In board and council meetings, the public’s representatives shouldn’t fear the public

April 20, 2010

When Hugh Bassette explained to city council members at the Hampton City Council meeting last week, he knew there wasn’t going to be any dialogue about personal affairs — in other neighborhoods or elsewhere in the city. Bassette is not a fan of the public input section, the so-called "roundtable," which is held at the start of meetings to let residents air their concerns. When Bassette stepped up to the microphone at the Hampton City Council meeting last week, he knew there wasn’t going to be any dialogue about personal affairs — in other neighborhoods or elsewhere in the city. Bassette is not a fan of the public input section, the so-called “roundtable,” which is held at the start of meetings to let residents air their concerns.

Bassette talked to the Hampton council, but the situation he encountered seems to be common: governing bodies that don’t engage the public during the public input parts of their meetings.

“Terrible” when questions can be answered

Bassette was asked to eliminate sidewalks, gutters or attend Hampton city council meetings in the future, since Bassette brings it up on a regular basis, Burgess-complicated groups, or that council members were put off by the questions that are likely to come up.

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