



TOWN COUNCIL
Public Hearing
St. Charles Parish Hall
May 10, 2012
6:00 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m. Mayor Dora Sullivan, having established a quorum, called to order the Public Hearing of the Town Council. In addition to Mayor Sullivan, present were Vice Mayor Bannon, Councilmen Bennett, Evans, and Sullivan and Councilwoman Natali. Councilman Veber was not in attendance. Also in attendance were Councilmen-Elect Donald Clarke and Frank Wendell along with Town Manager Heather Arcos, Assistant Town Manager Bob Panek and Town Clerk Libby Hume. The Department Heads were also in attendance along with approximately 80 members of the public.

Mayor Sullivan announced that the evening's Public Hearing was to hear public comment regarding the proposed modifications to Sections 70-35 and 71-42 of the Cape Charles Town Code and the Northampton County Public Service Authority Ordinance Amendment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lenora Mitchell, 309 Tazewell Avenue

Ms. Mitchell addressed the Town Council expressing her opposition to the proposed modifications to the connection fees for water and sewer services. The change would benefit one entity and would not be for the greater good of the community. The working class people of this community had not received any consideration or compassion when it came to Town employees enforcing the Town Codes. The letter of the law was followed. Some of the Codes were repressive, oppressive and depressive. Now we know that they were not set in stone and could be changed when the right situation presented itself. Reportedly, a resident complained about the water utility bill to a Councilman whose response was that "if you could not afford to live here, you needed to move." This was the wrong answer. Ms. Mitchell stated that if it were her, she would have told the individual where they could move. If Council wanted to change the Code, change the utility code. The water utility increased every few months and right after the increase, citizens received a water quality report suggesting that if an individual had medical issues they should check with their doctor before consuming the water. The utility code needed to be changed along with the 10% penalty, the \$30 fee for late payments, and the termination of services. The bills kept coming. People were charged for vacant lots, vacant uninhabitable structures and other vacant structures. Change the Code that stated that residents could be evicted from their property for not having running water after their services were terminated. Even after their services were terminated, the residents were still being billed monthly for the services. That Code change would be for the greater good of the people.

There were no other comments from the public nor any written comments submitted prior to the meeting.

Mayor Sullivan adjourned the Town Council Public Hearing by unanimous consent.

Mayor Sullivan

Town Clerk