



CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

4:00 P.M.

Council Chambers-City Hall

PRESENT

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford
Mayor Pro Tem Jeffrey R. Graham
Councilmember Stephen Smoak
Councilmember Joanna B. Craig
Councilmember Deborah H. Davis
City Clerk Brenda Davis

City Manager Jonathan Rorie
Assistant City Manager Caitlin Young
Finance Director Debra Courtney
Attorney Lawrence Flynn (absent)
Chronicle-Independent Gee Whetsel
and interested citizens

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford called the Camden City Council Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Deborah Hudson Davis opened the council meeting with the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council, on motion by Councilmember Davis, seconded by Councilmember Craig, voted unanimously to adopt the Camden City Council Meeting minutes of June 28, 2022.

PUBLIC FORUM

Gene Loveland, resident of Knotty Pine Road Westville, spoke regarding his concerns of the recent electric rate increase and fuel adjustment surcharge. Mr. Loveland spoke against the recent increases and said Camden's utility system is outdated and dilapidated.

Carrie Johnson, resident of Fletcher Drive, Westville, spoke regarding her concerns of the recent rate increases. Mrs. Johnson spoke against the increase and addressed her concerns regarding the lack of transparency.

Drew Cooper, resident of Kirkwood Circle, spoke regarding her concerns of the recent increases. Mrs. Cooper spoke against the electric rate increase and fuel adjustment surcharge and also addressed her concerns regarding the lack of transparency.

Joe Nester, resident of South Hill Lane, spoke regarding his concerns of the recent increases. Mr. Nester also spoke against the electric rate increase and fuel charge increase and believes the increases should have been phased-in.

Drennan Riggins, resident of Woodside Drive, spoke regarding his concerns of the recent electric rate increase and fuel adjustment surcharge. Mr. Riggins also spoke against the increases and requested a \$50 flat rate fee adjustment instead of the combined increases.



Linda Walters Atkins, resident of Mill Street, spoke regarding her concerns of the electric rate increase and fuel adjustment surcharge. Mrs. Atkins also spoke against the increases and proposed that Duke Energy take over the utilities.

John Allen, resident of Forest Drive, spoke regarding his concerns of the electric rate increase and fuel adjustment surcharge. Mr. Allen spoke against the increases and requested more information on why there was an increase.

Joanne Waldron, resident of Broad Street, spoke regarding her concerns of the recent rate increases. Mrs. Waldron spoke regarding how the city utility bills are calculated and request more transparency.

Andy Spitzer, resident of Hackamore Lane, spoke regarding his concerns of the recent rate increases. Mr. Spitzer also spoke against the electric rate increase and fuel adjustment surcharge, addressed the way increase was communicated and requested the city seek a new utility provider.

John Paul Smith, resident of Hunt Cup Lane, spoke regarding his concerns of the recent rate increases. Mr. Smith requested facts in data be presented as to why there was a rate increase and also request better transparency.

ORDINANCE #2022-017 2nd Reading

Council, on motion by Mayor Pro Tem Graham, seconded by Councilmember Craig, voted unanimously to approve an ordinance authorizing an application for a Special Property Assessment for a historic property; and other matters related thereto. (Property located at 1029 Broad Street)

ORDINANCE #2022-018 2nd Reading

Council, on motion by Councilmember Smoak, seconded by Councilmember Craig, voted unanimously to approve an ordinance assigning a Final Zoning Classification to property located at 399 Black River Road.

APPROVAL OF LEADER’S LEGACY RECOGNITION

Council, on motion by councilmember Craig, seconded by councilmember Davis, voted unanimously for the approval of Leader’s Legacy Recognition for the following individual: Billy Shepherd.

COUNCIL TOPICS

None.



STAFF TOPICS

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

City Manager Jon Rorie made a presentation as to why there was a rate increase, acknowledged the city’s transparency, and what if any options were available to avoid the recent increase in electric rate and fuel surcharge.

Why was here an increase? : Cost of power has gone up and natural gas is up 30.2%.

Due to public interruption, the presentation wasn’t presented in its entirety.

Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation dated July 12, 2022 for additional information on the electric rate increase and fuel adjustment surcharge and City Manager Jon Rorie addressing public concerns.

City Manager Jon Rorie mentioned he would stay after the meeting was adjourned if anyone wanted to address their concerns.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the Council Meeting at 4:50 pm.

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford

Attest:

Brenda Davis, City Clerk