
**Mayor and Council Workshop Meeting Minutes**  
Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and Council Workshop Meeting was convened at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Snoots at Brunswick City Hall. The following members and staff were present: John Dayton, Mayor Pro Tem; Nathan Brown, Tom Smith, Andy St. John, Vaughn Ripley, and Angel White, Council Members; Dave Dunn, City Administrator; Milt Frech, Chief of Police.

**Vacant Property Ordinance – Dave Severn, City Attorney**

Mr. Severn stated Frederick City was discussing a VPO for registration of vacant properties charging a registration fee increasing over a three year period, i.e., 1.5%, 1.75%, 2.0%, beginning at the end of the first year. Percent can be anything with justification.

Councilman St. John - Recommended removing all exemptions. Prorate the property tax relative to percent of building space vacant.

Councilman Smith – Questioned if Fire Marshal’s Office could inspect vacant properties for violations.

Councilman Brown – Recommended higher property taxes and include non-residential buildings in program. Maybe include buildings where electric and or water service has been cut off.

Dave Severn – Summarized possible changes to VPO. Include property registration, consent to inspections, etc.

Dave Dunn stated he contacted Diane Fox, Frederick County Tax Office, to ensure if the option of a higher property tax rate on vacant properties was legislated with the County software, which produces City property tax invoices to residents. Ms. Fox stated the software was able to handle different rates. She also stated State Code requires defining different classes for different tax rates, Section 6-303 and 6-604.

City Code revisions discussion – Discussed through Chapter 3. Council suggested only review sections as identified by Council at next Workshop.

The workshop ended at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by: Dave Dunn

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| Approved By: | <u>Jeffrey T. Snoots</u> | <u>2/13/2020</u> | Witnessed By: | <u>Dave Dunn</u>   | <u>2/12/20</u> |
|              | Mayor                    | Date             |               | City Administrator | Date           |