

Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
July 2, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Edmanson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and noticed that this regular Council meeting is being held in compliance with Delaware Open Public Meeting Act by posting the agenda on June 25, 2012, in the following manner:

- a. The electronic sign; and
- b. The Official Bulletin Boards; and
- c. The official Town of Camden Web Site;

Mayor Edmanson led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence. Mayor Edmanson also gave condolences to the Cannava family for the loss of Mr. Cannava. Mr. Cannava was a member of the Board of Adjustment.

Council Attending: Mayor Edmanson, Vice Mayor King, Councilman Green, Councilman Casquarelli and Councilman Dougherty.

Council Absent: none

Staff Attending: Town Manager Aaron Chaffinch, Account Specialist Lisa Driggins, Code Enforcement Officer Harold Scott, Jr., Town Finance Office Patrick Cullen, Chief William Bryson and Town Solicitor, Craig Eliassen,

AMENDMENTS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Town Hall will be closed Wednesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.
- Taxes have been mailed. Please note: Taxes are due by September 30th. Payments received after September 30th is subject to a 1.5% finance charge each month the account is rendered delinquent.

MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to approve the June 4th regular meeting and June 12th public workshop minutes as submitted. All in favor; none opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

FINANCE REPORT

Patrick Cullen stated that the revenue will exceed expenditures for the town. He further explained that the fund balance will grow and that in comparison to the previous year, there was a surplus of funds.

Mr. Cullen also explained that as of June 30th, 2011, there was an overspending of \$290,000.00 and that as of June 30th, 2010 an overspending of \$436,000.00 had occurred.

Mr. Cullen stated that the audit results for fiscal year 2011 would be produced within a month. He then asked if Council would like to look into refinancing the Town Hall. Mayor Edmanson expressed his agreement that Council would like to refinance, and Vice Mayor King inquired about generating more money to lower the monthly payments.

Councilman Green asked the Council what they would like to see from Patrick as direction. It was then stated that Council will advise.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Bryson's report included but was not limited to traffic arrests and criminal activity.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Tom Rigsby of the CWFD reported 177 ambulance calls and 35 fire calls, and reminded residents August 12th is the crab feast.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Mark Dyer was present on behalf of the Camden-Wyoming Sewer and Water Authority reported the following: next meeting will be held July 10th at 7:00 p.m.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN

Mrs. Tracey Green reported the Friends of Camden Historic House & Garden Tour or Old Camden Days was held on June 23rd, and over 100 people attended. On June 26th, the Friends of Historic Camden and Kent County Levy Court signed a preservation pledge, where the county started a fund with a \$10,000.00 grant to kick-off the effort. Mrs. Green further stated that the Harriet Tubman implementation project will soon be started and that the next meeting would be held on July 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the Burke's house where the annual picnic would also be taking place. Mrs. Green then invited Mayor and Council, as well as the Town Manager to the picnic.

MAYOR

The Mayor thanked Mr. Chaffinch and Chief Bryson for analyzing how the Town was shaping and moving forward.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Property – 261 E. Camden-Wyoming Avenue

Councilman Green stated he knew a resident who may be interested in viewing the property at 261 E. Camden-Wyoming Avenue.

Motion made by Councilman Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to move forward on listing the property at 261 E. Camden-Wyoming Ave with the stipulation to exclude the potential buyer from all restate fees. All in favor; none opposed.

Status Report – Thomas Harmon Drive

Mr. Chaffinch stated he met with the president of On-Site construction. They stated next week they will be starting the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation for Ozone Season

Mayor Edmanson read a Proclamation observing July 2012 as Air Quality Awareness Month in Camden.

Audit FY 2010/11

Patrick Cullen stated the final report will be ready in July. He stated he is holding Barbacane, Thorton and Company responsible for original price presented to the town.

First reading of amended ordinance #2007-101 “Rental License”

Mr. Eliassen presented the first reading of amended Ordinance 2007—101 “Rental License” revising and/or establishing specific regulations for collection of fees for all rental properties.

First reading of amended ordinance #2007-104 “Business License”

Mr. Eliassen presented the first reading of amended Ordinance 2007—104 “Business License” revising and/or establishing specific regulations for collection of fees for all Businesses operating within Town limits.

Appointment/Nomination to the Planning Commission

Councilman Green made a motion, seconded by Councilman Dougherty to appoint Mary Ellen Gray to fill a vacant position on the Planning Commission. All in favor; none opposed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jody Sweeney attested to Mary Ellen Gray’s integrity and she will make a good addition to the Planning Commission.

Jody Sweeney explained that Kent County S.P.C.A. is no longer handling dog control. He further stated that Safe Haven Animal Shelter in Georgetown will be handling dog control until a more permanent solution is acquired. The phone number Mr. Sweeney provided the council and residents with so that no calls will be made to the police department is 302-856-6460. Mr. Sweeney explained that no calls were to be made to the police department, and that animals will be delivered to local shelters where they can be picked up if lost.

Mr. King inquired about the issue of a loose pet since Safe Haven is in Georgetown. Mr. Sweeney explained that Safe Haven will be stationed in Kent County. Mr. King expressed his concern for having Camden Police Officers “babysit” animals for the duration until Safe Haven arrives on the scene.

Chief Bryson explained that the Police Departments resources for handling a dangerous dog were limited.

Mr. Sweeney explained that the SPCA recorded \$12,000.00 worth of revenue from the Town of Camden. Mayor Edmanson inquired about the recording of revenue. Mr. Sweeney explained that he asked Charlotte about this revenue and was told it was not in the budget. He further explained that he is unsure of why the SPCA submitted this revenue, since it cannot be found within the Town records.

Mr. Sweeney stated that the Safe Haven Animal Control contract was for one year only, and went on to explain that he was hopeful for a permanent solution moving forward.

Resident Susan Savage expressed concern over mosquito issues in her neighborhood. She stated that she received a letter at her house about spraying for the mosquitoes. She further commented that her concern for the mosquitoes

Harold Scott stated that the mosquitoes had been sprayed for around the town.

Mayor Edmanson acknowledged the spraying of the mosquitoes per Mr. Scott.

Dohn Harshberger

Mr. Harshberger explained that he was present for the June 4th Town Council meeting. He explained that he was there during the hour and a half meeting and was wondering if there were minutes for the meeting. Mr. Harshberger stated that he looked online for the minutes but was unable to locate any recent minutes. He further asked if there was any record of the minutes of the meeting.

Councilman Green recognized the “meeting” as actually being the Executive Session. Councilman Green further explained that the reason for Executive Session was that there are issues that cannot be discussed in public, such as legal and personnel issues. Councilman Green continued by stating that the Town Council has been very good about making sure only the appropriate matters are discussed within Executive Session. Councilman Green also stated that the Town Council returned from Executive Session, opened the meeting back to public session, and announced that no votes of any kind were taken. Councilman Green stated that personnel

issues related to the budget and legal matters were discussed within the Executive Session. Councilman Green then explained that official minutes of that session are not put out to the public.

Mr. Harshberger stated that he was inquiring into the minutes for the meeting, not for the Executive Session.

Both Councilman Green and Mayor Edmanson stated that the minutes for the previous month's meeting were just approved. Mayor Edmanson asked if the minutes for the previous month's meeting (June 4th) were posted to the website or not.

Lisa Driggins explained that the minutes for the previous month's meeting (June) were not on the website at the current time as she was going through training to learn how to add the minutes to the Town website.

Vice Mayor King asked if he was correct in asserting that the meeting minutes from the previous monthly meetings would not be posted on the website until they are approved by Council. Lisa Driggins stated that Vice Mayor King was correct. Vice Mayor King continued that once the meeting minutes were approved and Lisa went through training, they would be put on the Town website most likely within the week.

Mr. Harshberger commented that the meeting was a few weeks ago.

Mayor Edmanson apologized to the residents, stating that the Town was short-staffed, and that the minutes would be present on the website hopefully within the week.

Mr. Harshberger thanked the Mayor, and Mayor Edmanson thanked Mr. Harshberger.

A Town Resident expressed his concern about the parking at the Camden Wyoming Post Office. He stated the parking lot is dangerous to get into and out of and not to mention hardly any parking. Vice Mayor King asked the resident to state his name and address. The resident said his name is Harry and he is from Barclay Farms.

Mayor Edmanson also expressed concern with the parking issues at the Post Office. Chief Bryson stated that previous Councils of both Camden and Wyoming met with the U.S. Postal Service, but noted that no progress was made.

Mayor Edmanson stated that the issue would be looked into. Mayor Edmanson then asked for further public comment, and after no other residents approached, moved to Council Comments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Green shared with council an article on WBOC regarding Tax amnesty in the City of Georgetown. He further expressed to Council his interest in seeing a similar program in Camden to eliminate delinquencies.

Councilman Green express is optimism about the budget and a great relief from last year.

Mr. Chaffinch stated that there was not much to report on the issue of storm drains after being asked about it by Councilman Casquarelli. However, progress was being made into looking into the issue and moving forward as stated by Mr. Chaffinch.

Councilman Casquarelli further inquired about the refinancing of Town Hall, as well as looking into street lighting and using more efficient street lighting.

Mr. Chaffinch stated that the street light issues had been addressed with officials. Mr. Chaffinch explained that some issues of contention arose from these street lights, as incorrect numbers were placed on the light poles. However, after many phone calls, Mr. Chaffinch made progress on the issue.

Vice Mayor King addressed the employees of the Town as both a Councilman and resident and praised all of the hard work he was seeing from the Town. Vice Mayor King expressed his relief that the Town had come a long way in a short amount of time and that he was pleased with the leadership within the Town.

Vice Mayor King inquired about the possibility of turning off some of the lights in the Town Hall parking lot at night.

Chief Bryson stated that the lights would need to be re-wired or the circuit would need to be worked on.

Vice Mayor King stated the possibility of using a timer for the lights, as the difference in power usage would have financial benefits.

Councilman Dougherty stated that he would like to look into the different Town bank accounts and find out the possibility of earning more interest. Councilman Dougherty continued that he would like to see one new Police Vehicle purchased every year with the Real Estate Transfer Fund monies.

Mayor Edmanson commented that he would like to space out the purchasing of new Police Vehicles so that not all the cars would need to be replaced at one given time, as the status is presently.

Chief Bryson stated that the older cars were causing high repair bills. Mayor Edmanson expressed his understanding of the situation, but thought that spacing the purchasing time would be wise in aiding future Councils with this situation.

Councilman Dougherty presented the idea of holding off on buying more than one new Police Car at the current time, but also stated that if a very large repair bill were to occur, to purchase another new car at that time.

Chief Bryson stated that the idea would be good in case of a future repair bill that would be more than the value of an older car.

Councilman Green stated that he understood both sides of the argument, but also mentioned that having the money ready as a back-up looked like the best option. Councilman Green further

stated that the COPS grant would soon be coming up and that the monies for the grant should be put away in a CD, so that future Council would not be hard pressed to locate those funds.

Vice Mayor inquired about the length of warranty on the new vehicles.

Councilman Green expressed his gratitude to Chief Bryson for purchasing a new vehicle at a lesser cost than expected, and commended the Chief's hard work in doing so.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:48 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Green, seconded by Vice Mayor King to recess the regular session meeting and open an Executive Session to discuss matters relative to personnel. All in favor; none opposed.

At 10:21 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the regular session. All in favor; none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:22 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to adjourn the regular meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa B. Driggins, CMC, Account Specialist