

January 9,2018

Mr. Mayor and City Council members,

I would like to ask for a variance to be granted on the property located at 1950 Hwy361E known as South Bay Bait and Charter. Hurricane Harvey has destroyed my bait shop leaving just the foundation on place. I am trying to rebuild the structure and resume working .

I had spoken to Katherine about what I needed to do to rebuild the building. I was told I needed to get a elevation certificate and meet back with her. She was very nice in helping me put the things in order that I needed to do. Katherine said I could Flood Proof the building and explained that it had to be in the drawing the contractor was to present to get a permit to rebuild I also needed a additional paper work from the Corp. Of Engineers which I got and then had another meeting with Katherine and Burl Smith. I was told I need to Flood Proof the building 5 foot up from the foundation explaining to me that all water and sewage had to be sealed 5' up so no water could intermingle with anything else and the electric had to be 5' off the foundation. I finally found a contractor last week and we discussed the plans and was ready to get him working in the direction of the permits.

Today I was told by both Katherine and Burl on a conference call that Katherine was wrong when she had given me that information . and I was given choices of redoing the entire foundation going 5' high and 4' deep in the ground or to put it all on pier and beam.

The pier and beam will not work for a bait shop as the tanks are large holding 1000s of gallons of water and the floor would stay wet continually rotting the floor out in no time and in my opinion making it a hazard and the cost would also be out of my budget.

The building up of the concrete is so expensive that it would add another 50 to 60 thousand dollars to this project which I can not afford this expense. The bait shop has been located here before the city annexed this parcel of land and I believe it has been here since the 70's probably before that even.

Please consider granting me the variance as this was in the city code when I spoke to Katherine and then it changed. It is just a bait shop and all that I have left after the hurricane. I can not see how building it back would be detrimental to anyone or anything in my location.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mary Ann Heimann