

TOWN OF CHARLOTTE COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA
PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015
6:00 pm

A public hearing of the Charlotte Court House Town Council was held on Monday, October 19, 2015 at 6:00 pm. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear comments from interested citizens regarding a proposal to either sell the Town municipal building and donate the funds to the Charlotte Court House Volunteer Fire Department (CCHVFD), or sell the municipal building to the Charlotte Court House Volunteer Fire Department.

Mayor Walker and Council Members Andrews, Kurdt, Watkins and Jones were present.

Mayor Walker called the public hearing to order.

Gary Walker stated his support for the CCHVFD, but stated that he was unsure of what they could afford to do. He stated his opposition to tearing down any part of the municipal building. He stated that the building is probably more valuable than people realize, that Route 40 is valuable to the Town's future, and that he hoped that the Council would take that into consideration when making a decision. Mr. Walker stated that it "may not happen in our lifetimes, but some day when business does come to Charlotte Court House, this street is where it will have to be located." He stated that he is not opposed to the fire department building a new facility, and he knows that a lot of time and consideration has been put into the endeavor, and that the right decision will be made. He thanked the Council and VFD for their service.

Terry Ramsey stated that he fully supports the CCHVFD and that he did some research and found that resident's insurance ratings are tied to the VFD rating. He stated that although the name is Charlotte Court House Fire & Rescue, they provide service to a greater area than just the Town, and as such they receive county funding in addition to Town funding and personal donations. Mr. Ramsey stated that of primary concern are transparency and accountability. He stated that it didn't make sense to buy a building and then tear it down, and that if the Town wants to sell the building to help the fire dept., then [they] need to be transparent about it. If it was sold for less than fair market value, then it wouldn't be clear how much would be considered sale proceeds versus donation. He stated the need for accountability, saying that VFD budgets should be submitted to the Town and County and that if the VFD wants to build a new fire house they should create a business plan, which would detail how money would be raised and spent. Mr. Ramsey stated that he supports a good VFD and a good building that suits their needs; however he feels that there should be a good business plan and involvement from the County, Town and its citizens.

With no further comments or questions, the public hearing was closed.

Stephen D. Walker, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen K. Price, Clerk of Council