

**Town of Windham
Town Council
Public Hearing
May 3, 2011, 6:00 pm
Town Hall Meeting Room**

Minutes

Mayor Ernest Eldridge called the public hearing to order at 6:02 p.m.

Matt Vertefeulle explained changes to the ordinance. He gave a brief update on the fees and the wording changes to reflect the current form of government.

Jeff Viens, spoke against the additional fees to the landlords in town. He stated that \$30 per unit is thievery. Mr. Viens mentioned that all landlords pay taxes.

Pam Viens, business owner for 12 years stated that as landlords they struggle, they run the town and buy locally.

John Walker, Shoe Smith business owner and landlord stated that he gets inspected all the time from Section 8 and the Town. His concern was that tenants feel uncomfortable with having to many government officials going in their homes.

Joel Myers, Hilltop Section of Willimantic, stated that there were a lot of empty seats. He mentioned that he asked about the fees over a year ago and gave some feedback but the town didn't care because he does not see any of the recommendations listed.

Charlie Kratt stated he owns a home and is directly affected by the changes. He is concern about the tenants who will have a rent increase due to the fees imposed on the landlords. He suggests that we should charge for brush.

Heather Meehan, Meehan and Daughters, stated that taxes increase every year, fees go up but the services continue to get cut to the landlords. She spoke about bulky waste pick-up and spoke against the fees per unit. Ms. Meehan mentioned that it is going to affect the tenants because they will need to increase the rents.

Lori Jeffers stated that the Town Council needs to stop micromanaging the lives of the residents. She spoke regarding Frog Bridge Apartments and low income housing.

Christopher Shepard stated that besides checking licenses in town he is also a property owner and is disappointed at the Town Council for not being present. Mr. Shepard informed the Town Council members present that most of the landlords in town are present in the room, but the bad landlords are not and is not fair that all landlords are being punished

Doug Lary, Summit Street, Willimantic, stated that Chris did a good job and that most of the problems are with the landlords who are not here. Mr. Lary is in favor of the ordinance as is and he has been pushing for inspections for a long time.

Leo Santucci, 14 Windham Street, Willimantic, spoke in favor of the ordinance and understands landlords concerns. He understands the economy is not the greatest but the Town has not been inspecting units on a year to year basis and the town is falling behind.

Public hearing adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted By:

Neida I. Rosado
Clerk of the Council