



TOWN COUNCIL
Public Hearing
Town Hall
October 13, 2011
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, Sullivan and Veber and Councilwoman Natali. Also in attendance were Town Manager Heather Arcos, Assistant Town Manager Bob Panek, Harbor Master Smitty Dize, Town Planner Tom Bonadeo and Town Clerk Libby Hume. There were also 12 members of the public in attendance.

Mayor Sullivan stated that this evening's Public Hearing was being held to hear public comment regarding the proposed lease of public property for a possible restaurant at the Cape Charles Harbor and the Northampton County Regional Water Supply Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Miriam Elton, 548 Madison Avenue

Ms. Elton stated that she wanted to express her support regarding the lease for a restaurant at the Harbor. Ms. Elton added that she did not know a lot about it but felt that a restaurant would be great for the Town especially if it was a simple restaurant serving crabs, clams, shrimp, etc. Ms. Elton stated that she was not sure if the restaurant was proposed as a seasonal restaurant or not but hoped that more information would be provided tonight.

Marita Patterson, 15 Carissa Court

Ms. Patterson stated that she also wanted to express her support for the restaurant and added that what Harbor Master Smitty Dize was at the Harbor was amazing. Ms. Patterson stated that she thought a new restaurant would be fabulous and agreed with Ms. Elton that something simple and easy served on brown paper would do wonderful things for the Town.

Malcolm Hayward, 121 Strawberry Street

Mr. Hayward informed the Council that he concurred with the two previous speakers and asked Council to consider the issue of connection fees for water and sewer since the Town owns the property where the restaurant would be located. Should the restaurateur be responsible for paying these fees when they did not own the property? Mr. Hayward concluded by asking Council to demonstrate their wiliness to be more business-friendly and give this issue due consideration.

Sean Ingram, P O Box 2020, Cheriton

Mr. Ingram stated that he concurred highly with Mr. Hayward and that the individual was able and capable of taking on this restaurant project but with the property being a leased property, added that anything the Town could do to ease the financial burden in

the beginning would be beneficial. Mr. Ingram stated that he believed that the revenue stream from this project, post production, would be fantastic as well as what it could do for the Town as far as giving the residents another choice in dining establishments.

Dave Burden

Mr. Burden thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak and added that he was hoping there would be a presentation about the proposed restaurant before the floor was opened for comments so the speakers would know more about the project before giving expressing their thoughts. Mr. Burden went on to state that he heard the concerns regarding the water issue and that Messrs. Hayward and Ingram stated it perfectly in that the lessee should not be expected to pay for the infrastructure on the leased property but that it should be part of the lease deal. This was a great opportunity for the Town. Mr. Burden added that what the Council and Smitty Dize have done at the Harbor was fantastic but anything that could be done to remove roadblocks and keep this progress moving forward was a great thing for the Town. Mr. Burden stated that he hoped that Council would take this opportunity to look at this issue and deal with the tough aspects of negotiating a deal keeping in mind that this individual was committed to the community and wanted to build something great that would help all of us. Mr. Burden concluded by stating that he was really looking forward to seeing it all happen.

Libby Hume read the following comment from Mr. Erin Harvey of 123 Peach Street that was submitted via email.

“I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for a waterfront restaurant at the town harbor. I understand that the town has proposed levying huge fees on the potential tenant for water and sewer hookups. This restaurant would represent a huge boon for the town's local residents and would finally fill what is an obvious gaping hole in our tourists' experiences here. We need this restaurant to succeed. Please consider waiving the short term benefits of these fees and do whatever is possible to make this restaurant a more attractive investment for its financiers and a more successful business in Cape Charles. A success at our waterfront would help all of our businesses in the long run.”

There were no other comments submitted prior to the hearing.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Bannon, seconded by Councilman Bennett, to close the Town Council Public Hearing. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Mayor Sullivan

Town Clerk