



TOWN COUNCIL

Work Session

Town Hall

September 27, 2012

6:00 PM

At 6:00 p.m., Vice Mayor Chris Bannon, having established a quorum, called to order the Work Session of Town Council. In addition to Vice Mayor Bannon, present were Councilmen Godwin, Sullivan and Veber and Councilwoman Natali. Councilman Wendell arrived at 6:01 p.m. Mayor Sullivan was not in attendance. Also present were Town Manager Heather Arcos, Assistant Town Manager Bob Panek, Town Planner Tom Bonadeo, Police Chief Charles Brown and Town Clerk Libby Hume. There were 2 members of the public in attendance.

Vice Mayor Bannon announced the business for the evening would be to discuss boat trailer parking.

Town Manager Heather Arcos stated that at the September meeting Council voted to send this issue to a work session. Tom Bonadeo and Charles Brown were in attendance this evening to answer any questions regarding this issue. Currently, the Town did not have the authority to regulate boats being parked on the street and there was a conflict in the Town Code. In order for the Town to get the authority to enforce boat trailer parking, a request must be submitted to the legislature to modify Virginia Code §46.2-1222.1 to include the Town of Cape Charles.

Tom Bonadeo added that in a previous revision of the Town Code, various sections were deleted or changed with the exception of § 42-90 which was evidently missed.

Heather Arcos stated that in September 2011, a few complaints were received regarding boats being stored on the streets. Chief Brown surveyed the Town's streets and noted 22 boats parked on the streets. Currently, there were 12 boats parked on the streets. Chief Brown interjected that the 12 boats were parked here year-round and the majority were registered out of state.

There was some discussion regarding the number of boats registered in Town and the number of complaints.

Vice Mayor Bannon suggested that the Town could allow seasonal boat parking possibly from May through October. Tom Bonadeo agreed that allowing boats to be parked on the streets could possibly bring visitors to the Town.

Tom Bonadeo added that even though the Town currently did not have the authority to regulate boat parking, the police department could require a boat to be moved if it was determined to be unsafe or an obstruction. There was discussion regarding the narrowness of some of the Town's streets and the widths of the boats.

Heather Arcos stated that it was not the Town's intent to discourage people from having boats or visiting the Town and bringing their boats and added that complaints were usually about boats being stored on the street for an extended period of time.

Tom Bonadeo noted that the purpose of this meeting was to determine whether Council wanted to submit a request to the General Assembly giving the Town the authority to regulate boat parking if deemed necessary. If Council voted to proceed, the request would be submitted to the Town's representative in November for review by the General Assembly in January. If successful, the Town could have authority effective July 1, 2013.

After further discussion, Vice Mayor Bannon polled the Council members in order to direct staff on how to proceed with this issue. Vice Mayor Bannon, Councilwoman Natali and Councilman Sullivan were in favor of submitting a request to the General Assembly to get the authority to regulate boat trailer parking. Councilmen Godwin, Veber and Wendell stated that they did not believe regulation was necessary at this time.

Heather Arcos informed Council that the current language in the Town Code needed to be modified so as not to be in conflict with the Code of Virginia.

Motion made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Veber, to adjourn the Town Council Work Session. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Vice Mayor Bannon

Town Clerk