



TOWN COUNCIL & PLANNING COMMISSION
Joint Public Hearing
Cape Charles Civic Center
October 7, 2014
6:00 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m. Chairman Dennis McCoy, having established a quorum, called to order the Public Hearing of the Planning Commission. In addition to Chairman McCoy, present were Commissioners Andy Buchholz, Dan Burke, Joan Natali, Sandra Salopek, Bill Stramm, and Mike Strub. Also in attendance were Town Planner Rob Testerman and Assistant Town Clerk Amanda Hurley. There were 6 members of the public in attendance.

Vice Mayor Chris Bannon, having established a quorum, called to order the Public Hearing of the Town Council. In addition to Vice Mayor Bannon, present were Councilmen Bennett, Brown and Godwin and Councilwoman Natali. Mayor Proto and Councilman Wendell were not in attendance.

Dennis McCoy announced that the evening's Joint Public Hearing was to hear public comment regarding the proposed backyard chicken ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Deborah Bender, 300 Fulcher Street

Ms. Bender spoke in opposition of the chicken ordinance. Please see attached.

Karen Gay, 506 Monroe Avenue

Ms. Gay spoke in support of the chicken ordinance.

Veann Duvall, 110 Tazewell Avenue

Ms. Duvall spoke in opposition of the chicken ordinance.

Sherry & Paul Eulitt, 102 Madison Avenue

Mr. & Mrs. Eulitt submitted their comments in writing and Assistant Town Clerk Amanda Hurley read the comments into the record. Please see attached.

There were no other public comments to be heard nor any other written comments submitted prior to the hearing.

Motion made by Dan Burke, seconded by Joan Natali, to close the Planning Commission Public Hearing. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Motion made by Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilman Bennett, to adjourn the Town Council Public Hearing. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Chairman Dennis McCoy

Vice Mayor Chris Bannon

Asst. Town Clerk

Comments Submitted in Writing

October 7, 2014 Joint Public Hearing

Deborah Bender, 300 Fulcher Street

Over a year ago someone came to the town with a desire to have chickens in their yard. All well and good if you have a wide lot and neighbors that don't mind. I, however, would mind.

Chickens are farm animals and should have more space than the little coops that would be appropriate in a town of this size.

To allow chickens in town is wrong. Many of the lots in this town are very narrow. Imagine it if people on both sides of your home have chickens and you want to entertain in your backyard on a hot summer day. The coops could be smelly, very smelly.

Who will be the person to check out these coops and see that they are cleaned regularly?

If you, as our council, decide to allow chickens it should be on a case by case basis. If I, for instance, want to have chickens, I should be required to ask my neighbors, in writing if they would mind. The neighbors behind my house and the houses on both sides would all have to agree. If any of my neighbors are renting and move I would have to get permission from the new tenants. If just one neighbor says no chickens...case closed.

We as a town have paid our town planner at least \$25,000.00 to figure this out. We have paid the town's attorney to "think about this."

This is getting ridiculous.

You say people were surveyed concerning this issue. I never got any kind of questionnaire in the mail.

It is my understanding that many residents in Bay Creek said no regarding the chickens and you want to disregard their answers.

If Bay Creek residents can vote for town council members then their votes and comments should be taken into account on the chicken issue.

You, as council, sure took the Bay Creek residents voices and comments seriously when you wanted to sell the one hundred year old school, the basketball court and a historic street to a developer.

Now you must, in all fairness, hear their voices now.

*****'

Paul & Sherry Eulitt, 102 Madison Avenue (via email)

Libby/Rob,

Regretfully we will not be able to attend tonight's joint public hearing on subject matter which is very important to us.

If you would convey the following we'd certainly appreciate it.

We continue to strongly oppose to any ordinance that would allow chickens (or other undomesticated [farm] animals) within the Town of Cape Charles. Virginia's Eastern Shore encompasses numerous acres of rural land on which this activity is allowed and precious little where those of us who would rather 'pay for eggs' enclave rather than be subjected to the nuisances surrounding this activity. We believe the Town of Cape Charles founding fathers meant to preserve this pristine and serene town environment for citizens who choose not live on or near a farm. This should continue to be the tenets of the "Historic District".

We appreciate you keeping us informed and look forward to a continued chicken-less Town of Cape Charles.

Sincerely,

Paul & Sherry Eulitt