

**Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
September 8, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and noticed that this regular Council Meeting was being held in compliance with the Delaware Open Public Meeting Act by posting the agenda on August 29, 2014, in the following manner:

- a. The electronic sign,
- b. The Official Bulletin Boards,
- c. The official Town of Camden Web Site,
- d. Delaware State News, and
- e. News Journal.

Mayor King led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor King led a moment of silence.

Council Attending: Mayor King, Vice-Mayor Green, Councilman Dougherty, Councilman Casquarelli, and Councilwoman Torres.

Staff Attending: Chief William Bryson, Town Manager Aaron Chaffinch, Town Clerk Jamie Fenske, Town Solicitor Craig Eliassen, and Finance Officer John Kelly.

AMENDMENTS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Property tax payments are due by September 30, 2014. Payments received after September 30th 4:00pm are subject to a 1.5% finance charge each month the account is rendered delinquent.

Second annual town-wide yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 27th, 2014. Mayor King added that Saturday, September 27th is also Rider Pride Day.

MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Vice-Mayor Green, to approve the August 4, 2014 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

PRESENTATION

Dale McCallister – billboard for commercial properties

Mr. Chaffinch reported that Mr. McCallister was unable to report to this council meeting but will be in attendance for the October 6, 2014 council meeting.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. John Kelly stated that 1,294 properties took advantage of the early bird discount for property taxes.

POLICE REPORT

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

Mayor King questioned if Chief was still looking at purchasing a Tahoe as a new police vehicle.

Chief Bryson stated that he has a meeting with IG Burton to discuss the purchase.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Chaffinch congratulated Amanda Marlow on the birth of her healthy son.

Mr. Chaffinch explained that he has been in contact with Lina Raab about the IPA project agreement to work on the zoning update for the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Chaffinch reported that Tom Josiah has completed his part of the audit and has met with Horty & Horty. The onsite audit will take place in November.

Councilwoman Torres added that the Police Department and Town Manager did a great job accepting and completing the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Tom Rigsby of the CWFD reported 204 medical calls and 33 fire calls.

Mr. Rigsby added that he is very proud of all of the Camden Wyoming Fire Department volunteers for all of their dedication.

Mr. Rigsby stated that bingo is every Tuesday, doors open at 5:30.

Mr. Rigsby explained that the crab feast had an amazing turn out and sold out for the first time in fifteen years.

Mayor King expressed his gratitude to Mr. Rigsby and to the entire Camden Wyoming Fire Department for their dedication and service.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

Councilwoman Torres stated that the budget will be voted on September 9th at the regularly scheduled meeting.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN

Mrs. Green stated that the next regular meeting will be September 16th, 2014, 7pm, at Barclay Farms clubhouse.

Mrs. Green explained that they are diligently working on getting grants to repair the Brecknock Manor House.

MAYOR

Mayor King thanked everyone for all of their hard work.

Mayor King explained that 3 years ago stipends were suspended and were to be reviewed after 6 months. Currently the stipends are still suspended. All of Mayor and Council, Planning Commissioners, and Board of Adjustment Members are all volunteers.

Mayor King expressed his enthusiasm for the tax discount advantage.

Mayor King added that he is very appreciative to everyone that attends the monthly meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

Copy/printer proposals

Chief Bryson explained that Amanda had issues with the printer when she was printing the tax bills. Lasertone and Hillyards came in to give us quotes for 3 printer/copiers. Our current maintenance contract is \$240 a month for 2 printer/copiers. A machine can be purchased for the police department through a Salle grant. Hillyards currently has the state contract and can give us a lease for 2 machines and maintenance on 3 machines, with toner included, for \$305 a month.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilwoman Torres, to discuss the printer/copier agreements. All in favor; none opposed.

Councilman Dougherty asked what the length of the lease would be.

Chief Bryson stated that it is a 5 year lease with no increase in maintenance charges for the full length of the contract.

Chief Bryson added that with these new machines it will save the town from purchasing a separate new fax machine for the police department.

A motion was made to go with Hillyards for the lease of 2 printer/copiers and maintenance on 3 machines for \$305 a month. Roll call:

Councilman Casquarelli: yes

Vice-Mayor Green: yes

Councilman Dougherty: yes

Councilwoman Torres: yes

Mayor King: yes

Motion carries.

PUBLIC HEARING

Open space grass cutting to include: Pharsalia, Newells Creek, Blair Court, Tamarac, Tidbury Crossing, and Hillcrest

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to go into public hearing. All in favor; none opposed.

Mayor King explained that the town has been cutting grass for many years and it has become very costly.

Councilwoman Torres questioned if all the spaces listed are being cut by the town.

Councilman Dougherty explained that not all of the spaces listed are being cut by the town. He added that the strongest issue is those that are not paying the town for our grass cutting service.

Vice-Mayor Green questioned if a temporary helper will be necessary if we stop cutting open space.

Mr. Chaffinch explained that the temporary worker will still be necessary during grass cutting months because there will still be other violators.

Vice-Mayor Green recommended to finish cutting the grass through the rest of this year's season.

Linda Moore- 168 Thomas Harmon Dr. – questioned if 30 days would be enough notice.

Vice-Mayor Green explained that he wanted to give them time so that it is not a surprise.

Mayor King added that some of the homeowners may not know that the town is not responsible to cut the grass on open spaces.

Kent County Commissioner Mr. Jody Sweeney explained that the county cites owners when the grass is over six inches tall. The county has suburban districts that pay extra money on their taxes each year to have the county mow the open space.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to adjourn the public hearing. All in favor; none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Grass cutting open space to include: Pharsalia, Newells Creek, Blair Court, Tamarac, Tidbury Crossing, and Hillcrest.

Motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Vice-Mayor Green, to suspend grass cutting after the 2014 grass season, to all open space that is not owned by the Town of Camden.

Roll call:

Councilman Casquarelli: yes

Vice-Mayor Green: yes

Councilman Dougherty: yes

Councilwoman Torres: yes

Mayor King: yes

Motion carries.

Potholes/street repair bids

Mr. Chaffinch explained that on September 4th at 3pm there was a bid opening for various street repairs project. There were 6 bids turned in with one that withdrew.

Mr. Chaffinch stated that there was a difference of \$23,160 between the lowest bidder Jerry's Inc., and the second lowest bidder A-Del Construction.

Mr. Chaffinch was able discuss the bids with each of the bidders except for Gateway Construction. Jerry's Inc. was the only bidder that included "if required" statements.

Mayor King added that he already met with Representative Blakey and Senator Bushweller; they are both willing to help fund this project.

Mr. Eliassen pointed out that Zack's Excavating, Inc.'s bid states that prevailing wages are excluded.

Mr. Eliassen added that Mayor and Council do not have to accept the lowest bid.

Councilwoman Torres explained that she does not want to go with the lowest bidder because there are too many unknowns.

Councilman Dougherty stated that with some change orders the lowest bidder total could still be less than the seconded lowest bidder.

Mr. Chaffinch added that it can take the state over 3 weeks for approval to grant community transportation funds.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to accept the \$72,190 bid from A-Del Construction for the various street repairs project. Roll call:

Councilman Casquarelli: yes

Vice-Mayor Green: yes

Councilman Dougherty: no

Councilwoman Torres: yes

Mayor King: yes

Motion carries.

DNREC energy grant

Chief Bryson explained that there is a grant available from DNREC for assistance of purchasing LED lights. If approved, the grant would pay approximately \$6,250 for 30 LED fixtures.

Mayor King thanked Chief Bryson for always going above and beyond.

Councilman Casquarelli stated that he has been looking into getting LEDs for the town for the past 5 years so he is glad to finally get them.

A motion was made by Councilman Casquarelli, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to take advantage of the DNREC energy grant and replace all exterior lighting at town hall. All in favor; none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marc Newman – VFW Post Master- stated that there will be a September 11th ceremony at the Camden Wyoming Fire Department at 6pm.

Mr. Newman added that the VFW would like to recognize first responders ladies and gentlemen for their hard work. The deadline for submission is December 1st.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Newman for his presentation.

Commissioner Sweeney explained that his father was in need of urgent medical care recently and his life was saved due the fast response time of the Camden Wyoming ambulance staff.

Mr. Sweeney added that Kent County passed their budget with an increase in the fire department budget, allowing for \$75,000 to be dispersed to the different fire departments.

There are also grants that will be given to the individual police departments for their assistance with the State Police.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Torres acknowledged the Mayor for his success in running the monthly meetings in an effective and efficient manner.

Councilman Casquarelli reminded everyone that the town wide yard sale is Saturday, September 27th.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:19p.m. a motion was made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to adjourn the regular meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Fenske, Town Clerk*