Civil Discourse Essay

LSEM

Sam DiLandro

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For this Civil Discourse Essay, I attended the November 8th FarmVille Town Council meeting. I have to say it was cool, to be honest, for only ever having been to one Town Council meeting before in my home town.

To begin, civility to me means beings respectful to everyone and everything on all levels. I believe it is key when participating in activities specific to one’s community, like tonight’s Town Council meeting. This meeting I feel had some great examples of civil discourse, which I define as simply civil conversations. There were two key moments when this came up: during the discussions on the roundabout situation downtown, where a citizen stood before the council and addressed his concern with the issue of a roundabout in the downtown area, and during the conversation between council members about which days to take off for the upcoming Thanksgiving, Christmas and early January holiday seasons. One councilman in particular, whom of which I did not catch the name, went into length on how he felt the days taken off at the Town Council offices should reflect those of the workers in the town of Farmville (that is what I took from the situation, I couldn’t quite type fast enough to record the details, I just remember that was the issue and there were councilmen who disagreed with it). They ended up voting to keep the same holiday days off as they had done in the past year, and they had voted to do this 4-2.

There was a point during the meeting that did cause some uproar in me particular, I do not know if anyone else felt this way though. It happened to be the opening of the meeting, where they said the pledge of allegiance and the Lord’s prayer, and it was the Lord’s prayer in particular. I have no problem in saying this prayer, it just really caught me off guard, and I thought about this for a good majority of the meeting. It was my understanding that separation of church and state was a thing, and this I believe could have been seen in some negative way to have impacted the meeting if it went the way someone did not want it to go. I did not really get too heated about this, nor did I voice my opinion at any point on it, it was just really odd to have done it.

The rest of the meeting was very nice, and I quite enjoyed listening to all the things being brought up as events and concerns across Farmville. I especially enjoyed, being an Eagle Scout myself, listening to another young man offering his thanks to the council for helping him achieve his rank of Eagle Scout. I know how hard it is to earn that rank and I can’t image how thankful he was of them to have that help.

To conclude, I would like to give my thoughts on what it means to be a citizen leader. A citizen leader is one who can see problems that a community might have and addresses those problems in any matter where their opinion is seen in a positive manner, and where they can be thought of as a leader while giving that opinion.